



LEAD-FREE GESSO

by Master Penman Harvest Crittenden

Instructions

- When your gesso button arrives, it will be wrapped in foil. Keep it wrapped in foil until you are ready to use it. A batch number is written on the back of each label.
- You will need a small container to mix the gesso with distilled water. A shot glass is a great size and shape. Break the gesso button into very small pieces. Only put the pieces in the glass you think you will need and wrap the rest back in foil.
- Add appx. 2-3 drops of distilled water to start, no more, and allow the gesso to soak.
- After it has soaked and has softened, blend slowly until creamy and smooth. A finger cot is helpful if using a finger to mix, the back end of a brush also works well for mixing.
- Any air bubbles that might show up in the creamy mixture, can be burst with a straight pin or a pin with a tiny bit of ear wax on the end. Do not try to mix this into the gesso, only touch the air bubble with it.
- Your gesso is ready to use. Float the gesso with a brush or a quill into the area you designed, starting in the center and gently teasing into the corners.
- The consistency of gesso needs to be heavy enough to keep its shape, but thin enough to float. Practice in small squares until you have a feel for it.
- Wait at least 24 hours before gilding. I prefer to wait a bit longer myself, more like 48 hours.

Happy Gilding!