

Liquitex

BASICS™

ACRYLIC

ACRYLICS 101: THE FUNDAMENTALS

There's no more versatile paint system in the world.

Acrylic paint is made of two carefully balanced elements – pigments and a water-based acrylic emulsion, which binds it all together. When you squeeze the paint out of the tube, the water in the emulsion starts evaporating into the air. Once it's all evaporated you're left with a dry, flexible acrylic film of color which is permanent, water-resistant and extremely stable.

Dries quickly

Cleans up with water while wet

Adjusts with mediums

Flexible

Permanent when dry

Low odor

Sticks to almost any surface

TECHNIQUES

Basics acrylic colors are ideal for all painting techniques plus:

Sketching & underpainting	✓
Color theory & mixing	✓
Collage & mixed media	✓

SURFACES

If your paint sticks to it, you can use it.*

Canvas	✓
Paper & board	✓
Wood	✓
Masonry	✓
Metal	✓
Styrofoam	✓
Stone	✓
Ceramics	✓
Textiles	✓

*If applying on a slick surface, sand or prime with gesso first.

TERMS EXPLAINED

AP SEAL

Liquitex Basics colors are independently tested by the Art and Creative Materials Institute at Duke University, and hold the Approved Product (AP) safety seal. This means they are certified to contain no materials in sufficient quantities to be toxic or harmful to humans or to cause health problems.

PIGMENT

Pigments are particles that dictate a paint color. Some paints contain just a single pigment, others more than one. The individual pigments are listed on the tube and color chart.

OPACITY/TRANSPARENCY

Each pigment has its own character so the symbol tells you if it's opaque ■ semi-opaque ◻ or transparent □

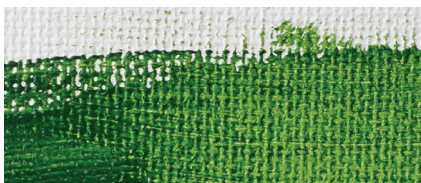
LIGHTFASTNESS

Lightfastness is how long the color resists fading. Each pigment is rated on scale by the American Society for Testing & Materials (ASTM). Basics paints are all ASTM I (excellent) or II (very good) and considered permanent and lightfast* for 50-100+ years in gallery conditions.

*Fluorescent and metallic paints are not given a rating by the ASTM.



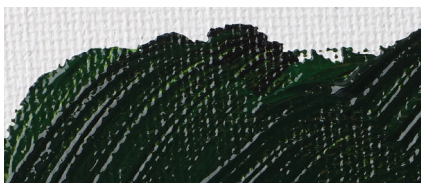
MASSTONE
When a color is straight from the tube – rich and concentrated.



UNDERTONE
When a color is applied thinly or diluted with water – generally more transparent.



TINT
When a color is mixed with white.



SHADE
When a color is mixed with black.

MEDIUMS

How do you make your acrylic paint work harder?

These mediums cover all the bases and are a good introduction before you enter the world of professional mediums. They let you prep your surfaces, adjust viscosity, flow and sheen. You can change paint opacity, drying time and texture, or protect your finished work.



GESSO
An opaque matte white ground. Apply to surfaces to seal and prepare before painting.



GLOSS FLUID MEDIUM
A colorless acrylic medium. Mix with color to thin and add transparency or use on its own as a collage adhesive. Gives an archival gloss finish.



GLOSS GEL MEDIUM
A colorless acrylic gel medium. Mix with color to thicken, add transparency and slow drying time. Gives an archival gloss finish.



GLOSS HEAVY GEL
As Gloss Gel Medium, but thicker. Ideal for impasto applications.



MATTE FLUID MEDIUM
A colorless acrylic medium. Mix with color to thin and add transparency or use on its own as a collage adhesive. Gives an archival matte finish.



MATTE GEL
A colorless acrylic gel medium. Mix with color to thicken, add transparency and slow drying time. Gives an archival matte finish.



IRIDESCENT MEDIUM
A reflective metallic medium. Mix with color or use on its own.



COARSE TEXTURE MEDIUM
A grainy effects medium. Mix with color, use on its own or overpaint. Great for special effects.



LIGHT MODELING PASTE
A lightweight opaque paste for 3D effects. Mix with color and build in thin layers, or overpaint once dry.



MODELING PASTE
An opaque paste for 3D effects. Mix with color and build in thin layers. Overpaint, sand or carve when dry.



GLOSS VARNISH
Protects your finished work from UV damage, dirt and dust, with an archival gloss finish.



MATTE VARNISH
Protects your finished work from UV damage, dirt and dust, with an archival matte finish.

LIQUITEX BASICS ACRYLIC

Everyday acrylic paints, mediums and tools. For all types of artists. All types of painting. Formulated with artist-grade pigments.

Paint character

Medium viscosity	✓
Fine art pigments	✓
Satin finish	✓
Easy blending	✓
Range of opacities	✓
Essential mediums & tools	✓
Fully AP certified for safety and educational use	✓

*Fluorescent and metallic paints are naturally less lightfast.

COLOR CHART

A palette of 72 colors made with the highest quality fine art pigments.

You'll find all your essentials as well as some specialty colors, all with a good pigment load. It's balanced for beginners and artists with more experience, for fine art and design work.



159 Cadmium Yellow Light Hue PY3	045 Transparent Yellow PY8	410 Primary Yellow PY9	830 Cadmium Yellow Medium Hue PY1 + PY3	165 Cadmium Yellow Deep Hue PY3 + PY6	620 Vivid Red Orange PY1 + PY19	720 Cadmium Orange Hue PY2	510 Cadmium Red Light Hue PY1 + PY19	151 Cadmium Red Medium Hue PY1 + PY19	321 Pyroline Red PY14
282 Naphthol Crimson PY18	047 Transparent Red PY20	311 Cadmium Red Deep Hue PY1 + PY19	118 Alizarin Crimson Hue Permanent PY20 + PY23	415 Primary Red PY19	810 Light Portrait Pink PY6 + PY26 + PY18	048 Rose Pink PY18 + PY6 + PY22	500 Medium Magenta PY1 + PY19	114 Quinacridone Magenta PY12	590 Brilliant Purple PY6 + PY23
115 Deep Violet PY22 + PY23	301 Prism Violet PY22 + PY23	263 Purple PY23 + PY18 + PY6	105 Dioxazine Purple PY23	680 Light Blue Violet PY6 + PY23 + PY19	320 Prussian Blue Hue PY15.3 + PY23 + PY6 + PY17	380 Ultramarine Blue PY29	381 Cobalt Blue Hue PY29 + PY15.3 + PY6	310 Phthalocyanine Blue PY15.3	420 Primary Blue PY15.3
470 Cerulean Blue Hue PY29 + PY15.3 + PY12 + PY6	570 Brilliant Blue PY1 + PY24 + PY6	770 Light Blue Permanent PY6 + PY24 + PY12 + PY1	049 Turquoise Blue PY1 + PY24 + PY6	660 Bright Aqua Green PY1 + PY24 + PY6	142 Blue Gray PY15.3 + PY23 + PY17 + PY19	317 Phthalocyanine Green PY1	224 Hooker's Green Hue Permanent PY1 + PY24 + PY12	350 Permanent Green Deep PY1 + PY24	312 Light Green Permanent PY1 + PY24 + PY6
218 Light Olive Green PY1 + PY24 + PY12 + PY6	222 Lime Green PY1 + PY24 + PY6	840 Brilliant Yellow Green PY6 + PY24 + PY12 + PY1	205 Green Gray PY1 + PY24 + PY6	530 Bronze Yellow PY1 + PY24 + PY1	416 Yellow Oxide PY2	601 Naples Yellow Hue PY6 + PY24 + PY1	330 Raw Sienna PY1 + PY24 + PY1	335 Red Oxide PY1 + PY24	127 Burnt Sienna PY6 + PY24
331 Raw Umber PY6	128 Burnt Umber PY6	434 Unleached Titanium PY6 + PY12 + PY11 + PY1	438 Parchment PY12 + PY17 + PY6 + PY1	430 Transparent Mixing White PW6	432 Titanium White PW6	699 Neutral Gray 5 PY12 + PY17 + PY6	310 Payne's Gray PY19 + PY15.3 + PY12	244 Ivory Black PW6	270 Pans Black PW6
238 Iridescent White	049 Iridescent Graphite	052 Silver	051 Gold	054 Bronze	053 Copper	981 Fluorescent Yellow	982 Fluorescent Orange	983 Fluorescent Red	987 Fluorescent Pink
984 Fluorescent Blue	985 Fluorescent Green								

KEY TO CODING

OPACITY RATING	ASTM LIGHTFASTNESS RATING
■ Opaque	☼ Excellent
◻ Semi-Transparent	☼ Very Good
□ Transparent	☼ Not ASTM rated

BRUSHES

Liquitex Basics brushes are the perfect way to begin.

Made with long handles and white nylon bristles, they're durable, easy to clean and hold good amounts of color. Their medium-soft texture bristles give the ideal responsiveness for Liquitex Basics paints and any soft/medium-bodied acrylics. Choose from five shapes in a range of sizes.

ROUND
A round or pointed tip bristle for detail, glazing, controlled washes and filling in small areas.

BRIGHT
A short, flat bristle with edges curved in at the tip, great for short, controlled strokes.

FLAT
A rectangular, square-ended bristle for bold strokes and chisel-like lines, great for washes, impasto, filling in wide spaces and straight edges.

FILBERT
A flat, oval-shaped bristle for broad strokes with a soft edge, the filbert is super versatile and great for blending.

FAN
A flat, fan-shaped bristle for smoothing, blending, softening, feathering and adding textural effects.

AS YOU PROGRESS

As you progress, or you get more serious, you may want to start exploring the more specialist lines of Liquitex Professional.

Higher pigment loads give stronger colors, while a wider range of mediums let you create new effects. And you can try different acrylic paint textures and formats – from inks to fine art spray paint.



LIQUITEX BASICS	LIQUITEX PROFESSIONAL
Good pigment load	High pigment load
Good range of colors	Wide range of colors
One consistency of paint (medium viscosity)	Choice of paint viscosities and formats
Straightforward pricing – same prices across all colors of the same size	Different series pricing according to pigment and manufacturing complexity
Choice of 12 mediums	Choice of 48 mediums

The everyday acrylic range.

Learn more at [LIQUITEX.COM](https://www.liquitex.com)