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/or pressure. Surfaces include fabric, paper, knits, T-shirts and other porous surfaces.

Supplies

You will need **f**oils and an adhesive, along with plastic or newsprint to protect your work surface. Depending on the method used, you may also need an iron with a non-stick surface, stamps, rubbing plates, stencils, foam brushes, found objects, etc.

Adhesive Types: icraft Deco Foil Adhesive works well (as do several other fabric adhesives); transfer web, BoNash 007 Bonding Agent. etc. Effects vary based on the product and surface choices. Not all adhesives are washable and drying time varies. Read the product specifications to determine suitability.

- **Liquid Adhesive.** The advantage of liquid is the fast and easy repetition of images, using stamps, stencils, rubbing plates, found objects, etc. The glue must be dry to the touch before foil application, which can take several hours.

- **Transfer Webs**. Also called fusibles, such as Wonder-Under, Steam-a-Seam 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 using textures, i.e. stamps, rubbing plates, or found objects
Brush the adhesive on texture with a foam or bristle brush. Press the tabric —right side down —on top of the wet texture in a straight up and down motion. Be sure to press down firmly across the entire surface to ensure even coverage. ***Allow the adhesive to dry.***

Apply adhesive

Press fabric into wet adhesive

Liquid adhesive with stencils

Stencils are placed on the fabric 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.
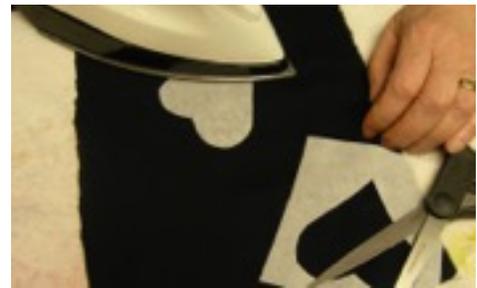

Stencils

Clean your tools with water

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.

Transfer Web

Step Two - Apply foil

Pressure Only: Some adhesives, such as icraft Deco Foil adhesive, adhere with pressure only. Place the foil color right side up on top of the adhesive design and rub with fingers. For more intense color, rub with the flat edge of a plastic knife or similar tool. Pressing with your fingernails produces fine lines.

Pressure from fingers only

Heat from an iron: Set the iron on dry cotton setting, turn slightly onto its edge, and apply foil in a burnishing motion. Second and third colors may be applied for special effects.

Apply first layer

Apply second layer

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 include:

• **Screen printing** — use the adhesive in the same manner as   you would textile paint or ink, wait to dry.

• **Paint/draw -** use a small paint brush to apply adhesive directly, or draw directly by squeezing the adhesive directly through an application tip.

• **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 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 (direct contact with iron will remove the foil).   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.

Dragonfly stencil by Laura Murray Designs.

lauramurraydesigns.com
Cool tools and techniques for one-of-kind treasures