



PAINTS & FINISHES

JOANN'S FIELD GUIDE

NAME

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Introduction

Hi there! Welcome to JOANN's Field Guide to Paints & Finishes.

If you picked this up, you must be interested in painting either a piece of furniture, a decorative object for your home, or maybe a gift. Just getting started? Lucky for you, we've got lots of tips!

For specific projects and inspirations, make sure to visit joann.com/projects. But if you need some basic information to get started, you've got the right guide in your hands. After reading through this information, you'll be able to select the best paint and supplies for your project and know more about the different techniques you can use to personalize your project.

From acrylic to milk to spray paint, this field guide has you covered. As always, we can hardly wait to see what you make. Share with us! #handmadewithjoann

Words to Know

Eggshell - a soft sheen, as the name suggests, like an egg.

Finish - the appearance, or amount of glossiness.

Flat - no sheen at all; absorbs light rather than reflecting it.

Gloss - ultra-shiny and light-reflecting.

Matte - between a true flat and eggshell.

Medium - something added to acrylic paint to achieve a certain outcome, such as making the paint adhere to certain surfaces.

Primer - a preparatory coating put on surfaces before painting. Priming ensures better adhesion of this paint to the surface, increases paint durability, and provides additional protection to the material being painted.

Satin - a softer sheen that doesn't glare like high-gloss and semi-gloss. Despite the name, this finish has been described as "velvety."

Topcoat - a second, or finish coat, applied over the primer.

Undercoat - see "Primer."

Common Tools

A paintbrush is made of 4 main parts:

- bristles - also known as hairs. can be natural, synthetic, or combination of both
- ferrule - the silvery bit that connects the bristles with the handle
- crimp - the part of the ferrule that secures it to the handle
- handle - usually made of wood or acrylic (handles range in lengths, with shorter ones used for projects requiring more control, and longer ones typically used for easel work)

BRUSH TYPES FOR ACRYLIC PAINT

Synthetic bristles or hairs are recommended for working with acrylic paint. They stay stiffer when wet, are durable, absorbent, and maintain their original shape with minimal care.

There are 8 main types of paintbrushes that are used with acrylics, each one specially intended for a different use.

Round, Pointed Round or Detail Round Brush -- Creates thin to thick line and is good for outlining, detail work, and filling in small areas. Best results achieved with slightly thinned paint.

Flat Brush -- Square end with medium to long hairs and is good for bold strokes and filling in wide spaces. The edge can be used for fine lines and straight edges.

Bright Brush -- Flat with edges curved inward at tip with hairs that are shorter than a flat brush. A bright brush is good for controlled strokes and thick, heavy color.

Filbert Brush -- Flat with oval-shaped end and medium to long hairs that is good for blending and soft rounded edges. This brush is a combination of a flat and a round brush.

Angular Flat Brush -- Flat with angled hairs at the end that is good for curved strokes and filling corners.

Fan Brush -- Flat, spread hairs that is good for smoothing, blending, feathering, and texturing.

BRUSH CARE & CLEANING TIPS

With proper care a brush can last a long time. Here are some tips:

- Always keep brushes wet or moist when in use
- Never let paint dry on the paintbrush
- Don't get paint on the ferrule
- Wash paintbrushes in lukewarm or cold water. Many brushes are made with glue; washing them in hot water causes bristles to separate & shed.
- Don't rest your paintbrush bristles-down
- Let clean brushes dry completely before storing, preferably lying flat to preserve the tip.
- Stand paintbrushes upside down in a canister filled with sand. The sand absorbs moisture & supports the paintbrushes to prevent warping & bending.
- If you're not finished with a project but need to take a break, store wet paint brushes in a sandwich bag in the fridge or freezer.

OTHER TOOLS

Cheesecloth -- thin, loosely woven cloth of cotton, used to achieve faux finishes that resemble paper or fabric.

Contour tools -- designed to work with pastes, gels, and heavy-bodied paints, they are also ideal for cake decorators and food artisans. They allow a direct interaction between mediums and surfaces to create unique textures.

Decor sponge -- natural sea sponges each have a unique form and are used for paint application in a variety of projects, including stencils, textured faux finishes or paint touch-ups.

Foam rollers or brushes -- designed for the application of enamel, latex, oil paint, stain and varnish. They smooth out paint and cover evenly with fewer strokes, eliminating brush marks or loose bristles.

Layering block -- tool used to create an aged, uneven, layered effect

Painter's tape -- a special tape that delivers sharp paint lines and removes cleanly

Plastic cups or paper plates -- for mixing paint

Sanding block or sandpaper -- tools to create smooth, even surfaces, especially important between coats

Sponge roller -- tool for applying latex paint on smooth surfaces

Squeegee or comb -- tool for dimensional, combed or stencil effects

Spray adhesive -- used to mount and reposition stencils on craft surfaces

Stencils -- a thin sheet of cardboard, metal or some other material from which figures or letters have been cut out.

Vinyl letters -- create signs and messages on a variety of painted surfaces by adhering vinyl letters, applying paint, then peeling the letters off.

Wood craft sticks -- for mixing paint. Also known as popsicle sticks.

Craft Paint & Mediums

CRAFT ACRYLICS

Craft acrylics are creamy when wet and dry quickly to a water-resistant surface. Available in a wide range of colors, they are usually used without mixing or thinning. Liquid acrylics dry to a smooth, even surface that show few brush marks. These paints are ideal for covering a wide variety of porous surfaces and can even be mixed with other mediums to enhance a project or technique. This non-toxic paint can be cleaned up with soap and water while wet.

Types of Acrylic Paint

There are several types of acrylic paint, and they can vary in types of finishes, ranging from ultra-matte to high-gloss. Before purchasing, ask yourself these questions to help you choose the right paint for your project.

- What surface will I be painting on?
- What type of finish am I going for?
- Is this something that I need to test paint first, or have I painted it before?
- What will this project be used for?

All Purpose Acrylic -- a fast-drying, highly pigmented and concentrated paint that provides excellent coverage and is good for blending and mixing

Chalk Paint -- an acrylic that can be used on furniture, metals and walls. This home decor paint allows refinishing of furniture with ease. Sealants will keep it looking distressed or polished longer.

Chalkboard Paint -- allows you to create a surface that you can write on with chalk. You can erase and reuse the surface over and over.

Enamels -- perfect for painting on glass, ceramics, and tin. These paints dry quickly and after being cured, can be used in the dishwasher for easy care.

Outdoor Paint -- is waterproof and has excellent adhesion to exterior surfaces such as concrete, wood and terra cotta. Doesn't need a sealer and has a long-lasting finish.

MILK PAINT

Milk paint is a non-toxic water-based paint, usually made from milk and lime, with pigments added for color. It's often sold in powder form, which needs to be mixed. Milk paint is favored for its natural ingredients, adhesion properties, and its ability to be distressed for a realistic-looking aged appearance.

TYPES OF MEDIUMS

Glazing Medium--adds a clear, semi-gloss finish to paint on furniture and hard craft surfaces. Can be used on fabrics, furniture, canvas, wood, metals, plastics, and more.

Fabric Painting Medium--creates a washable, permanent paint for fabrics. Improves the bond to fabric and helps prevent cracking, peeling and fading.

Paint Adhesion Medium--helps improve acrylic paint adhesion on slick surfaces like plastics, metals, and more.

Staining/Antiquing Mediums--mix with acrylic paint of any color to make wood stains. Also used to help antique pre-painted projects.

PRIMERS, SEALERS & VARNISHES

Primers help condition most wood surfaces and improve acrylic paint adhesion.

Sealers are non-toxic and designed to adhere to all surfaces for indoor and outdoor use. All sealers dry clear. Some come in aerosol cans with special features such as UV protection. Sealers are available in satin, matte, and glossy finishes.

Varnishes offer a flexible, clear finish that dries quickly and cleans up with just soap and water.

Craftable Surfaces

The sky's the limit when it comes to the type of surface you can personalize with paint. Craftable surfaces include--but aren't limited to--paper mache, ceramic, galvanized metal, glass, canvas totes, purses & aprons (see Field Guide to Craft Textiles for more information), slate plaques and wood pallets.

Refer to the chart on the following pages for the best types of paint to use for the surface you've chosen.

Craft Paints		Product Line											
		DecoArt® Americana® Acrylic	DecoArt® Americana Gloss Enamels®	DecoArt® Craft Twinkles®	DecoArt® Dazzling Metallics®	DecoArt® Elegant Finish™	DecoArt® DecoArt® Glass Paint Marker™	DecoArt® Glo-It™	DecoArt® One step Crackle™	DecoArt® Patio Paint™	DecoArt® Snow-Tex™	DecoArt® Americana® Multi-Surface	Delta Creative™ Ceramcoat Acrylic®
Ceramic		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Clay		X								X			X
Floral & Silk		X						X			X		X
Glass			X				X		X		X		X
Metal		X	X		X	X	X		X		X	X	X
Paper		X	X	X	X	X		X			X	X	X
Paper Mache		X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X		X
Plaster		X		X	X	X			X		X		X
Plastic		X	X	X				X	X		X		X
Styrofoam		X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X		X
Terra Cotta			X						X	X		X	X
Tile													X
Walls		X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X
Wood		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X

X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Craft Essentials™ Acrylic
X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Craft Essentials™ Glass
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Craft Essentials™ Glitter
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Craft Essentials™ Metallic
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Craft Essentials™ Outdoor
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Martha Stewart Crafts™ Chalkboard Paint
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Martha Stewart Crafts™ Glow
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Martha Stewart Crafts™ Multi-Surface Glitter Paint
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Martha Stewart Crafts™ Multi-Surface High Gloss Paint
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Martha Stewart Crafts™ Multi-Surface Metallic Paint
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Martha Stewart Crafts™ Multi-Surface Pearl Paint
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Martha Stewart Crafts™ Multi-Surface Satin Paint

Craft Paints		Plaid® Apple Barrel® Acrylic Paint											
		Plaid® Apple Barrel® Gloss™											
		Plaid® FolkArt® Multi-Surface Paint											
		Plaid® FolkArt® Home Décor Chalk											
		Plaid® FolkArt® Home Décor Wax											
		Plaid® FolkArt® Home Décor Tint											
		Plaid® FolkArt® Acrylic Paint											
		Plaid® FolkArt® Chalkboard											
		Plaid® FolkArt® Enamel											
		Plaid® FolkArt® Extreme Glitter											
		Plaid® FolkArt® Metallic											
		Plaid® FolkArt® Outdoor											
Ceramic		X	X	X	X	X				X	X		X
Clay				X	X	X							
Floral & Silk				X									
Glass		X	X	X	X	X				X	X		
Metal		X	X	X	X	X				X			X
Paper	X	X	X	X	X		X				X	X	
Paper Mache	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X
Plaster	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X
Plastic				X	X	X							
Styrofoam	X	X	X										
Terra Cotta	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Tile		X	X	X	X					X			
Walls	X	X	X	X	X		X	X			X	X	X
Wood	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X

X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Plaid® FolkArt® Pearl
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Plaid® FolkArt® Shiny
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Plaid® FolkArt® Stain
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Elmer's® Painters® Paint Markers
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Sharpie® Oil-Based Paint Markers
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Viva Décor Crackle
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Viva Décor Inka Gold
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Viva Décor Precious Metal
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Rust-Oleum® Ultimate Wood Stain
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Rust-Oleum® Ultimate Polyurethane
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Rust-Oleum® Speciality Dry Erase
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Rust-Oleum® Speciality Magnetic Primer
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Rust-Oleum® Speciality Chalkboard

Painting Techniques

Colorwashing -- an aging effect using paint thinned out with glaze to create a subtle wash of color over walls or other surfaces.

Distressing -- using a paint technique to make a piece of furniture or object appear aged and older, giving it a weathered look.

Dry brushing -- a technique in which a paintbrush that is relatively dry, but still holds paint, is used to apply paint to a dry surface such as paper or primed canvas. The resulting brush strokes have a "scratchy" look.

Graining -- the practice of imitating wood grain on a non-wood surface.

Marbling -- the process of floating fabric paints on the surface of a thick cellulose solution, called "size," somewhat like oil on water. The floating paints are then swirled into patterns.

Paint pouring -- rather than using brushes or knives to transfer paint onto a surface, fluid paints can be poured directly onto the surface, which can then be tilted to move the paint around. This allows for colors to blend naturally as they come in contact with each other.

Rag rolling -- a form of faux painting using paint thinned out with glaze and old rags to create a lively texture on walls or other surfaces.

Sponging -- a quick, easy technique that uses a sponge and at least two mediums to add texture to a wall or other surface.

Stenciling -- a technique for painting walls and other surfaces that uses a thin sheet of cardboard, metal or some other material from which figures or letters have been cut out. Paint is rubbed or brushed over the sheet, passing through the perforations and onto the surface.

Stippling – a technique that creates varying degrees of solidity or shading by using small dots of color.

Tips & Tricks for Working with Acrylic Paint

- The key to any paint project is surface preparation, so begin with a clean, dry surface.
- Priming helps make colors vibrant.
- Keep a moist towel handy for quick clean-ups around edges.
- Allow paint to dry between applications.
- Be creative! Many household items can be used to create unusual textures and shapes. For example, use the end of the paintbrush handle to create dot effects.
- Don't be afraid to experiment with color mixing. Blend small amounts of darker paint into lighter paint to achieve your desired shade.
- Mix equal parts of paint to water for a color-washed look. This works especially well on wood for a dyed effect.
- Sand project edges for a time-worn effect. Wipe clean with a cloth to remove dust.
- Always seal the project to increase longevity.
- Place projects on wax paper while drying. Wax paper won't stick to the project, so clean up is fast and easy.

Working with Spray Paint

Spray paint is a fast way to achieve bold paint effects without the need for brushes and a lot of extra tools. Try these easy steps for a smooth, successful spray paint experience.

SPRAY PAINTING STEPS

- Read the instructions on the can before beginning the project because different brands have different coat and drying times.
- Start with a clean, dry surface. Use ordinary household detergents or mineral spirits and wipe the surface dry with a clean cloth.
- Before you paint the item, rough up the surface just a little with a sanding block to give the surface more "tooth," making the paint adhere better.

TYPES OF SPRAY PAINT

Spray paint comes in a range of finishes from matte to gloss, but there are also some specialty spray paints to give you the exact finish you're looking for.

Primer - While most spray paints come with primer built-in, some surfaces (such as laminate) require special surface preparation. A spray paint primer is a quick, easy way to prime without brush strokes.

Outdoor - Not all spray paints are made to stand up to the elements. For patio furniture or garden accents, choose a spray paint that's formulated for outdoor use.

Metallic - Metallic spray paints give an extremely realistic-looking finish, turning brass into bronze or chrome into brushed nickel in seconds. Look for hammered metal finishes if you want a forged metal look such as wrought iron.

Textured -- Achieve textured finishes that look and feel like stone, concrete, slate, and more.

Sea Glass -- Get the frosted look and colors of real sea glass with this beachy option.

Frosted Glass -- Coat windows or door sidelights with this paint to give your home more privacy, or use for home decor projects.

Glow in the Dark -- This paint is often used to enhance safety. Consider coating outdoor tripping hazards or even things like light switches with this type of paint that's invisible in daylight.

Glitter -- This craft spray paint gives you a sparkly finish without the need for adhesives and the mess of loose glitter.

Chalkboard -- This matte, black finish lets you turn almost anything into a writeable surface. Great for handmade signs and home decor.

Mirror -- When sprayed on the backside of glass, this spray paint lends a glossy, mirror-like finish.

TIPS & TRICKS

- Check the weather report. Avoid painting in direct sunlight or hot, humid weather. 50°F to 90°F, with humidity less than 85% is ideal.
- All spray paint nozzles are not created equal. Practice your technique on a scrap surface to see how evenly the paint dispenses from the can. Practice holding the can closer or further from the item to ensure a smooth application
- Use tape to mask exposed areas you don't want painted, and use a drop cloth to avoid spray paint overspray.

- Sweep, don't point. To get an even coat of paint, sweep the can horizontally and vertically past the object as you spray, overlapping the spray pattern by one-third.
- More is more. Use multiple, thin coats instead of one thick coat. Be sure to check spray paint re-coat times as stated in the directions on the can.
- When spray painting indoors, always ventilate the room by opening windows and doors. A fan can help keep the air circulating.
- Simply turn the can upside down and spray for five seconds when finished to clean the spray paint nozzle and prevent clogging.

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