



**Utrecht Art Supplies**

## **Product Profiles: Acrylic Mediums Compared**



**Ask the Expert: "What are the differences between your various acrylic mediums? In terms of how they are used and their behavior, how do they compare? Is one better than the others as an all-purpose medium?"**

A: Acrylic painting mediums are used to expand the range of effects possible with acrylic artist's colors. Mediums can improve brush movement, flow and handling; they can extend paint, making it possible to achieve broad coverage with a small amount of color. Some mediums impart or reduce gloss, increase or decrease transparency and modify the thickness of mixtures.

Acrylic mediums range from opaque to transparent, stiff to fluid and matte to gloss. They also modify working properties including shortness and length, tack and thixotropy. Some acrylic painting mediums also act as carriers for inclusions or texturizers.

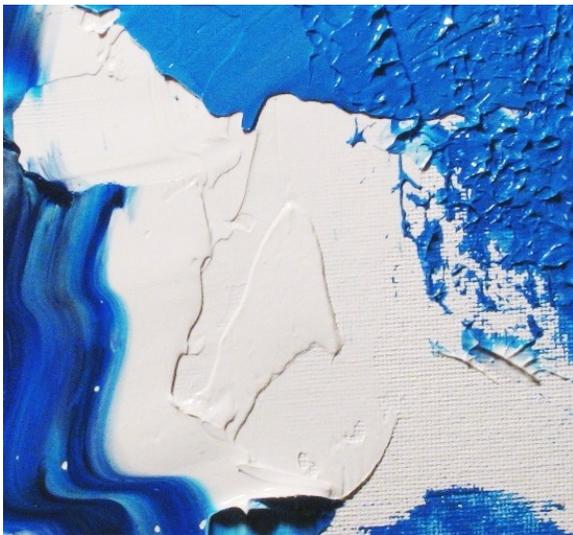
In terms of which works best as a general painting medium, most artists select either gloss medium or matte medium. Both can be used to thin colors without loss of viscosity, and both help improve brush movement across the canvas. Gloss Medium imparts an overall shiny surface quality, while Matte Medium produces a satiny finish. Both are transparent and can be used to thin colors without producing pale tints.



For those who prefer a slightly heavier body but still want to increase transparency, Gloss and Matte Gel impart similar surface qualities to Gloss and Matte Medium, respectively, while holding soft peaks. Gloss Gel is also an excellent adhesive for paper and fabric collage, and for mounting canvas to panel.



Opaque Gel has similar stiffness to artist's colors with a white appearance that opens up dark, transparent colors to produce brilliant hues.



Modeling Paste and Extender is a stiff, opaque medium that can be sculpted and shaped on the canvas. It can be used alone before color to build textures in the underpainting or mixed with paints to stiffen body, produce tints and add texture at any stage of the process. Modeling Paste can be mixed with professional grade colors as an extender to make a large volume of color economically.

Questions? [Ask the Expert](#)

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Pumice Medium adds granular inclusions to produce a rough, fresco-like surface. Pumice Medium provides a way to introduce aggressive texture without the risk of a crumbly film from adding too much filler material.

Iridescent Tint Medium uses micaceous pigment to produce a multicolored sheen when applied on top of dry acrylic paint. When mixed directly with colors, the iridescent effect is reduced. This product has similar body to Gloss Medium.



Illuminating Medium is a low-viscosity formula with a reflective inert pigment that reflects light from within the paint film. Illuminating Medium increases the apparent brightness of colors without adding white or producing tints.