



Utrecht Art Supplies

Studio Craft: Gloss Medium as a Varnish

An artist recently asked exactly how Utrecht Gloss Acrylic Medium can work as a varnish, what other applications are suggested, and how it compares to similar products from other brands. Here is a summary of our reply:



Utrecht Gloss Acrylic Medium is a water-based acrylic polymer dispersion with high gloss and very strong adhesion.



In some sizes, Gloss Medium is also labeled "Gloss Medium and Varnish". It's the same product, just different size packages.



Compared to many other brands, Utrecht Gloss Medium is thicker and more concentrated, heavy enough to hold soft peaks. It's concentrated enough to thin with water to practically any consistency desired, while still retaining great adhesive strength and film-forming properties.



Gloss Medium is slightly milky and translucent straight from the container, but dries glass-clear with high shine.



Acrylic colors can be thinned and extended with Gloss Medium to improve flow and wetting, to create transparencies and glazes.



As glazes dry, all opacity will vanish, leaving a clear transparent application of color.



Utrecht Gloss Acrylic Medium can be thinned with water for use as a canvas size and isolation coat for panels. Acrylic sizing is compatible with oil, alkyd and acrylic-based grounds. (Apply 2 coats minimum for full protection.)



Gloss Medium can be applied as a clear top coat over finished acrylic and well-fixed watercolor and gouache paintings (thin slightly for better leveling).

Since Gloss Medium is not removable, it does not meet conservation standards for a final picture varnish. It can, however, be top-coated (when completely dry) with a solvent-based synthetic resin solution varnish like Utrecht Gloss Oil Varnish.

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