

Sunders Mill Atelier Beaux Art

SUNMASK

Sunders Colorless Art Masking Fluid

It is a colorless liquid for masking areas of work needing protection when color is applied in broad washes. Specifically designed for soft sized papers to avoid staining. For best results remove within 24 hours of application. Brushes can be cleaned if washed immediately with water after use.

General tips on how to use this product correctly

Masking fluid (or frisket) is a liquid used to block out areas of a watercolor while you paint, thereby retaining the white of the paper or the previous color that was painted. It's a solution of natural rubber in ammonia and is removed by gently rubbing it off either with your fingers or an eraser, once the painting is dry.

As it's tricky to get masking fluid out of a brush, it's advisable to apply it with an old brush or one kept solely for this purpose. Some artists recommend dipping a brush in washing-up liquid (liquid detergent or soapy water) before you use masking fluid, as this makes it easier to wash out of a brush.

Masking fluid that's got a color is easier to use than one which is white or transparent as you can see where you've applied it. Permanent masking fluid is a special type of masking fluid, formulated to be left on the paper permanently.

Some frequently asked question about Masking Fluid for Watercolor and Acrylic Painting.

When should I use Masking Fluid?

There are a lot reasons why you would want to protect an area of the painting. Some examples are as follows:

Florals

Protect the petals of the flowers. Don't forget the stalks.

Paint the background, then remove the mask. Finally, paint in the blanks.

Landscapes

Mask out lines to suggest light blades of grass among the darker blades.

To give a feeling of connectedness in a painting, one may use utility poles and electric wires. Dark wires against a light sky is easy, but light wires against a dark background requires masking fluid.

Scatter little dots of masking fluid over the surface of a winter scene. When the painting is finished, remove the mask. It's snowing.

Well placed specks of mask will be white flowers when a painting is done and the mask removed. A touch of color and you have yellow, etc. flowers.

Seascapes

Mask the foam on the crest of waves

Triangles of masking fluid become sailboats.

Portraits

Whether human or animal, eyes seems wrong without the little dot of a reflected light source. Its so easy with masking fluid.

How should I use Masking Fluid?

Never use it with a good brush.

Artists have tricks to hopefully keep a brush safe while using masking fluids.

Don't take a chance.

Sooner or later (usually sooner), that expensive brush is going to become a worthless one.

A favorite trick which is going around now.

You can dip the brush into soapy water before dipping it into masking fluid.

The reason this works is that the mask never touches the bristles.

They are full of soapy water.

The masking fluid is only carried on the outside surface of the brush.

You would almost get the same results using the handle end of the brush..