

Adirondack Alcohol Inks & Blending Solution

Ranger's Adirondack line has been available for a while now in dye-based inkpads, embossing powders and markers. These great colors with a natural woody feel are now offered in an alcohol-based ink formula. Created with the help of Designer Tim Holtz, you can use them to create backgrounds on glossy papers and shrink plastic.

These inks can be used to create the popular "Polished Stone" background. The ink packaging explains, "Dot Posh Impressions Metallic Accent Pen to surface. Apply [Alcohol] inks to a piece of felt or foam and dab repeatedly on surface until desired look is achieved. Repeat with additional colors for depth or with the Blending Solution to lighten or blend tones." (Note: Tim calls this version of Polished Stone, "Stone Agate" in his DVD, *An Altered Journey*.)

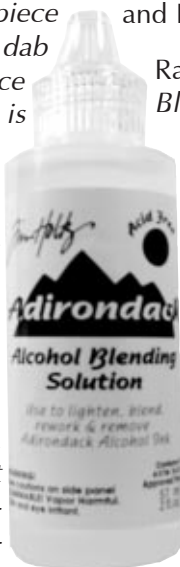
Ranger says that Adirondack Alcohol Inks are "acid-free, fast drying, fade-resistant, permanent, transparent dye inks spe-



cially formulated to create a colorful, polished stone effect. Use on glossy paper, dominoes, metal, foil, acetate, shrink plastic, glass, and other slick surfaces."

You can even use it in an airbrush if you like. "Alcohol Blending Solution is available for lightening colors and cleaning inks from non-porous surfaces."

These translucent dye inks are sold in .5 oz. bottles with precision tips. They are sold in four three-color kits of coordinating colors: Farmer's Market (Cranberry, Lettuce and Eggplant), Mountain Vineyard (Espresso, Pesto and Raisin), Nature Walk (Butterscotch, Stream and Wild Plum) and Rustic Lodge (Bottle, Terra Cotta and Denim.)

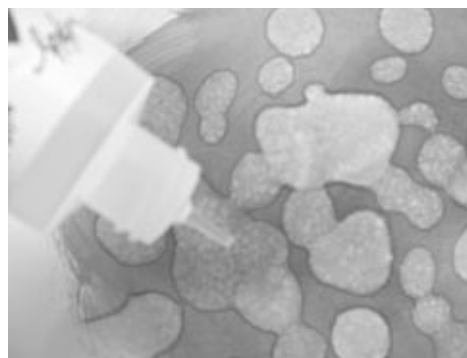


Ranger explains that, "the Alcohol Blending Solution was specially formulated to dilute and lighten the Alcohol Inks' vibrant tones. Not only is this solution useful for lightening and blending the Adirondack Alcohol Ink colors, it will also remove them from slick surfaces, hands and art tools. The Blending solution is acid free. It comes in a 2-oz bottle with a precision tip."

One way to use the Blending Solution with the Alcohol inks is

to ink a foam sponge with Adirondack Alcohol inks. Then apply Blending Solution to the sponge. Use it to sponge diluted color on your surface.

To blend Adirondack Alcohol inks already put down on a non-porous surface, apply the Blending Solution to a foam sponge and dab onto the inked surface. The colors will soften and blend. Or use it to rewet dried ink if you need to rework part of a project.



I played around with the Alcohol inks and Blending Solution, smearing the Alcohol ink on glossy cardstock. Smearing the surface with Blending Solution directly to the inked paper (above) and got an interesting mottled surface - a little like bubble paper. Interestingly, when I flipped the paper over, the areas inked only with the Alcohol ink did not appear on the back of the paper but the Blending Solution areas DID bleed through to the uncoated side leaving interesting bubbles of color on a white background.

You can also use the Blending Solution to prep a varnished, non-glossy surface before applying the Alcohol inks. This removes grease and


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dirt that can interfere with the inks. Tim Holtz shows several ways to use this ink in his DVD. One that I absolutely loved was creating raised foil words using die-cuts attached to your surface that were then covered with foil, inking the whole foil surface with the Alcohol Inks and then using the Blending Solution to remove the ink just from the raised words. The projects Tim created with this technique were gorgeous.

Adirondack Acrylics

Do you like to create a raised line of color on your projects? Do you love the Adirondack colors? Ranger now offers these earthly colors in "acid-free, non-toxic dimensional paints that can be used straight from the bottle or reduced with water. Create interesting effects on paper, fabric, home décor and jewelry pieces when used with brayers, rubber stamps, texturing tools and brushes. These beautiful, silky acrylics are permanent on fabric (washable.) Available in 1 oz. bottles with fine tip applicators."



These paints, described as a "dimensional pearlescent medium" are sold separately in the same twelve coordinating colors that you find in the Alcohol Inks. The bottles have a fine-tip applicator.

Adirondack Acrylics work on multiple surfaces, including fabric. You should first pre-wash the fabric. Once decorated, wait seventy-two hours before washing. Use cool water with mild detergent and no bleach.

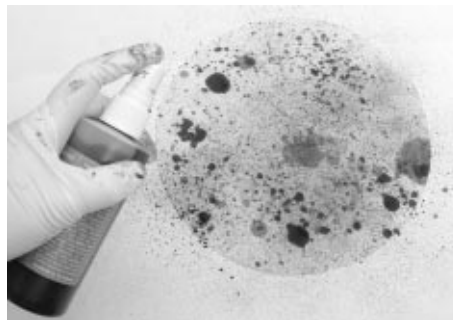
On his web site (www.timholtz.com), Tim Holtz suggests that you can use these paints to apply dimensional color straight from the bottle or "watered down for a pearlescent glaze or wash." Apply the wash with brushes, brayers, stamps or texturing tools.



Adirondack Color Wash

Color Wash is another Adirondack newcomer that Tim developed with Ranger. It is "an acid-free, non-toxic, water-based dye developed for use on paper, Paper Clay, fibers, fabric, wood and other absorbent surfaces. Tim helped design these dyes to produce batik and hand-dyed looks on craft and textile projects." These too are sold separately in the same twelve coordinating colors that you find in the alcohol inks. They are water-based dyes sold in 4-oz spray bottles.

Spray these inks on porous paper or fabric to create rich colorful backgrounds or use them to dye fibers and ribbons to match the Adirondack ink colors used elsewhere in your project.



Ranger suggests: "Place project on non-porous, protected surface. Wear gloves and protective apparel . . . To blend tones, apply additional colors or spritz with water . . . Heat set inks with iron or heat tool. If you use this on fabric, heat set it, rinse to remove any excess, dry and then allow seventy-two hours before washing in cool water with mild detergent and no bleach." (Above: spraying on a white coffee filter.)

You will find techniques for using Adirondack Color Wash in Tim Holtz's *An Altered Journey* DVD (see review in Jul '04 *VSN*.) Tim and other folks selling these inks have been demonstrating their use for batik effects at conventions around the country. Basically you emboss stamped images on silk or on mulberry paper using clear ink and powder. Then you spray Color Wash over the surface. The embossed images work

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as a resist. Sandwich the stamped inked fabric or mulberry paper between plain newsprint paper and use a craft iron with up and down movements to then heat-set the color and absorb the embossing ink/powder out of the fabric. The result is colorful fabric with the areas you originally embossed uncolored. See Aug '04 *Happenings* for a more full description of this process.

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