

The Basics of using Oilstiks on Fabric

Some basic tips:

- Note: Oilstiks were formerly known as Paintstiks. They are the same product.
- Oilstiks can be use on a variety of fabrics, both natural and synthetic, as well as leather and suede.
- Do not dry clean any products painted with Oilstiks. The dry-cleaning solvent will break down the paint.
- Oilstiks can be applied to fabric directly, by placing a rubbing plate under the fabric and using the Oilstiks to make a rubbing on top of the fabric, with stencil brushes using a stencil.
- You can mix Oilstik colors by mixing them on a palette and blending with a brush, or by applying directly to fabric and then blending using a stencil brush or a toothbrush. Apply the lighter color first.
- Unless you are using PFD (prepared for dyeing) fabric, was and dry your fabric to remove any sizing. Do not use fabric softener or fabric drying sheets.
- Oilstiks are permanent, so protect your work area and wear “painting” clothes or an apron.
- Oilstiks are self-sealing, and you must remove the protective “skin” before using them. It’s helpful to have a dedicated paring knife and vegetable peeler for this process – don’t use these utensils for food purposes once you’ve used them on Oilstiks.

Let’s Get Started!

- Using stencils:
 - Lay a Grip-n-Grip mat on your work surface and lay your fabric on top of that.
 - Lightly spray the back of your stencil with a temporary stencil spray adhesive and position the stencil on your fabric.
 - Apply the desired color of Oilstik to your palette, such as a piece of parchment paper. Load the paint onto a stencil brush.
 - Using the stencil brush, apply color to the fabric through your stencil.
 - Carefully remove the stencil from the fabric.
 - Immediately clean the front and back of your stencil.
 - Try making your own stencils using freezer paper.
- Using rubbing plates:
 - Lay a Grip-n-Grip mat on your work surface.
 - Place a rubbing plate or whatever textured surface you want to use on top of the mat.
 - Lay your fabric over top of that. Secure with painters’ tape or otherwise stabilize the fabric so it doesn’t move while you are making the rubbing.
 - You can either use the tip of the Oilstik to rub across the fabric and rubbing plate, or you can remove the protective cardboard and use the side of the Oilstik, after removing the protective paint skin, to complete your rubbing.
- Using masks:

- Using painters' tape, mask off an area or areas on your fabric where you want to create images. Place a masked area over a rubbing plate as before, and color as before. Move your fabric to complete rubbings on the other masked areas.
- Likewise, you can make stripes, plaids or other images using painters' tape and applying color directly to your fabric with a brush, omitting the rubbing plate beneath the fabric. Try using torn strips of paper to create softer lines.

Finishing Up:

- Allow the paint to air-dry 3-7 days, depending on how heavily the paint was applied.
- After it has air-dried, you must heat set the paint to make it permanent
 - Using an iron:
 - Set the iron to the heat appropriate for your fabric and allow the iron to pre-heat.
 - Lay a piece of parchment paper on your ironing surface.
 - Place your fabric, painted side down, on the parchment paper.
 - If you are working with delicate fabrics or have paint on both sides, lay a second piece of parchment paper or pressing cloth over the top.
 - Press each section of your fabric for 10-15 seconds.
 - Using your dryer:
 - Paint must be completely air-dried, 3-7 days!
 - Run your dryer on the hottest setting for 30 minutes.
- Washing:
 - Once your fabric has been heat set, it can be washed.
 - Hand or machine wash in cool water. Do not apply detergent directly to the paint.
 - When possible, turn the paint to the inside – such as in a pillow or shirt – for washing.
 - Line dry or dry on a low heat setting
 - **DO NOT DRY CLEAN!**
- Clean-up:
 - Wrap any stray bits of paint in a paper towel and discard in your trash can.
 - Prior to cleaning brushes, soak brush in a solvent such as Citra- Solv and brush the paint onto a layer of paper towels.
 - Finish cleaning stencil brushes using liquid dish soaps, a bar of soap. Dove is my favorite.