

Notes for Coloring on Denim:

- 1. Light colored denim is the easiest to color on. Dark denim needs multiple layers of color in order for the color to show.
- 2. Have a piece of denim handy to use as a test sample. No matter how many times I have colored on denim I am always surprised at how differently the paint looks after it has dried.
- 3. Apply fabric medium first and allow to dry. This acts as a sealant to keep the color on the surface rather than being absorbed by the denim.
- 4. Use Acrylic markers that have a fine tip rather than a brush tip. The brush tip wears down after a bit of use.
- 5. When purchasing Acrylic markers, make sure that they are: opaque, water resistant or waterproof; water based and cleanable with soap and water.
- 6. Acrylic markers often need to be recoated after drying.
- 7. Use a micron black pen to go over outlines where paint/marker has accidentally gone into the design lines.
- 8. If you use fabric paint, mix it with opaque white paint to brighten paint's appearance. Please note that many lines of fabric paint are TRANSLUCENT not OPAQUE. Make sure that the brand you purchase is opaque.
- 9. Brighter colors show up better than darker rich colors.
- 10. Use nail art or resin art tools to push color into very small areas. Also, nail art tools that have rubber tips can be used to clean up paint on DTF/thread outlines.
- 11. You can blend acrylic markers with fabric medium to achieve shading.
- 12. For sparkle, use Jacquard Pearl Ex Powdered Pigments mixed with fabric medium or Jacquard's Super Sparkle extender. If you want a "blingy" look with paints, the best pearlescent/metallic paints for denim are: Jacquard Lumiere or Pro Chemical and Dye's Pearlescent fabric paints.
- 13. If you are using paint on denim, wash your brush regularly as paint will build up on the brush and create "paint goobers".
- 14. Using a thicker outline (whether a DTF or an embroidered block) gives the design more visibility than thin lines.
- 15. Acrylic marker paint MUST be sealed with fabric medium once it dries if garment/quilt is to be washed. Acrylic paint without fabric medium fades over repeated washings.
- 16. You can use Makers Magic by Scorch Marker for a waterproof sealant. Follow the instructions per the manufacturer





Note that Acrylic Markers made in China often do not have any key code references so I have tried to create them based on the color charts on the back of the packaging.

Also, the translation into English Doesn't always make sense.

When in doubt, always create a color chart on fabric for yourself so that you know precisely what the color will look like on your coloring fabric.

A quick video tutorial on coloring this design can be found on my YouTube channel called Channeling Laurel Burch. The link is:

Channeling Laurel Burch with Acrylic Markers







