



Utrecht Art Supplies

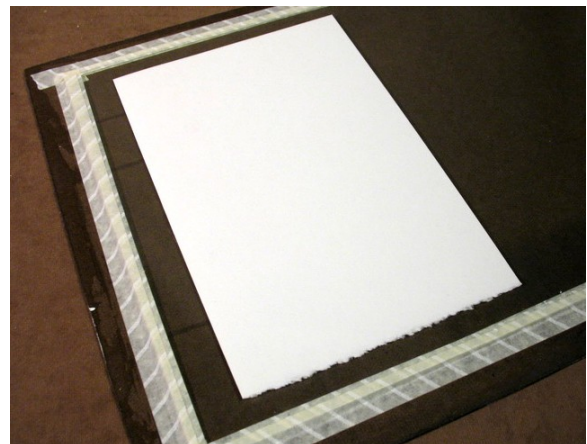
Studio Craft: Utrecht Gesso as a Silverpoint Ground



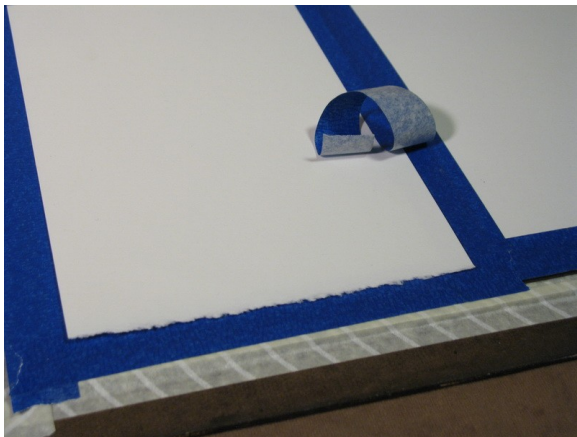
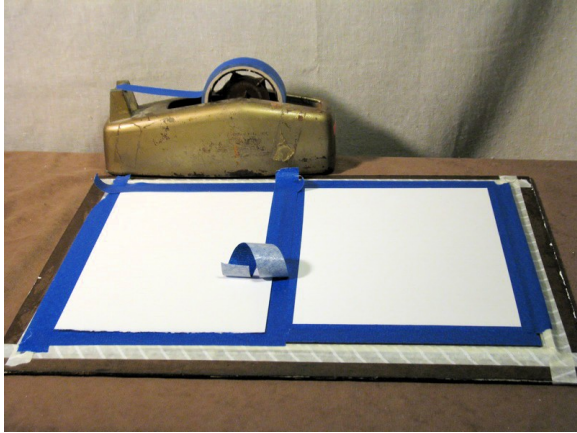
Utrecht Acrylic Gesso provides an ideal ground for silverpoint and other metalpoint techniques. Metalpoint requires a prepared paper or board that is smooth, durable and slightly grained. Traditional grounds like animal glue gesso and Chinese white watercolor can be time consuming to prepare, costly and introduce lots of moisture which can wrinkle paper.



Utrecht Gesso is ready-to-use in pint and gallon sizes, available in several formulas. Acrylic gesso contains marbledust for subtle tooth and titanium white pigment for brilliance, dispersed in a highly durable acrylic emulsion vehicle that outperforms older materials in convenience and permanence. For a more abrasive metalpoint ground, use Utrecht Acrylic Modeling Paste instead of gesso.



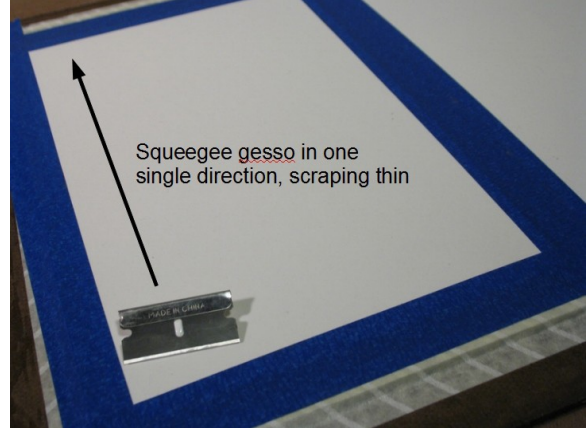
American Masters' Printmaking Paper is an excellent choice for silverpoint. This 100% rag, deckle edged paper offers a smooth, bright white surface that accepts acrylic grounds perfectly. Cut or tear sheets to the desired size.



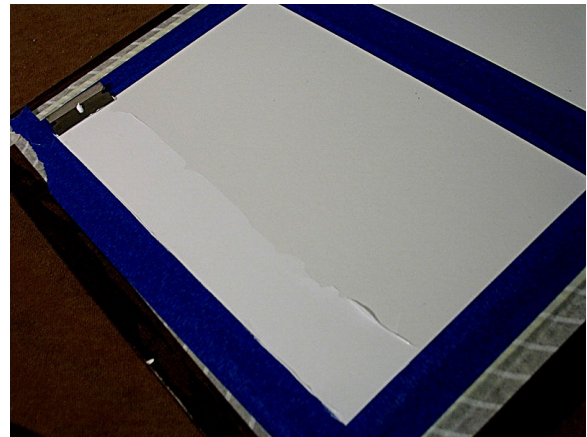
Attach paper to a waterproof board or sheet of heavy glass, taping all four sides firmly using drafting or painter's tape for easy removal.



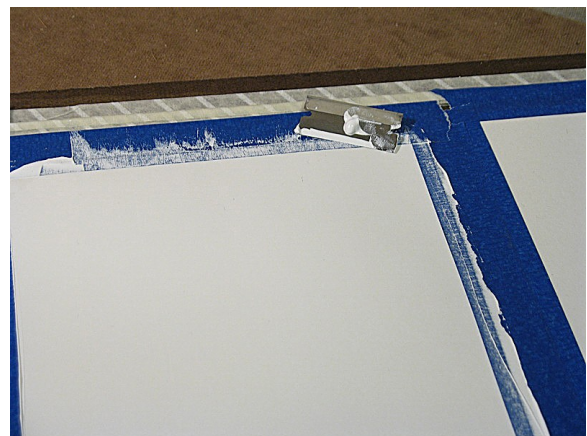
Dispense a small amount of gesso to a glass palette. (Can be tinted with Utrecht Artists' Acrylic Colors if a toned ground is desired.)



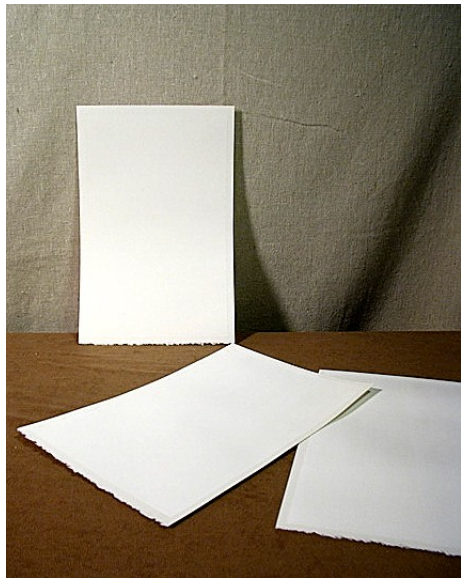
Using a single edged razor blade, gather a small amount of gesso and draw the material down the length of the paper in a single direction like a squeegee, scraping fairly thin.



Repeat with overlapping parallel strokes, scraping down ridges as you go.



When the entire surface is thinly coated with gesso, allow to dry 20 minutes or so. Remove tape carefully.



The ground is ready to accept silverpoint as soon as it is dry.



A clutch pencil makes an excellent silverpoint tool.



Use heavy-gauge silver, copper or gold wire, bronze brazing rods or solid-core lead solder, pointed and smoothed with fine sandpaper.



Metalpoint produces light, smooth marks, great for observational drawing and anatomical studies.

Questions? [Ask the Expert](#)

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