IRON ORCHID DESIGNS

IOD PAINT INLAY INSTRUCTIONS

IOD Paint Inlays are the artisanal answer to décor transfers. They are not a decal, they are not a synthetic film, they are not decoupage. When you apply an IOD Paint Inlay, artisanal paint is embedded into your surface, and the paper is removed, leaving an authentic painted design and a buttery, almost leather like surface on your piece.

IOD Paint Inlays are made from a proprietary artist quality paint, which we formulated specifically for decorative use. They are organic in nature, and the transfer of the painted design will be slightly varied and unique for each application. The results are visually interesting, texturally complex and in may cases inherently distressed. The paint formula is 'active' until sealed. This means that you can manipulate it and apply special techniques or a custom touch before you seal your piece. As if once isn't enough, you can often get a beautifully faded, second impression with the residual pigment on your 'leftover' Paint Inlay sheets. Depending on the techniques and colors you are using with your Paint Inlay, sometimes even a third impression is possible!

Step by step instructions:

1. Plan the layout of your designs for your surface.
2. Trim away the excess margins on each inlay sheet you are using and set aside.
3. On an appropriately prepared surface, apply a generous and even coat of mineral based chalk type paint. Work in small sections, to manage the paint drying window as you work, generally not larger than 12"x16".
4. While the paint is still wet, lay the paint inlay sheet, design side down (grids are printed on the back for easy identification of front and back), into the wet paint, keeping it taught.
5. Spritz lightly with an even, mist of water. Using a smooth damp sponge or folded soft cloth, pat down with even light pressure to make sure the design makes good contact with the painted surface. Avoid excessive moving or dragging the Paint inlay sheet once it is laid down as this can cause blur or smear.
6. Repeat steps 3-5 to complete your design, lining up your sections as appropriate.
7. Allow to dry to touch. Drying time can vary greatly depending on conditions. Typically an hour or two is sufficient.
8. When ready to remove the Paint Inlay sheets from your surface, spritz evenly with water, and allow 15-30 seconds to absorb. This helps the backing to release. Starting at one corner, gently pull the paper up, keeping it at a low angle. It should come up easily without tearing. If it does not, spritz a second time and wait a moment then try again.
9. If desired, you can use water to blend out or soften the design, or even add additional colors, because the pigment is still movable and active.
10. Once you are happy with the Paint Inlay design, allow it to dry thoroughly.
11. It is now time to seal the design. Remember that your work is still water reactive and easy to smear until sealed. For this reason you will set your work initially with a spray on sealer or artist's fixative. You can also use a mixture of water based liquid sealer in a 50/50 sealer/water dilution and spritz on with a fine spray bottle. Allow to dry, then you can brush on your finish of choice. We recommend at least two coats for thorough protection.

IMPORTANT NOTE: For best results with basic application, use a chalk type paint which does not contain polymers. (Polymer based paints and topcoats can also be used, but the timing and results vary, so check out our tutorials for that and more special technique videos.)

NOTES:

- Keep stored in the packaging, at room temperature, in a dry area until ready to use.
- Much Like gouache or watercolor, our proprietary artist quality inlay medium is water reactive, and remains so until thoroughly sealed. We suggest at least two thorough coats of sealant.
- Always handle your Paint Inlay sheets with care and keep completely dry until ready to use.
- Paints and coatings vary dramatically between manufacturers. To be certain that your products will work well with IOD Paint Inlays, check with your stockist and join the IOD community for product related tips.
- A note on wax furniture sealers: some wax sealers work well with IOD Paint Inlays, but like other coatings, the formulas vary and so do the results when working with Paint Inlays. Always talk to your favorite stockist and get their input, they love to share their experience and as usual, test on a scrap when you are not certain.
- IOD Paint Inlays will appear a shade or two lighter before you seal them, and will darken a bit when sealed. If you are doing a low contrast color combination, test to make sure there is enough contrast for the inlay to show against the chosen background color.
- For more details on these and other techniques, visit our tutorial section at ironorchiddesigns.com/paint-inlays/