

Jessie Fritsch Encaustic Start up Kit:

1. **Ventilation.** See R&F Paints Encaustic Guide. DO NOT HEAT PAINT OVER 200°F
2. **Updated electrical required.**
3. **Safety.** Don't eat in the studio. I wear gloves while I paint. Remember the beautiful Cobalts, Cadmiums, and other heavy metal pigments will harm you if ingested.
4. **Heated Palette: use a surface and digital cooking thermometer for temp regulations**
 - Heating palette. I use a presto pancake griddle. For more options go to fineartstore.com. Paints can be melted right on heat source or kept in tins.
 - Heat gun or embossing gun: I recommend having both.
 - * I have used a Makita heat gun for 15 years. I can adjust temperature and air flow speed. This is best for very detailed work.
 - * For more universal use I recommend a Chandler Heat Gun. I purchased it on Amazon. Its light and has a high and low air flow setting.
 - Iron: I use a special encaustic iron from Encaustic Art. IschererWaxArt.com DO NOT use a tacking iron.
5. **Tools:**
 - Natural Bristle Brushes. DO NOT use synthetic. I use sable. My favorite brush supplier is richesonart.com
 - Metal tins and containers.
 - Palette knives and ceramic carving tools.
 - Painters Tape. I use the yellow delicate surface Frogtape.
6. **Paint:**
 - ENKAUSTIKOS www.encausticpaints.com
 - R&F ENCAUSTICS www.rfpaints.comBoth these sites have great info on safety, painting techniques, and other artist resources. You can not buy directly from these sites. I use fineartstore.com to buy my paints.
 - Enkaustikos Wax Medium (Beeswax and damar resin which is a tree sap)
 - Enkaustikos USP Refined White Beeswax
7. **Supports:** Must paint on a rigid and porous surface. Wood is great support.
 - I paint on ½ inch thick Baltic birch plywood. I special order a 4x8' sheet from Menards. They will not cut the boards for you.
 - I use DaVinci cradled birch panels from Jerry's Artarama. ▪ jerrysartarama.com
 - DONOT use acrylic gesso to prime boards. Must use special gesso or coat support with wax or encaustic medium.
 - Gesso options: easiest and best is R&F Paints Encaustic Gesso (similar to chalk paint), prime with just wax, use traditional rabbit skin glue gesso, or casein.
8. **Cleaning:** I use a petroleum based wax called Slick Wax from ENKAUSTIKOS, DO NOT paint with this wax. It is brittle and will yellow in time.
 - Use Bounty Paper Towel for easy clean up.
 - I use wax paper to collect left over paint.

