

New Products and what you can do with them

InkAID

This is one of the most exciting products to use with a printer. We all know the importance of using the right paper with our printers. The coated products give such a good finish and bring out colour and clarity. The InkAID products enable you to coat almost anything that will go through a printer and achieve an excellent finish.

I spent a day with Jane Wild playing with these products and we had such fun. If you have an old inkjet printer that you're not too worried about, try making a collage on some interesting, weighty paper with lace, silks or similar. Coat with the White Matt InkAID (allow at least a day to dry) and print. On more normal inkjet printers, try coating fine aluminium sheets with Clear Gloss, or Semi-Gloss InkAID and you will be able to print permanently on the metal. I got this through the printer by taping it to paper with masking tape.



You can print on metal shim as well, using this particular InkAID but you need to be sure that it is clear of grease. Jane's collage on silk took the colour splendidly using the White Matt. There are several varieties of InkAID including a lovely iridescent one. It's worth looking at InkAID's web site (www.inkaid.com) where all the instructions for using the products are shown. We will writing a workshop on this product in a later issue of Workshop on the Web.

In Jane Wild's pics below, you can see, on the left, the effect of printing on silk with lace and a coating of White Matt. On the right, Jane has trapped tea-bag paper (gilded) and builders' scrim between layers of tissue and used the iridescent coating to print her design.

Please note: we are not responsible for the death of any printer and the products do not make the printouts washable.

Price £13.50 per pot of 473 ml (1 pint), currently only available in White Matt and Clear Semi-Gloss. Alternatively, a set containing 6 small pots is £25.95. Available from Art Van Go (WOW), The Studios, 1 Stevenage Road, Knebworth, Herts, SG3 6AN, UK, tel. 01438 814946, email art@artvango.co.uk, web site www.artvango.co.uk.



Liquid Beadz

Here's a thought. Piles of beads, glittering on your surface, without a single needle to be threaded. Available in various colours; mine were sapphire and midnight. The beads are held in an adhesive - a very gloopy one - and you simply apply them to your work with a palette knife. I tried them on some metal and on a complicated surface of cast paper and they were fine. They come as the beads shown and also as the tiny accent beads that have no hole in them. Combining the two would be good. Once applied, leave for 12-24 hours (depending on the surface) to dry. They can't be washed so you'll still have to get the needle out for garments. Certainly a great way of embellishing any item from boxes and books to picture frames.

Available at £2.95 for a pot, from Hobby Horse, 42 Anchor Road, Bearcross, Bournemouth, BH11 9HS, UK, tel 01202 572111, email thehobbyhorse@btconnect.com.



Clearsnap 'Rollagraphs'

A simple idea, this - an inkpad that fits inside a roller which has an outer roll of rubber stamps. So you have endless, inked stamps, ready to roll on anything - well, at least until your inkpad needs a refill, and that is easy to do. Best of all, some of the Rollagraphs have stamps designed by Sherrill Kahn - a guarantee of excellence. Although I can see that it is very useful to have an endless supply of ink (and I stamped on tissue to make some super wrapping paper), what I like best about roller printing is the way the paint fades when the roller is running dry, and this can be achieved by varying the pressure. There is also a handle that just clicks on to the roller so it can be used with any ink pad. I had a video to view and although the major part was fairly predictable, although interesting, they demonstrated using clear embossing powder as a resist. Why hadn't I thought of this? I had a great time then with the rollers, stamping over painted papers, resisting with clear powder and then using black writing ink over the top. The colour beneath was preserved by the embossing powder. Bleaching back gave great results using this method. You can see a few of my efforts below. I then had too many ideas to show here so have developed a Workshop on stamps in this issue. The Rollagraph comes from Clearsnap (see Stylus tool above). They are producing some very innovative products - we must keep an eye on them.



£5.30 for the mini rollagraph and the mini roller stamp wheels are £2.30 each, from Rainbow Silks (WOW), 6 Wheelers Yard, High Street, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, HP16 0AL, UK, tel. 01494 862111, fax. 01494 862651, email rainbowsilks@rainbowsilks.co.uk, website www.rainbowsilks.co.uk

£3.95 for the Maxi handles and £4.95 for the larger rollers, from Dorrie Doodle (WOW), 50 Bridge Street, Aberdeen, tel/fax. 01224 212821, email dorriedood@aol.com.



Perfect Paper Adhesive

I've been looking for this for some time having seen it in Somerset Studio, the American stamping magazine. It's as good as they said for anything to do with paper adhesion. Sticks paper to paper - even heavy stuff and photos - without any cockling. And you only need a small amount.

£2.70 from Winifred Cottage (WOW), 17 Elms Road, Fleet, Hampshire, GU13 9EG, UK, tel. 01252 617667, email WinifCott@aol.com

They also sell pieces of Mica - which can be stuck together using the Perfect Paper Adhesive. These are fascinating and I made a small sampler, experimenting with Pebeo gels (glass painters' clear coloured gels), embossing powders, Impress Me stamps and trapped pieces of stitching on water-soluble fabric. They were laminated together with Perfect Paper Adhesive. It is interesting to flake off the layers of the Mica. Mine was a very quick try but I'm working on a bigger piece with holes drilled to stitch it to fabric. I'll keep you posted.



Medium Mica Pieces £5.95 from Winifred Cottage (WOW), 17 Elms Road, Fleet, Hampshire, GU13 9EG, UK, tel. 01252 617667, email WinifCott@aol.com

Water-soluble paper

Although not a new product, this is worth a mention for those who haven't tried it. It works on the same principle as water-soluble fabric but has the advantage that areas can be covered with a resist which will not dissolve away when introduced to water. Use in the following way.

1. Draw or computer print an outline design, motif, etc. You can also just do a random, abstract design and build in layers - see pic right.

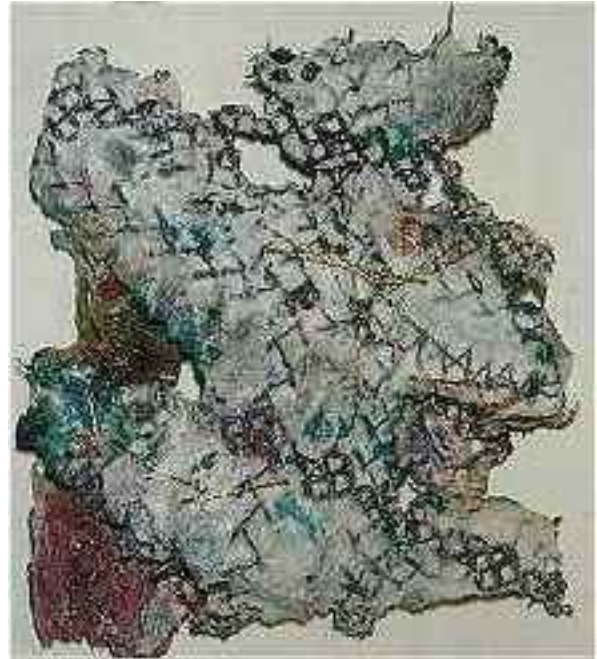
2. Free machine around the shape and lightly inside it. Make sure that any 'floating' areas are joined to the main area with stitching. Loose bits will float away.

3. Use Pebeo Gel (from art suppliers - a glass painting product) or nail polish, on some areas of the design. Trial and error will show how much to cover. Too much and the motif will be too solid. Not enough and there will be too many holes.

4. Pin the work to a polystyrene tile or piece of foam. Pin into areas that won't be dissolving. Then splash with water or hold under a trickle of tap water. Use fingers to mould the soggy paper. (This pulp can be 'modelled' to some degree to give thicker areas.)

5. Leave on the backing and dab with kitchen paper. Leave to dry (this takes ages). Then paint with any paints. I use Treasure Gold wax and PearlEx powders to add highlights. Apply to fabric using hand or machine stitching.

Priced at around £3.50+p&p for a large sheet and available in UK from Winifred Cottage, email WinifCott@aol.com and in Australia from The Thread Studio, email dale@thethreadstudio.com



Pic: Layers of water-soluble paper (top) are painted and built up into a metallic-looking fragment ready to apply to a background (bottom).