

Inktense meets Multi-media with Tess Imobersteg

We all know that Derwent Inktense media contains 'Ink'. That's one of the reasons we love it. And since it is composed of ink, Inktense can be used in a variety of techniques that can be used with other inks. I love the permanence of Inktense once it has been activated and dried. Multi-media is the world I live in. There are so many different ways to put color and texture to a substrate. For something fun this time around, we're going to look at using Inktense in some different ways.



The techniques I'll be talking about can be used on either paper or fabric.

Paper Towel Stippling:

Equipment needed:

- Derwent Inktense Blocks (easiest to use)
- Paper Kitchen Towel – any brand would do, I like very textured ones.
- Paper or Fabric substrate –
for paper for any wet technique, I like watercolor or multi-media paper that is around 140 lb (300 gms). For fabric, I like white or off-white cotton or canvas. I generally iron freezer paper on the back of fabric for stability.

This is a fun technique for backgrounding for paper crafting, journaling, painting on t-shirts or other wearables, even with stenciling.



1-Take a paper towel, wet it down, squeeze it out and scrunch it up.



2-Discharge some color onto the wet paper towel.

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3-Distribute one or multiple colors.



4-Press the color onto the substrate.



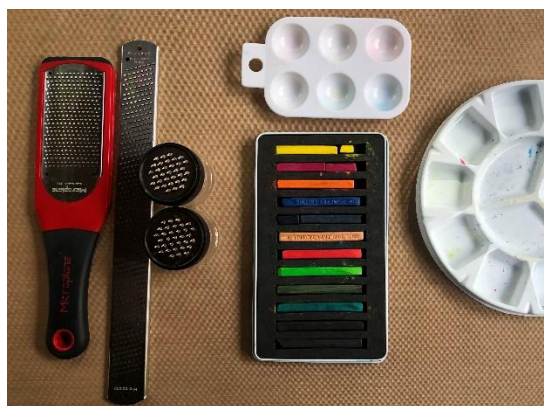
Stenciling with Inktense

This technique I've used with other inks and works with Inktense as well.

Equipment needed:

- Inktense blocks
- Grater – a finer kitchen grate works well. Derwent also sells a 'Grate n Shake' grater especially for Inktense.
- Mixture of distilled water and Glycerin (1:1)
- Scratch paper
- Makeup sponge or multimedia dauber
- Shaving foam – I use the cheapest I can find.
- Stencil(s)
- Watercolor or multimedia paper
- Plastic sheeting or craft mat to work on.

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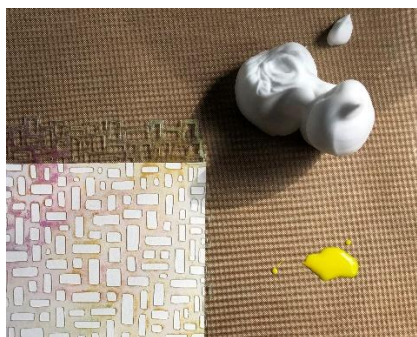
For stenciling and other techniques, you need to make a 'stock' solution of liquid Inktense. While you could use any of the Inktense forms, pencil, pan paint, or block, I find the block form easiest. I use a water/Glycerin solution. Glycerin is often used with watercolors to encourage the suspension of colorant particles. Flow of the solution, and extends the workability of the solution. Glycerin is recommended but not absolutely necessary. I use a heavier paper, at least 100 lb (200 gsm)



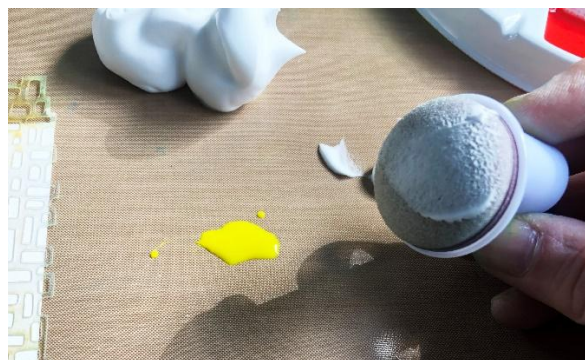
1-Grate some Inktense on a piece of scratch paper and transfer into a palette or other container for the 'stock' solution.



2-Add the Water/Glycerin a few drops at a time and mix with a stick or brush. I like to make a thicker solution, like heavy cream.



3-Place a few drops of the stock solution on the work surface. Shake the shaving foam and put a small amount on the work surface.



4-Charge the sponge with a dab of shaving foam.

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5-Then load a little of the liquid inktense on the sponge.



6-Either hold the stencil firmly in place or use a stencil adhesive to keep the stencil from moving. I recommend stencil adhesive for fabric as it moves more than paper. Using a vertical up and down motion (not sideways or circular) tap the sponge/dauber onto the stencil and substrate. Sideways or circular 'scrubbing' motions will push ink under the edge of the stencil. One can mix colors either on the work surface or overlay colors on the stencil/substrate.



7-Inktense is translucent like watercolor and stenciling with it tends to be relatively see-through. You can see previous layers through the stenciled ink which allows for some interesting layering effects.

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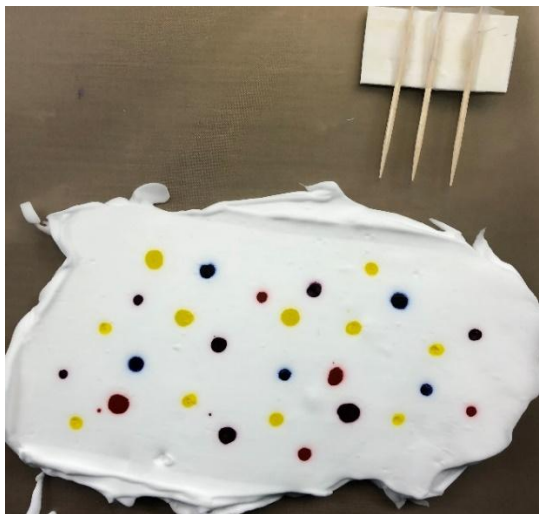
Shaving Cream Marbling/Printing

I've used this technique also as backgrounding for projects. It can be a bright textural use of the medium.

Equipment needed:

- Stock solution of Inktense – like in the previous technique.
- Paper or stabilized fabric – I like to iron freezer paper on the back of fabric for this technique.
- Shaving foam
- Thin flat straight-edged tool for smoothing shaving foam – I use a piece of plastic cutting matt but one could use a large palette knife or anything similar that is as wide as the shaving foam printing surface. You just need something that will make a flat surface on the shaving foam.
- Paint brush or eye dropper – to place the stock solution on the flattened shaving foam.
- Toothpick(s) or some long thin tool to marble the ink.

1-Lay down some shaving foam on your work surface.



3-Drop several drops of the Inktense 'stock' onto the foam.

2-Using a straight edged tool, smooth the shaving foam flat to the size just larger than your paper.



4-Using a thin tool of choice, toothpicks, skewers, etc., move the ink around on the foam until you're happy with the design.

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5-Lay the fabric\paper with the right side down onto the inked foam.



6-Pull the paper\fabric off of the foam. A lot of foam will come with it.



7-Turn the substrate foam side up and place on work surface. Using a straight edged tool or squeegee tightly on the substrate, scrape off the foam.



8-Your design should be left on the substrate. If this is fabric, it should be heat set with an iron after the piece is dry.

I hope you enjoy trying out this and other techniques with Inktense. There are many creative options with the 'stock' solution, almost anything that you can do with watercolor paints or inks. Play. Try, Experiment, have fun. Be creative!

You can check out some of my work and classes on my website www.tangledstringcreations.com or look for Tangled String Creations LLC on Facebook.