

## FOIL INSTRUCTIONS FOR FABRIC by Laura Murray

Foils add sparkle and shine to your projects. Foils require an adhesive, which bonds the foil to the surface with the application of heat and pressure. Surfaces include most fabric, paper, knits, T-shirts, leather, wood, walls, and more.

### Supplies

Most applications require an adhesive, foils, iron with a non-stick surface, and plastic or newsprint to protect your work surface. Depending on the method used, you may also need stamps, rubbing plates, found objects, stencils, foam brushes, and an old towel to provide a padded surface for stamping.

**Adhesive Types:** Although there are a variety of adhesive choices available, the effects will vary based on the product and the surface choices. Not all adhesives are washable; it's important to read the product specifications to determine suitability. Screen-Trans Development Corp makes an excellent washable adhesive formulated for foils and fabric.

**Liquid Adhesive.** The advantage of liquid is the fast and easy repetition of images, using stamps, stencils, rubbing plates, etc. The glue must be dry to the touch (about 3 hours) before foil application.

**Transfer Webs.** Also called fusibles, such as Wonder-Under, Steam-a-Seam Lite, MistyFuse, etc. Shapes must be recut for each application. Foil can be applied immediately, thus eliminating drying time.

**BoNash 007 Bonding agent.** This is a powdered adhesive, similar to salt in appearance. A speckled appearance is created by sprinkling the powder--take care to use very small amount, distributed sparingly-- directly onto the fabric. Be sure to cover the sprinkles with parchment paper before applying heat from an iron.

### Step One - Applying Adhesive

#### *Liquid Adhesive with stamps, rubbing plates, or found objects*

Place the fabric right side up on a slightly padded surface, such as old towel. Brush the adhesive onto the stamp with a foam or bristle brush. Press the stamp --adhesive side down-- on the fabric in a straight up and down motion. Be sure to press down firmly across the entire surface of the stamp to ensure even coverage. **Allow the adhesive to dry -- about 3 hours.**



Apply adhesive



Stamp the surface

### *Liquid adhesive with stencils*

Stencils are placed on the fabric (no padding required), and adhesive is brushed on with a foam or stencil brush. Carefully remove the stencil and make sure there is no wet adhesive on the reverse side before making additional images.



**Wash brushes, stamps and stencils with water immediately after completing your work session.**

### *Transfer Webs -*

Cut out a shape, fuse it to fabric or paper, wait about 10 seconds for the glue to cool, and remove the paper backing. The adhesive is ready for foiling immediately.



### **Step Two - Apply foil**

**Basic technique** -- Place the foil on the dry adhesive with the color (shiny) side facing up. Set the iron on dry cotton setting, turn slightly onto its edge, apply foil using the side edge in a burnishing motion. Direct contact of the iron removes the foil, so be sure to keep the iron on the mylar (or use a sheet of parchment paper on top of the foil).



First layer applied



Second layer applied

**Multiple Colors** ---Apply first layer (gold used here), then apply a different color foil (turquoise shown) to achieve multi-colored images. Continue applying various colors until the adhesive is completely covered with foil.

**Foil sheets can be used multiple times; keep them until the color is removed**

## Other Application Methods

Other methods include 1) **Screen printing** — use the adhesive in the same manner as you would textile paint or ink, wait to dry. 2) **Paint/draw** - use a small paint brush to apply adhesive directly, or use the adhesive in a small bottle, squeezed out thru metal tips. 3) **Fusible thread** - cut 1-2” lengths, watch them curl up, and place them on your project. You can also stitch with the thread in your sewing machine, then add foil.

## Caring for Your Fabric

Fabric foiled with Screen Trans adhesive may be gently washed by hand or machine, cool water. Avoid the dryer (foil may rub off), and no dry cleaning. Press from the reverse side of the fabric or with a press cloth. Foil adhered with fusible web is likely to be removed with pressing -- always do a test sample to make sure the foil remains.

## Troubleshooting tips

**Design is blurry**-- Lighter weight fabrics will produce a crisper image, particularly complex designs. Heavier weight fabrics do better with simple, bold shapes.

**Adhesive appears uneven** -- experience soon illustrates how heavy to apply the adhesive. If too light, foil may not adhere; too heavy, foil will adhere in ridges (which is just another design element!)

**Adhesive seems too thick** -- add small amount of water on a small plastic plate until adhesive is consistency of cake batter.

**Adhesive showing thru sheers.** This can't be helped.

**Colors appear to flake** (aqua and red are especially prone to this) -- Turn down the setting on your iron, and rub off the flakes with your fingers.

**Additional colors won't stick** - This usually means the adhesive is saturated, and it is not possible to add more colors.

**Foil doesn't seem to stick** -- Make sure the foil color is UP (facing you). Press harder with the point of iron (just in case you weren't pressing hard enough). Try turning up the heat of the iron. It's also possible that adhesive coverage is too light, so try a heavier layer of adhesive.

**Foil melts** -- Turn down iron heat, or cover the work with parchment paper or a pressing sheet.

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