

TIPNIQUES by Cathy Daulman

My Clear Polymer Stamps

Experiments- I decided to experiment with my new clear polymer stamps and their clear acrylic mounts... ie their reaction to chemicals, stamp pads etc. I found my results interesting and I hope that you do too.

Stamp Pads- These are the pads that I have tried. If they are not on the list it means that I have not experimented with them.

- Pigment pads- eg Colorbox etc no problem...all cleaned off.
- Water based dye inks- most cleaned off, some pink pads created pink tinted stains (a bit like red cordial) as did some black pads. (liquorice/brown colour...not unpleasant)
- Brilliance- If cleaned after stamping...cleaned off fabulously. If left to dry, some stained the stamps slightly but cleaned off with (yes....Metho/Windex)
- Ancient Page (black)- Stained the stamp a solid black, but, did not spread into the stamp badly.
- Archival(black)- Stained the stamp solid black really badly and seemed to carry on spreading. (Yuk)
- StazOn- (The biggest surprise (!) as it is very chemical) was the BEST permanent pad. It did not appear to alter the surface of the stamp.
- If cleaned with Windex after stamping and did not stain the stamp at all. If the stamp was not cleaned, ie ink left to dry on the stamp, the ink did not bleed into the stamp. I did not try the StazOn special cleaner.
- Colorbox Chalk- Stained the stamp in a clear/colour hue....(in beautiful, jewel earthy colors.)The stain was not solid, more of a tinted discolouration.

Other

- I have had no bad reaction to Lumieres/Acrylics if the stamps are cleaned immediately after stamping.
- I have stamped with Bleach but clean the stamp straight after use !!!.

Cleaning My 'Clear' Stamps

- Clean the usual way by wiping with a damp sponge or
- Wash in a basin of soapy water. Rinse in water. Dry them face down on a paper towel.
- Do not clean stamps with bath soap... bath soap is full of chemicals.
- During class my stamps get handled a lot. The handling (hand creams, natural oil, splots of paint) seems to cause the 'sticky' side of the stamp to lose its stickyness. I lay my stamps face down and clean each back side with Meths/Metho Methylated spirits. Leave for a minute then mount them on to some clear acrylic or laminate. They will have regain their stickyness beautifully.
- My new cleaning tool for ingrained Lumiere/dirt /paint in stamps.... Is a battery/electric toothbrush. (I hear some of you goingaaahhhh!... it works superbly!)
- I clean my acrylic blocks with Meths/Metho...they come up looking new

Hints and Tips

- If the polymer stamps get sticky spray with 'Dry Glide' a Teflon spray (oil free) or dust with talc.
- If you cannot see the 'invisible stamps' on your white desk, place some black paper over your work surface.
- If working with polymer clay, sptitz stamp with water first or ink stamp with clear embossing pad.
- I once used OHP to store my clear unmounted stamps but, discovered to my horror that some OHP is coated. The coating is obviously there to make photocopying easier. The coating transferred on to the back of the stamps and took away the stickyness. You can identify this OHP by the fact that when you hold it up to the light it appears milky and feels 'roughish' .If you have had this happens to you, all you need to do is place the unmounted stamp on to the sticky side of sticky tape/packaging tape/clear laminate for an hour or so. This will lift off the coating as it would lift the 'fluff' off a jumper.
- Then clean with Meths/metho.

Storage

- Stamp the image on a piece of card
- Place some laminate or clear Jac over the stamped image extending to the side the same size of the image.
- Store the stamp on this 'shiny' laminated area.
- Arrange the stamps in groups eg Oriental, African etc

- Store these cards in a plastic sleeves in a file.
- Store the acrylic blocks in a narrow plastic box file.

Lumiere/Neopaque paints

Lumieres and Neopaque are acrylic paints. They can be used on just about anything...funtastic, card, fabric, plaster, (statuettes) paper mache, (little boxes) wood (beads) They can be used to paint, sponge, spray, calligraph, stencil, air brush and marble!

Lumieres and Neopaques are both made by the same company. Lumieres are metallic/pearlescent. Neopaques are flat, opaque colours.

Lumieres and Funtastic- Lumieres are fantastic on Funtastic...After stamping into the Funtastic finger paint the image with Lumieres.

Paint a piece of Funtastic with Lumiere or Neopaque. Allow to dry. Heat painted Funtastic to melting point, then stamp into it with a stamp inked with a permanent black ink.

Lumieres and UTEE-Create a UTEE tile (3 layers). Allow to cool. Paint tile with Lumieres, heat again, then stamp into painted tile with a black permanent inked stamp.

Try Painting a cardboard tile with a Lumiere colour before doing a couple of layers of clear UTEE....Stunning!!!! OR.... Do a clear layer or two on a black piece of card. Allow to cool, then paint with Lumiere. Ink it up with a clear emboss pad and UTEE again...Interesting.

Lumieres on fabric-This of course is what Lumieres were designed for. Place contact/freezer paper on the wrong side of the fabric to prevent the fabric from stretching and paint leakage.

Paint or calligraph directly on to fabric.

After painting with Lumieres/Neopaque heat set fabric painted work by ironing both sides !! Do not wash for at least 24 hrs.

Block/shadow stamp directly on to fabric. When dry, overstamp with a Neopaque inked stamp ie paint a compressed foam block with black neopaque, use this as a stamp pad to ink your stamp.

You may find that your colours go further if you pre paint areas with a white Neopaque

Lumieres on Leather

I have often rejuvenated scuffed shoes with Lumiere and Neopaques.

Stamp on to leather as you would stamp on to fabric. It is only necessary to heat seal if the leather is going to be submerged in water ie for leather moulding techniques.

Lumieres on Card/Paper

Try the above shadow stamping method.

Try painting the entire card with a colour or mix of colours. Try rough brush strokes, sponging or using with a Aquash brush.

To calligraph, water the Lumieres down with a bit of distilled water.

Lumieres and Baking Parchment (Glad bake)

Use 'Glad bake' as your paint palette. When you are done, heat the 'blobs' of Lumiere dotted around the 'Glad bake'. They will peel off easily and can be used in Collage.

or

Paint 3 or 4 layers of Lumieres directly on to 'Glad bake' Heat each layer with a heat gun. Allow to cool. You can then peel the thick Lumiere 'skin' off the Gladbake. This can be used with machine embroidery. Naturally you will want to keep the leftover bits to use at a later date.

or

Stamp onto Laminate with a permanent ink pad. Allow to dry. Peel the backing off the Laminate then press into some of these Lumiere 'flakes'. Mount these colourful images onto card.

Lumiere Glassine Paper

Make your own glassine paper by painting tissue paper with watered down Lumiere paints mixed with some Pascoes floor polish or other gloss medium.

Lumiere spraypaint

Mix a small amount of Lumiere paint with a lot of water in a spray bottle. Shake and spray onto card/fabric.... Or maybe spray around a stencil.

Misc.....

- To make stunning tyvek beads. Paint plastic shopping bags with Lumieres/Neopaques. Roll around a skewer, secure with glue stick. Heat with heat gun to distort, roll into gold glitter embossing powder and heat again.
- Wrap a rusted 'Barbie doll' with Lumiere apinted shopping bag. Heat gently with a heat gun. The 'shopping bag' will shrink wrap Barbie beautifully
- Paint leaves or polymer clay mouldings with Lumieres.
- Paint cut down polystyrene meat trays with Lumieres. Heat and distort and decorate to create great pins/brooches/earings.

Other Fabric Painting ideas

Fabulous fabric resist.

Add 100ml flour to 65ml water. Mix well. Place in a squeeze bottle. Paint squiggles and patterns on to fabric. Allow to dry. Paint/sponge with Lumieres over these patterns. Allow dry. Heat set with a heat gun or iron to set paint. Soak in warm water for about 10 minutes. Scrape off the flour paste.

Easy Batik Crackle.

Paint an area with the about flour/water mixture. Allow to dry thoroughly. Crunch up the dried floured fabric. Paint Lumiere paint into the cracks. You may need a rough brush will help here. Allow to dry. Heat set with heat gun or hot iron. Soak fabric in warm water for about 10 minutes. When softened scrape off the flour paste and wash gently to expose batik like crackle.

Dimensional paint/medium

Dimensional magic is a glue like clear liquid that you squeeze onto an image to enhance and add dimension to that image. Sadly sometimes the liquid sometimes dries in the tip clogging it. If you just pierce the tip you will push the hardened dimensional magic back in to the bottle and it will clog up again. Rather take the tip off the bottle. Pierce the hardened glue with a pin from the 'under end' then run through some super floss, a precut long dental floss strand with a thicker fluffy section and fairly stiff ends.

Or

Remove hard, dried dimensional magic from the 'under end' with a fine crochet hook, then clean with the floss.

Pearl-Ex

I love pearl-ex. It is a metallic powder pigment that when mixed with the right 'carrier' can be used in a variety of ways, even mixed with a fabric medium you can make a type of fabric paint.

Pearl-Ex paints

Mix together about 2 tsp pearl ex, ½ tsp dry gum Arabic and some distilled water. Mix thoroughly. Pour into a plastic paint palette and allow to dry. Use with water when needed as you would with a watercolour palette.

If you do not have powdered gum Arabic mix pearl ex with liquid gum Arabic.

Pearl-Ex metallic rub-on.

Mix a few drops of BOILED linseed oil into some Pearl-ex powder to make your own 'rub on'.

Bleach

Bleach is usually used to stamp on card. I have found that the cheaper the card usually the better the technique works. Not all card 'bleaches'. Some card goes yellow or brown, some shades of turquoise. It is always a lovely surprise.

Bleach has a limited life once it is out of the bottle. You may need to refresh it after about half an hour...ie use it on disposable sponge. After half an hour chuck it or wash it and start again.

You can bleach stamp on fabric....depending on the fabric etc...experiment.

Ensure you clean you stamp with water after using with bleach !

I also use bleach with an aquash brush to watercolour 'in' some of my stamped work.

Do not use bleach with a 'good' brush....it will vanish before your eyes. It is better to use one of those white plastic looking bristle brushes.

The bleach strength can be adjusted by the amount of water you mix with it creating a nice effect.

Micro beadz

I mix complimentary colours and sizes together and use with my art doll face pins.
Sometimes I add those teeny weeny stars (from Lincraft)
I glue them on to my project either with hot glue or with Diamond Glaze.
Warning...be aware if you spill them you will be picking them up for years....they 'run' like crazy. Use an adhesive lint roller to pick them up

Tyvek

Tyvek is a kind of plastic fabric/paper. It is available in a couple of weights/textures. The one I use most has a linen texture and is used by school kids to make kites as it is light and strong.
There is an industrial Tyvek that is used in the building industry. It is thicker and does not stick well with glue when making a bead. Rather use tweezers.
Smooth Tyvek is available from certain outlets and is sold in A4 sheets and some envelopes.
You can create beads with all of these Tyveks

Make a basic bead

Roll a piece (2 and a half cms x 12 cms) of coloured Tyvek around a skewer, secure with a dab of glue.
(With smooth Tyvek you will have to secure it by holding it with a pair of tweezers).
Heat with a heat gun for a few seconds. The Tyvek will distort and appear to be 'eaten' away..
Quickly roll the skewered bead into some hologram/glitter gold embossing powder and heat again to melt the embossing powder. The embossing powder will magically stick to the warm bead. If you are slow in doing this process roll the bead on an embossing pad first or dab it with some glue..
Allow bead to cool and then remove it from the skewer.voila a bead!

Bead Ideas

Try some of the following. You will have so much fun that you will feel a bead coming on...and will have to create one, another one and another one !!!!.
Wrap the skewered bead with jewellery wire.....try different coloured wires..
Wrap the skewered bead with jewellery wire threaded with little glass seed beads..
Use different embossing powders....try your own cocktails of mixed embossing powders/glitters..
Paint the Tyvek with different paints.... the distortion will differ with each kind of paint used..
Make some wide beads and make some narrow beads, some thin ones and some fat ones..
Try cutting the Tyvek at an angle or with decorative scissors before rolling onto the skewer..
Try rolling some coloured Tyvek around a skewered wooden bead and heat. Some glue here would be handy.

Brayers- I use my brayer

- fully inked to create rainbow backgrounds. (soft)
- wrap rubber bands/sisal string around it for ribbon like backgrounds.(soft)
- for flattening clay. (lucite)
- for flattening clear laminate/book covering.
- for rolling out anzac/crunchy biscuits in a pan too small for the rolling pin. (lucite is another name for acrylic.)