

# Making Silk Paper

Silk paper is really easy to make and really effective when incorporated into a range of projects. Use it for applique, bags, scrapbooking, felting, or as an embellishment to anything. Machine and hand embroidery either using the silk paper as the base or a feature. Paper can be made in sheets. Whilst wet, it can be shaped and moulded. Paper can be as thick or as thin as you like. Let your imagination run wild.

## Instructions

1. In a plastic bowl, mix Jo Sonja Textile Medium with warm water. Start with a mix of 1:3 medium to water (eg 50 mls medium to 150mls water). Increase or decrease depending on the stiffness you desire.
2. In another bowl, mix warm water with several of drops of dishwashing liquid. Silk has oils on the surface which prevent the adhesive from penetrating. Soapy water breaks this down a little.
3. Work on a tray or plastic container.
4. Lay one half of the tulle over the tray.
5. Pull the silk fibres out bit by bit and lay them out on the tulle. Cover all of the surface and separate the fibres as much as possible. The finer the paper sought, the finer the fibres should be laid out. Make sure there are no holes or big lumps (unless this is the effect you are after.)
6. Work up and down initially and then lay a second layer across the first. You can continue to make more layers if a thicker paper is desired.
7. Once silk is laid out, you may add other things to the paper. For example other fibres, metallic threads, fabric, embellishments – the sky is the limit!
8. Place the second piece of tulle over the top of the positioned silk fibres and peg in place to prevent slippage.
9. Now we can get messy. Using the foam brush or roller, roll the silk with the soapy water, wetting it thoroughly. Turn your silk 'sandwich' over and wet the other side thoroughly. The thicker the paper, the longer this will take.
10. If necessary, adjust the silk fibres before you move on. To do that, unpeg one side and slide fibre into place with your finger.
11. Use a clean sponge to absorb the excess water. Silk should be damp, not dripping. Squeeze the soapy water out of the foam brush.
12. Use your foam brush or roller and thoroughly apply the adhesive mixture over the silk fibres. Turn your sandwich over and apply adhesive to the other side.
13. Drain off excess adhesive.
14. Hang to dry.
15. When dry, carefully peel the tulle away from the silk paper. You can iron the fibre using a silk setting on your iron.
16. Use it to make beautiful and unique projects.