

ITS Color Application

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ITS can be used to make a paint that will adhere to metal and other non-porous surfaces. Mix ITS with pigment powders to make your own custom palette of paint colors suitable for various painting techniques to apply to a variety of surfaces. Remember, both ITS and the pigments are non-toxic and child friendly.

Steps:

This example shows how to add color to a fine silver metal clay piece. The same technique can be used for tile, beach glass and other surfaces.



1. Use a very small amount of pigment powder to mix with ITS. A little goes a long way. Use less for a transparent “watercolor” effect or more for opaque colors. Lift a small bit of the chosen pigment color onto a sheet of wax paper with a toothpick. If pigment powders become airborne they are harmful if breathed so a dust mask should be worn.

2. Pour out a few drops of ITS and mix the pigment powder with a toothpick. Add more powder as needed for desired opacity.

3. Two very small brushes are included in the kit. Use the tiny tipped brush to apply the colored ITS to small and narrow details. Use the broader tipped brush for larger areas. Brushes can easily be cleaned with water in between colors and after use. Avoid letting ITS dry on the brush!

ITS dries out quickly, so work with small amounts at a time. Apply thinly with less pigment for a transparent effect, or use more powder for a thicker opaque application. Colors can be layered or mixed as you would with any other type of paint.



4. Let the ITS Colors™ dry thoroughly. This could take from 30 minutes to two hours depending on how thick it is applied and the relative humidity. Set the paint with a heat gun for about a minute. This will set the ITS Colors™ and also bring out the color and clarity of the pigment powder for an enamel-like finish.

Hints:

You can scrape the paint off while it is still wet or semi-dry using an edge such as a tooth pick or popsicle stick. Once the paint is dry, it will require sanding to remove or in the case of metal clay you can fire the piece and the paint will burn off.

Colors can be layered on top of previously heat set colors.

Try combining this method with image transfers for a variety of layering options using color.

Practice working with the paint on bottle caps or other metal surfaces to gauge how fast the paint will dry and how the color will appear on your final piece.