

Challah Covers using Oil Paintstik

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Women's League for Conservative Judaism
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For any Sisterhood or Region wanting to present this workshop, to borrow rubbing plates and stencils contact Wanda at wandanp@sbcglobal.net

The processes used for the Challah Cover can be applied to several different projects: consider matzo covers, afikomen bags, tallitot, to name a few.

Ideally, participants would have time to practice on scrap cloth before working on their projects.

This gives them the opportunity to try out a few stencils and rubbing plates before deciding on a final design. Aprons and gloves are provided to keep us all paint free. These paints are permanent, so please be careful! See note at end about new water soluble paints available. Grip mats and repositionable adhesives help keep fabric, stencils and rubbing plates in place, but masking tape can be quite effective, too.



Preparation: Tape napkin to table on three of four sides. Leave either the bottom or a side open.

This way, rubbing plates may be slid underneath and secured. Stencils may be secured on top of the fabric so they don't move, once Paintstiks are used.

Materials: Fabric Napkins
Oil Paintstiks
Rubbing Plates
Stencils – commercial and homemade
Masking tape

Stenciling Techniques:

Working from a 'palette' – rub Paintstik onto palette and load brush from that

Halo effects – put solid cutout onto fabric, rub Paintstik onto cutout and brush in an outward motion onto the fabric

Fade effects – Place stencil onto fabric, rub Paintstik onto stencil and brush inward from the edges of the stencil onto the fabric.

Overlapping stencils – Use the heat tool to set the paint, then another stencil can be placed overlapping an image already stenciled on the fabric.

Rubbing Plate Techniques:

Tape rubbing plate onto table, place fabric over it and tape it in place. In ideal situations, one could use a repositionable adhesive to keep the fabric from moving. Use the side of the Paintstik to prevent getting paint into the recesses of the plate. Move either the fabric or the rubbing plate to do multiple applications.

ABOUT FABRIC

You can use almost any type of fabric with Paintstiks, including cotton, rayon, linen, silk and synthetic fibers.

You will find that stenciling and other masking techniques work on many fabrics including heavy fabrics, but rubbings are limited to lighter weight fabrics. Heavily textured fabrics will not react the same as smooth fabrics, but that does not mean you can't use them – just don't expect the same results.

Prewash your fabric to remove any sizing. Use plain detergent. Avoid products that contain fabric softeners or bleach additives.

One thing to watch for – fabrics that are treated to be “stain-resistant” may also be “paint-resistant.” This is especially important if you are working with pre-made table linens, as many have special coatings. Always check labels and do a test before you begin a big project.

ABOUT PAINTSTIKS

Shiva Paintstiks are “self-sealing,” which means that a protective film forms over the surface of the Paintstiks when it is not in use. To remove the film, you can peel it away with a paper towel, rub it gently on a rough surface, or remove the film with a vegetable peeler.

PREPARING TO PAINT

A smooth work surface is helpful when working with Paintstiks. Any texture placed under your fabric will show through as you apply paint to your fabric. You may wish to cover your work area with plastic to keep your work surface free from stray paint.

Paintstiks colors are permanent once they are dry. Wear old clothes or use an apron to prevent accidental “enhancements” to your wardrobe. (NOTE: You can remove Paintstiks color from clothing with Cedar Canyon Brush Soap.)

Fabric tends to move as you apply color. You may find it helpful to tape your fabric to your work surface to prevent shifting while you are working. (Or place a no-slip Grip-n-Grip mat on your work surface to keep your fabric in place.)

APPLYING PAINTSTIK COLOR TO FABRIC

There are several ways to apply Paintstiks color to your fabric, including direct application, masking, rubbing, and stenciling.

Direct Application: You can apply Paintstiks colors directly to fabric as if you were coloring with a crayon. Once the colors are applied, you may wish to use an old toothbrush or a stiff stenciling brush to smooth and blend the colors.

Rubbing: Place a textured object under your fabric. Then work with the Paintstiks directly on the fabric. As you rub the Paintstiks across the fabric, an image of the textured item under the fabric will appear. It is not necessary to press hard when making a rubbing – a light touch is helpful to get a clean image.

APPLYING PAINTSTIK COLOR (CONT.)

Stenciling: Unless you are cutting stencils from freezer paper, you will want to apply the Paintstik color with a stencil brush instead of using the paintstik directly over a stencil. (Direct application will cause a lot of paint build-up around the edges of the stencil.)

Rub the Paintstik color on a separate “palette” surface (a piece of freezer paper works well), then load the paint onto a stencil brush. Place your stencil on top of your fabric, and apply the paint through the openings in the stencil. It often works better to use a circular “scrubbing” motion than an up-and-down stippling motion. Add more layers of paint to get a solid image.

Masking: Use masking tape, paper, or any other material to cover areas of your fabric while you apply the paint. For example, lay a grid of masking tape down on your fabric. Apply Paintstik color directly or using a brush, then peel up the tape to expose the grid on your fabric.

MAKING THE COLOR PERMANENT

After applying Paintstik color, allow the painted fabric to dry for 3-5 days, and then heat-set to make the colors permanent.

To heat-set the color, set your iron to the proper setting for the fabric. Lay the fabric, paint side down, on a piece of parchment paper (or a brown paper bag) and press for 10-15 seconds in each spot.

You may also heat-set your painted fabric in a clothes dryer by setting the dryer to the hottest setting for 30-45 minutes.

Caution: DO NOT put painted fabric into the dryer unless you have allowed it to air-dry completely. If you can still remove paint from the fabric by rubbing gently with your finger, allow the paint to dry for another day or two before heat setting.

CLEANING UP

Paintstik colors are easily removed from your hands, tools and brushes with Cedar Canyon Brush Soap or citrus-based solvents. With a little bit of extra work, they can be cleaned with soap and water.

Above information courtesy of Cedar Canyon Textiles.

For additional information about Paintstiks and how to utilize them, check out Shelley Stokes website, cedarcanyontextiles.com

Note: In recent years, Cedar Canyon Textiles has come out with a water soluble paint stick called Playcolor Paints, which are a solid form of tempura paint. The Textil version comes in plastic sticks which dry quickly, clean up easier, and are permanent when properly heat set. The cost is much less than the oil Paintstiks.