

Beautiful Backgrounds

For Painting, Journalling, Decorative Painting In Acrylic and Mixed Media
PART 1



The Background can either make or break your artwork... a Great one becomes part of the entire work and a bad one can detract from an otherwise wonderful piece of work. This month we are going to delve into several different background finishes that you can use to pump up a simple design! (I have included some line drawings in different themes, to help stimulate your creativity!) We are going to have a blast playing with Glazes, textures, stencils, stamps, and more! So get ready!

Layered Backgrounds:

Layered backgrounds are highly versatile, they can be done to support a wide range subject matter. They can be done is virtually any colour and they can involve, stamps, stencils, hand drawn images, Decoupage, Collage, layers of epoxy, texture mediums and more. We are going to go through a whole bunch of different techniques to support your artwork, this is just the first!

Faux Florentine Leather

This kind of background works beautifully for florals and still life pieces.



To Begin:

I use Jo Sonja fast Drying Glaze for a range of purposes. I use it like water for Floating, for thinning my paint for Lettering and line work and for faux finishing backgrounds and colour washing. It helps keep the paint moving for glazing and it helps keep the paint colour intense and vibrant when thinning . The paint moves smoothly off the brush when doing line work or lettering. Try it , I think you will really like it.

Mixing Glaze:

I usually keep my ratio for glaze at 3:1 (three parts Glaze to one part paint) But you can adjust the strength of the glaze by increasing the Amount of Glaze or Paint. The 3:1 ratio is a good starting point.

Tinted Glazes create layers of translucent colour when applied over top of other colours, textures or patterns. These layers help develop great depth. There are a huge array of finishes that you can do to create backgrounds for your artwork or for elements within your artwork. This first one is pretty simple, but by adding more layers , more pattern or design elements the more elaborate the finish can be.

This Finish is way too much fun to do, and so easy to get a great result!

Base coat the entire surface with Country Red. Two coats will do it. Let it dry then sand lightly.

Apply Stencil using the Stencil Brush and DecoArt 24Kt Gold Metallic. Let this colour be as opaque or as subtle as you like. An Irregular application gives the final finish a nice distressed look a fully opaque application

Mix Soft Black with Fast drying Glaze in an empty paint bottle, 3 parts Glaze to 1 part paint, or mix a small amount directly on the palette. With a nice soft wide brush, apply a generous coat of this mixture over the surface. It should be quite transparent but still bury or subdue the stencilling a little. Let it dry then reapply to deepen the effect. You can add layer upon layer depending on how dark or detailed you want the finish to be.

This finish is wonderful with Greens , Burgundy, Purple or Blue. Soft Black will work on all of them , but you can change out this for a Black Green , A Prussian Blue, Or Lamp Black. Just keep in mind that the contrast may be quite stark. (I lean toward a soft black because it is a warmer tone)

To Add more visual texture to this finish you can Add a final layer of thinned Soft Black(With the glaze) brush on an Even Coat and then Using a piece of Crumpled Plastic wrap or Tissue paper to Blot the surface. Once the gold is once again visible. Stop and allow the glaze to dry. This creates some interesting irregularities in the finish like a worn leather.

The great thing about using a thin transparent glaze is that you have complete control over it. You can apply layer after to layer and get tremendous depth.

This can also be done with Neutral Colours and the stencilling done with metallics and darker values and contrasting but similar colours for the glaze.

Try Doing this finish on some scrap MDF or Cardboard, and try a variety subjects and colour schemes on it. I have added a few different line drawings for you to play with. Don't be afraid!









