

Design Magic Primer

WHAT IS DESIGN MAGIC?

Design Magic is a simple and exciting method for adding custom designs to fabric for all of your quilting, sewing, or mixed-media projects. It's easier than appliqué and faster than fusing – and it's fun!

This method is based on the Japanese design principle of Notan, which is defined as the interaction between positive (light) and negative (dark) space. If you want to learn more about Notan, search the internet for "Japanese Notan design." You'll find some interesting articles and fascinating videos that will help you understand the basis for my Design Magic process.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Design Magic is a three step process for creating a design and transferring it to fabric with stencils and Shiva® Artist's Paintstiks®. Here's a quick look at the process.

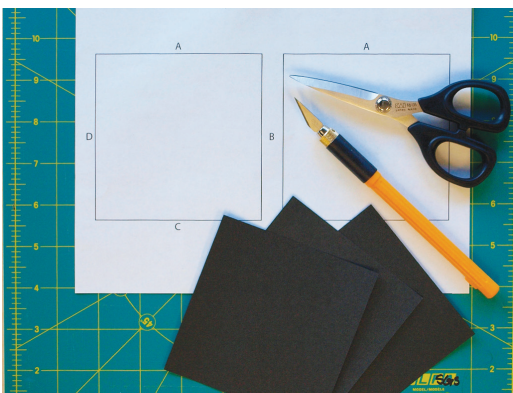
- > Create a design from a simple square of paper. (See photo A)
- > Make a pair of equal and opposite stencils from freezer paper. (See photo B)
- > Stencil images on fabric with Shiva® Artist's Paintstiks®. (See photo C on next page)

You'll find detailed instructions for each of the major steps in the following chapters. In the mean time, here are answers to many questions that come up about the Design Magic process and working with paintstiks.

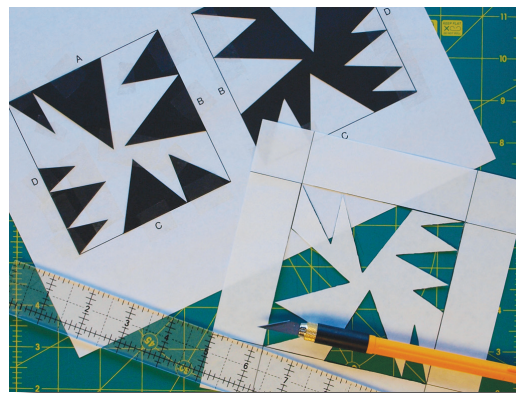
DO I HAVE TO CREATE MY OWN DESIGNS?

While I encourage you to try out the design process, you don't have to create your own designs to enjoy the Design Magic process. You'll find several exciting designs (used in the projects) in the back of this book. You are welcome to use these designs.

MAJOR STEPS IN DESIGN MAGIC PROCESS



A: Create designs with paper and scissors.



B: Use designs to create stencils.

DO I NEED TO PURCHASE A LOT OF EXTRA SUPPLIES?

Absolutely not. Chances are quite good that you have most of the materials needed in your home. I've made some of my most successful pieces with freezer paper stencils, a single paintstik and one stencil brush. You can purchase DesignMagic™ accessories as a convenience, but this does not need to be an expensive proposition.

HOW WILL I TRANSFER MY DESIGNS TO FABRIC?

The easiest way to transfer designs to fabric is to stencil the images with Shiva® Artist's Paintstiks®. There are a number of reasons for choosing paintstiks over liquid textile paints which are explained in following sections.

WHAT WILL I USE TO MAKE STENCILS?

Freezer paper is my material of choice because it's great for working with fabric. It's inexpensive and readily available, it's easy to cut, and best of all, the shiny side sticks to fabric when pressed with a warm iron.

Freezer paper does have one odd property — it shrinks just a bit when heated with an iron. So pay attention and don't skip over the step that calls for pre-shrinking the freezer paper. It's not optional!

While freezer paper may seem like a fragile material for stencils, I've found it far more durable than I ever imagined as long as I'm careful and I don't use too much paint.

WHAT ARE PAINTSTIKS?

Paintstiks are a unique, oil-based paint product that is unlike any other paint in the art supply world. Paintstiks are made from pigment, oil and wax. They look like oversized crayons wrapped in cardboard tubes. Paintstiks can be used on a wide variety of surfaces, including fabric, plaster, wood, paper and metal, in addition to canvas and other artist's materials.

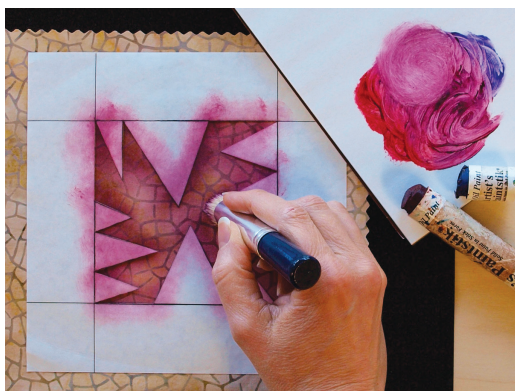
If you are reading this book outside the United States, please note that Markal® Artist's Paintstiks® are the same product as Shiva® Artist's Paintstiks®. For the remainder of this book, I'll refer to Shiva® (Markal®) Paintstiks simply as paintstiks.

PAPER OR PLASTIC?

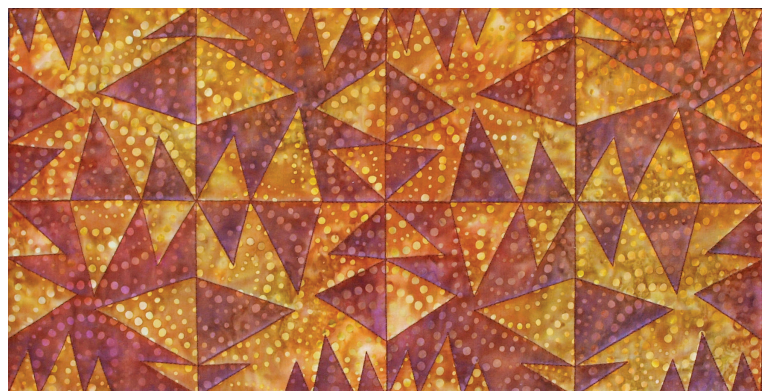
I'm often asked why I use freezer paper instead of plastic for making stencils.

Freezer paper is easy to cut accurately and it is much more durable than it appears. Freezer paper stencils can almost always be re-used enough times to make smaller projects with a single set of stencils.

Plastic or mylar stencil sheets are incredibly durable, but difficult to cut by hand. I don't hand-cut mylar stencils unless I have a design that I know I will use frequently enough to justify the extra work.



C: Stencil images on fabric with Shiva® Artist's Paintstiks®.



D: Use painted fabric for all kinds of projects.

CAN I REALLY USE OIL PAINT ON FABRIC?

While paintstiks were originally created for the fine art market, they are made from a special blend of ingredients that happens to be fabric-friendly. They do contain some linseed oil, but it is refined to be low in the acids that can harm fabric over time. For more details on the chemistry of Paintstiks and fabric, visit the Learning Center page at www.CedarCanyonTextiles.com or refer to the book *Paintstiks on Fabric: Simple Techniques, Fantastic Results*.

Caution: Do not assume that other products that look like paintstiks have the same properties.

Oil bars from other manufacturers are made with different ingredients and may not be suitable for use on fabric without a protective primer.

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PAINTSTIKS?

Paintstiks have a number of characteristics that make them an exciting addition to a fabric art or mixed-media toolbox.

- > Paintstiks don't change the hand of the fabric, even if applied quite heavily.
- > Paintstiks are especially well-suited to stenciling techniques. They don't run, drip, or seep under the edges of the stencil.
- > Matte colors work beautifully on light to medium value fabrics, and iridescent colors are simply fabulous on dark fabric. The light-reflective quality of iridescent colors makes them visible, even when applied in sheer layers.
- > There is very little waste. A film forms over the paintstik when it is not in use and the paintstiks last for years.
- > Paintstiks are very portable. They take very little space to store and they are not sensitive to hot or cold temperatures.
- > Paintstik color is very durable in the wash once it has been heat set.

Caution: Paintstik colors and dry cleaning are not compatible.

Do not apply paintstik colors to garments or items that must be dry cleaned, and don't dry clean anything you decorate with paintstiks. Dry cleaning solvent may cause the color to run, spoiling the wonderful effects you added to your fabric.



Iridescent paintstiks are available in a variety of fabulous shimmering colors.



Matte paintstiks come in a wide range of beautiful artist's colors.

Scroll design painted on various patchwork fabrics with a blend of Alizarin Crimson and Purple Sage paintstik colors.



ARE PAINTSTIKS SAFE FOR CHILDREN?

Due to new legal requirements imposed by the 2009 Consumer Protection Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA), Shiva® Artist's Paintstiks® are now labeled "not intended for use by children under the age of 12."

Nothing in the paint formula has changed, but the regulatory requirements for children's product are extensive and cost prohibitive. Therefore, the paint distributor has chosen to label the product as "not intended for use by children" even though there are no major safety issues with the product.

Shiva® Artist's Paintstiks® continue to be tested according to standards issued by various testing agencies. All student colors, iridescent colors and most of the matte paintstik colors are certified as non-toxic and bear the AP (Approved Product) seal from Art & Creative Materials Institute (ACMI). The AP seal identifies art materials that are safe and certified in a toxicological evaluation by a medical expert to contain no materials in sufficient quantities to be toxic or injurious to humans, including children, or to cause acute or chronic health problems. Cobalt blue and the four cadmium-based matte colors bear the CL (Cautionary Label) seal from ACMI, which indicates that these colors contain ingredients that may cause health problems.

To be safe, any use of paintstiks (and other art supplies) by children should be supervised by an adult. In addition, children should not be allowed to use the five matte colors that bear the CL label (Cobalt Blue and the four Cadmium colors.)

CAN I USE OTHER KINDS OF PAINT?

Some people are very skilled at stenciling with liquid textile paints, but I am not one of them. That is one reason I love to work with paintstiks.

You can use liquid paints for applying your Design Magic designs to fabric, but you will run into several constraints.

- > Liquid paints are not compatible with freezer paper stencils. You will have to make your stencils from a durable material such as plastic, or purchase pre-cut mylar stencils.
- > If you are working on a whole cloth design with liquid paint, you will have to wait for each stenciled image to dry before adding the adjacent image to ensure that images don't smear as you work. This will add a lot of time to your project.
- > Liquid paint is more likely to seep under the edges of a stencil, so you must be more careful as you paint, and be prepared to make additional images if you are not happy with the results.



WHAT KIND OF FABRIC CAN I USE?

Paintstiks will adhere to almost any type of fabric, natural or synthetic, including leather and suede. You can use plain, dyed or printed fabric. It can be light or dark, smooth or textured, from painter's canvas to the finest silk.

Paintstik color applied to smooth fabrics will yield the most even color coverage, but don't let that limit your thinking. Feel free to experiment with textured fabrics as you may discover some very exciting effects!

Fabrics treated with stain repelling finishes may cause problems. It only makes sense that a fabric that is stain-resistant may be paint-resistant. If you have any questions, test a small piece of the fabric before you begin a large project.

Note: Loosely woven fabrics tend to ravel. Consider using tightly woven fabrics, such as batiks, for patchwork projects when you are using freezer paper stencils. (See page 29)

IS PAINTSTIK COLOR PERMANENT?

Paintstik colors are very durable in the wash after they dry and have been heat set. For complete instructions on heat setting, see [Make it Permanent](#).

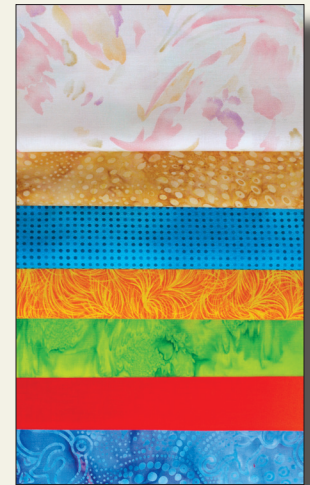
Caution: Paintstik colors and dry cleaning are not compatible. Dry cleaning fluid is a solvent and it may cause the colors to run.

HOW DO I MIX THE COLORS?

You can mix all paintstik colors, matte and iridescent, to create an unlimited range of colors. Just be aware that the fine pigment particles in the matte colors may cover up the light-reflecting particles in the iridescent paint. If you really want the shine from the iridescent colors, mix only iridescent colors or use the iridescent blender to restore the iridescent quality to your color.

Colors can be mixed on the fabric by applying one color directly over another. Generally speaking, it is best to apply the lighter color first and then add the darker color. Once applied, the colors can be blended with a stencil brush, a toothbrush, your fingers, or a soft piece of tissue or fabric.

You can also mix colors on your palette. Apply one color to the palette, then another over the top. Blend with a brush and then apply the color to your fabric.



I have used plain, hand-dyed, and printed fabric for Design Magic projects.



When mixed together on a palette surface, Azo Yellow and Prussian Blue make green.

Safari design painted on a softly printed fabric with Earthtone colors and American Country colors.



WHAT ARE THE TOP TIPS FOR DESIGN MAGIC?

I have three top tips for making successful Design Magic images.

Tip 1 • Use less paint

When you stencil on fabric, it is not necessary to use really heavy layers of paint. In fact, it is better to use sheer layers of paint for several important reasons.

- > First, a sheer layer of paint allows any patterns in the fabric to show through the paint, adding another dimension to the finished project.
- > Second, by painting with sheer layers, you are much less likely to smear an image or pick up excess paint on the back of a stencil.
- > Finally, lighter images dry faster! If you use a small amount of paint, your paint will be dry within 12 to 24 hours. If you use a lot of paint, it may take 2-3 days for the paint to dry before it can be heat set. (See [Make it Permanent](#) for full information on dry time and heat setting.)

Tip 2 • Get a Grip-n-Grip

It has an odd name, but a Grip-n-Grip mat from Bear Thread Designs is the first secret weapon in my Design Magic toolbox. A Grip-n-Grip is a no-slip mat. Whatever you put on this mat stays where you put it. I use the mat to keep my fabric from slipping while I'm stenciling.

A Grip-n-Grip mat is very helpful for all Design Magic applications, but it's downright essential for patchwork projects made with freezer paper stencils. I've come to rely on these mats for so many things that I hardly leave home without one!

Tip 3 • Find some 404 (for mylar stencils only)

The second secret weapon in my toolbox is a can of 404 Spray & Fix from JT Trading. 404 is a repositionable adhesive, which is a fancy term for sticky spray. I spray the back of my pre-cut mylar stencils with 404 to keep them from sliding around while I paint. You do not need spray adhesive for freezer paper stencils – it is only used with plastic or mylar stencils.

I specifically use 404 spray because it is less tacky than the typical basting sprays used by quilters, and it's easier to remove any overspray from my hands.

Like all spray adhesives, 404 has a fairly strong chemical odor and should be used in a well-ventilated area. I take my stencils outside or into the garage to give them a quick spray. Then I go back into my work area to paint.



Use a Grip-n-Grip mat to keep your fabric from slipping when you stencil images on fabric.



Spray the back of pre-cut mylar stencils with 404 or a similar spray to keep the stencils in place as you paint images on fabric.

