

## Six tips for Successful Paintstik Rubbings by Laura Murray

Paintstik rubbings are my favorite technique for quickly transforming plain cloth into the unique fabric of my dreams. Many years of happily exploring this wonderful medium, combined with numerous demonstrations and classes, have taught me to always use the following tips for best results. Find all the iridescent paintstik colors [here](#).

1. **Keep the fabric from slipping**, which prevents blurry images. Use a Grip-n -Grip (no-slip mat) to prevent fabric from slipping across the work surface as you work, and spray the top of rubbing plates or stamps with temporary spray adhesive,



2. **Keep the paintstik smooth and free from skin while you work.** Always begin a project by wiping the sticks into paper towels until the skin is thoroughly removed; wipe down again when you see “crumbs” of skin appearing on your fabric. The crumbs can be picked up by firmly pressing a piece of tape into the unwanted paint, then lifting it up.

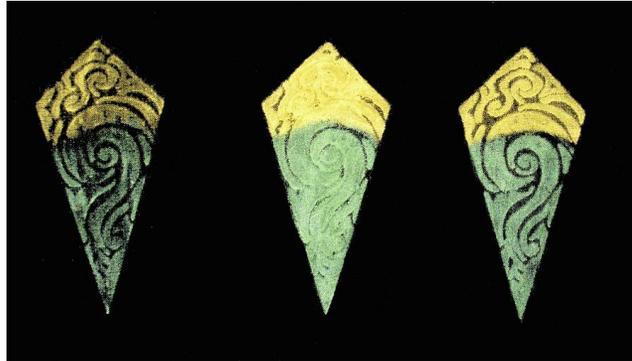


3. **Rub in one direction only.** Rubbing back and forth causes shifting of the fabric, and blurry images. Hold the fabric with the one hand and rub away from your body, using short strokes. **Detailed texture such as stamps requires strokes about 1/2” long.**



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**4. Apply light, medium or heavy pressure to control paint coverage.** How hard you rub the The paintstik into the fabric produces different results, so experiment to see what works best for your project. On the sample below, the left image shows how light coverage allows the fabric to show through, and heavy pressure on the middle image results in lost texture definition.



**5. Layer both color and texture for more interest; no need for paint to dry between change of color/texture.**

For stamps, add colors as shown without moving the fabric.



Use a texture for one layer, then put a different texture under the fabric, and add another layer directly over the first with contrasting colors. Rubbing plates used for this sample.



**6. Use the long side of the paintstik for irregular textures.** Rubbing over textures with designs that are not fairly equidistant often result in “smudging” when the paintstik drops into open spaces. The problem is solved by taking an approx. 2” long paintstik section and removing the skin from the long side. Lightly rub over the entire design, and go back and apply different colors as desired.



Sample uses Kaleidoscope rubbing plates set with corners removed.