

# Applying Resin to Yupo

## Recommendations and Best Practices



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### Overview

Yes, resin can be applied over artwork created on YUPO synthetic paper. Because YUPO is made from polypropylene rather than plant fibers, it is **non-porous and waterproof**, which makes it compatible with resin coatings when the artwork is properly prepared.

Resin can enhance alcohol ink or mixed media artwork on YUPO by creating a high-gloss, protective finish that deepens color and adds durability.

### Why Sealing Matters

YUPO itself does **not absorb paint/pigment** so sealing the sheet is recommended. Unsealed work on Yupo can lead to smudging or scratching if unprotected. Artists should seek archival, non-yellowing varnishes.

#### Sealing prevents:

- Ink movement or smearing when resin is poured
- Pigments floating into the resin layer
- Color bleeding or distortion

#### Spray sealants

Best option for alcohol ink pieces

#### Advantages:

- Light mist coats prevent ink movement
- Fast drying
- Minimal surface disturbance

#### Recommended Sealants

- Krylon Crystal Clear Acrylic Spray
- Krylon UV Resistant Clear Acrylic Spray (Watercolor)

### How to Seal Artwork on YUPO

1. **Allow artwork to dry completely**

- Alcohol inks typically dry within minutes, but it is best to wait at least 30–60 minutes.
2. **Apply light spray coats**
    - Hold the spray about 10–12 inches from the surface.
    - Apply a very light mist coat.
  3. **Let the coat dry**
    - Wait 10–15 minutes.
  4. **Apply additional coats**
    - Apply 2–3 thin coats rather than one heavy coat.
    - Multiple light coats prevent ink movement and ensure complete coverage.
  5. **Allow full curing**
    - Let the sealed artwork cure for at least 1–2 hours before applying resin.

## **Applying Epoxy Resin Over YUPO Artwork**

### **Step-by-Step Process**

#### **1. Prepare the artwork**

Mount the YUPO sheet onto a rigid surface such as:

- Wood panel
- Cradled board
- Acrylic panel
- Or use **pre mounted** Legion Aluminum Artist Panels Yupo Medium. Fully archival mounted Yupo to a rigid substrate for convenience and consistency.

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/legion-yupo-aluminum-artist-panels/?fromSearch=%2Fsearch%2F%3Fsearchword%3Dyupo%20panels>

This prevents warping and allows the resin to level evenly.

#### **2. Mix the resin**

- Measure equal parts resin and hardener (or follow manufacturer ratio).
- Mix slowly for 2–3 minutes until completely clear.

### **3. Pour the resin**

- Pour a small amount in the center of the artwork.
- Spread gently with a plastic spreader or allow it to self-level.

### **4. Remove bubbles**

- Pass a heat gun or torch quickly over the surface.
- This releases trapped air bubbles.

### **5. Cure**

- Allow the resin to cure undisturbed.
- Typical cure time: 24 hours.

### **6. Optional second coat**

A second coat can be applied for additional depth and gloss.

## **Best Practices for Resin Over YUPO**

- Always test sealants with alcohol ink first.
- Use thin spray coats to avoid disturbing the artwork.
- Mount the YUPO to a rigid panel before pouring resin.
- Work in a dust-free environment.
- Follow resin manufacturer mixing ratios exactly.