ACRYLIC SHEETS

This process allows artists to create flexible acrylic sheets of varying thickness, sheen, color, texture and size. It can be done with a wide variety of Liquitex® Mediums and texture gels, in combination with acrylic paint to achieve numerous desired effects. Each medium will impart a different quality to the Acrylic sheet.

USES:

SELF-SUPPORTING PAINTINGS
Acrylic sheets can be hung directly on a wall (no canvas or stretcher bars), as one might hang a quilt. They can even be stretched around stretcher bars.

COLLAGE
Acrylic sheets may be adhered to painting surfaces and painted over as collage elements in a picture.

SCULPTURE
Acrylic sheets may be adhered to sculptural forms and painted.

DIRECTIONS:
Put masking tape on a smooth sheet of glass in the desired shape and size of the acrylic sheet to be created.

APPLICATION:

BRUSH
- Use a 1/2" to 2" wide, soft brush to apply desired Liquitex® Acrylic Fluid Medium or Acrylic Medium/color mixture.
- Add 5-10% Liquitex® Flow-Aid™ (1 part Liquitex® Flow-Aid™ to 20 parts distilled water) for smooth application
- Allow to fully dry, (1-12 hours depending on environment).
- Repeat steps until sheet is thick enough so that you can peel it off glass without tearing.
- 5-12 coats will give you a thickness of 1/16" to 1/8".
- Thickness should vary according to desired effect.
- Thin layers may be difficult to handle.
- Coat successive layers in alternating directions.

ROLLER
- Use a medium nap roller to apply fluid medium or paint/medium mixture.
- This will give thinnest application of acrylic. (Air bubbles may dry in sheets.)

TROWEL
- Use a 2-6" trowel to apply a 1/8" thick application of Liquitex® Gel Medium or heavy body paint/medium mixture. May result in an uneven application.

POURING
- On smooth sheet of glass, create desired shape/image with masking tape in 4-5 successive layers so that a ridge or dam is built up.
- Use a level to ensure surface is flat. (If surface is not level, poured medium will dry thicker at the lower edge.)
- Use approximately 4 parts Liquitex® Pouring Medium combined with 1 part Liquitex® Soft Body paint to pour over surface. (Adjust ratio for desired transparency depending on which colors are being used.)
- Paint wet in wet! Multicolored compositions can be created in one sitting if several colors are prepared at a time. Apply the next color directly after the first pour for spots or crisp concentric circles. (Note: Gravity can be used to manipulate colors when wet by lifting the poured surface and gently tilting to allow the pools of color to bleed into each other.)
- Marbled surfaces can be created using multiple colors applied side by side and then blended using a palette knife or by dragging a fork or pointed tool through the surface.
- Allow all methods to dry completely: 48-72 hours.

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- To remove sheets: use a blade, and score along taped edges to separate sheet. Peel off glass. (If necessary dampen entire surface with a wet sponge to release acrylic sheet from glass surface.)

STRING GEL - String Gel can be used to create acrylic sheets in a string, open design.

- String Gel lends itself to creating long ropey strands of paint when applied by gently dripping it from the end of a brush or knife. This method of application gives the artist much more precise control of the dripped or poured mark, allowing greater detail than would have been previously available by any other means.
- After mixing String Gel with either Heavy Body, Soft Body or Ink, pour in desired design onto a smooth sheet of glass.
- Once dry, carefully peel off glass.

RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS:

Liquitex® Pouring Medium
- Mix with 5-20% Liquitex® Soft Body Professional Artist Color(s) for unique pour.

Liquitex® Gloss Medium & Varnish
- Dries glossy and clear.
- Mix with 5-20% Liquitex® Soft Body Professional Artist Color for transparent-opaque sheet (varies with thickness and color).

Liquitex® Glazing Medium
- Dries glossy and clear.
- Mix with a small amount of a transparent or translucent Liquitex® Soft Body Artist Color for a stained glass effect.

Liquitex® Matte Medium and Matte Gel Medium
- Dries matte and opaque.
- Mix with 5-20% Liquitex® Soft Body Artist Color for matte opaque sheet.

Liquitex® Iridescent Medium
- Dries opalescent and translucent-opaque.
- Mix with 5-20% Liquitex® Soft Body Professional Artist Color for colored opalescent sheet (Opacity varies with thickness and color).

Liquitex® Gloss Gel Medium, Gloss Heavy Gel Medium and Gloss Super Heavy Gel Medium
- Dries gloss and translucent-opaque (depending upon thickness).
- Mix with 5-20% Liquitex® Soft Body Professional Artist Color for colored gloss sheet. (Transparency will vary with thickness.)

Liquitex® Texture Gel Mediums
- Mix with 5-20% Liquitex® Soft Body Professional Artist Color.
- Dried sheets will vary in sheen, opacity and texture.
- Mix 10-50% Texture Gel Mediums into any of the Liquitex® Gloss Medium family of products to create an opalescent colored sheet.
- Mix 5-10% Liquitex® Soft Body Interference Color into Black Lava Texture Gel to create an iridescent metallic Sheet.

ADHERING ACRYLIC SHEETS TO A SUPPORT:

- Canvas, wood, Masonite™ and fabric are all great surfaces for acrylic sheets.
- Coat the back of the sheet with either Gloss Medium & Varnish, Gloss Gel or Gloss Heavy Gel.
- Quickly position the sheet onto the support with the wet side down and press.

- To insure proper adhesion let the transferred sheet dry under weight. Cover acrylic sheet with wax paper before adding weight to prevent sticking.
- If adhering to wood or Masonite™, sheets may be stapled to support (in addition to or instead of gluing with mediums).