



# Silk Painting Class Pack Instructions

## This class pack contains:

- 30 pre-stretched (9 1/2"/24 cm diameter) silk hoops
- 5 (2 fl oz/59.15 ml) bottles of Green Label Silk Colors dye (yellow, magenta, cyan, brown sienna and black)
- 8 fl oz/0.24 L Removable Water-based Resist
- 10 oz/0.28 kg bottle of Silk Salt
- 6 resist applicator bottles with 0.7 mm metal applicator tips
- 30 (5/8"/16 mm) round bamboo brushes
- Instructions



*You are about to begin painting with Silk Colors on the enclosed silk stretched hoops. We feel this is one of the best classroom activities. From our experience we have found that kids and adults alike, no matter what their skill level or inclinations, will have great results. There will be a sense of pride and satisfaction with this project. The process of painting the dyes on silk, watching the colors flow on the fabric, is enchanting. The results will also be fun!*

## You will need the following items to begin your project:

- Jacquard Silk Colors Class Pack
- plastic cups or ice cube tray for blending colors
- paper towels
- water

## INSTRUCTIONS:

There are many approaches to painting the hoops in this class pack. They can be painted in the traditional silk painting method of applying a resist to outline a design and then filling in the shapes with color (start with step 1. below). They can be painted in a more freeform watercolor style that doesn't include the use of the resist. A salt technique for adding texture to a painted area can be applied to any wet area of color. Drawing with the resist can be done on top of the dry painted hoop. Or stamping can be done with other textile paints. The main thing to remember is to experiment and have fun!

**1. Apply the resist.** In the resist technique, the water-based resist lines are drawn on and the dyes are applied within these lines. When painted on, the dyes will flow and spread on the silk until it reaches the resist lines. The resist acts as a boundary between colors much like lead in a stained glass window. These islands of color can be blended, highlighted or accented with other colors.

- Stir the resist thoroughly.
- Pour the resist into the dispenser bottle, replace the plastic insert and push on the applicator tip.
- If you are using a pattern, center the hoop over the pattern. The silk is light enough that the pattern lines will be visible through the fabric. Trace the pattern with the resist, or trace lightly with a pencil and then go over the pencil lines with the resist.

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- d. Hold the resist bottle like a pencil. Gently squeeze the bottle until the resist begins to flow. It is a good idea to practice on a separate piece of silk or paper until you get the feeling of drawing smooth, flowing, continuous lines.
- e. Begin drawing your pattern. Move steadily, but not so quickly that you leave gaps in your lines. All lines must be connected or the dye will bleed through the gaps in the resist line.
- f. Once you've completed the design, carefully examine the lines. Make sure the resist has penetrated through to the back. Go back and fill in any gaps. Let the resist dry completely, usually 30 minutes. Use a hair dryer to speed drying time.

**2. Mix and apply the dye.** Although Jacquard Green Label Silk Colors are available in 20 shades, most colors in the spectrum may be mixed from three primary colors: yellow, magenta and cyan. Using the colors full strength will yield the brightest shades. For pastels, the dyes can be mixed with water. If your water is hard, use distilled water. Remember that colors will appear darker when wet.

- a. Pour a small amount of each color you are planning to use into plastic cups or an ice cube tray. If you are mixing colors, be sure to mix enough color to complete your project. It is sometimes difficult to recreate exact shades.
- b. Dip your brush gently into a color. Touch the brush to the fabric about 0.5" / 1.27 cm from the resist line. The dye will migrate the rest of the way. Paint all areas inside the resist lines. For large areas, work quickly painting the color from corner to corner. Always work wet to wet. Never go over a dry area.
- c. For the silk hoop paintings, setting the dyes is not necessary nor recommended. However the dyes are not wash fast in this application.

**Two techniques to try:**

- 1. Watercolor Method:** One of the most exciting methods of painting on silk incorporates the wonderful qualities of the colors spreading and mixing on the silk. Simply paint one color next to another. The dyes will flow and blend automatically. You may pre-wet the fabric to enhance this affect.
- 2. Salt Technique:** A beautiful starburst affect can be achieved by sprinkling salt over the fabric while still wet. Different size salt granules can be used, from table salt to rock salt, to create different size starbursts. The larger the granule, the larger the effect. The salt should be applied immediately while the fabric is still very wet. The salt crystals will begin to soak up the dye as it dries.

Unlike fabric paints which stiffen and cover the fabric, Jacquard Silk Colors are actual dyes so the silk will retain its softness and luster. These dyes can be used on any type of silk to complete a variety of projects from silk scarves and dresses to pillows and wall hangings. Jacquard Silk Colors are available in 20 colors, which can be blended into an infinite range of brilliant colors or diluted with water to create soft pastels. Jacquard Green Label Silk Colors dyes are usually set by steaming or by using the Permanent Dyeset Concentrate.

