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Painted Fusible

by Sue Bleiweiss

Create a unique and interesting surface using painted fusible web

If you want to create a unique surface to add to your art then look no further than painted fusible web. This easy technique will add a lot of interest to any surface you bond it to.

To paint a paper backed fusible web such as Heat-n-Bond or Wonder Under (Bondaweb) just lay the fusible on your surface with the web side up. Use a paintbrush to add paint to the surface.



I painted on some stripes using a few different colors of Dye-Na-Flow. As you paint, the web will curl and the paint may run and puddle. That's fine as this adds to the textured look. It's not necessary to completely cover the surface with an even coat of paint.

Once the painted web has dried you can fuse it to your fabric.



Here's what you need:

Fusible web: for this article I have used Heat-n-Bond lite and Mistyfuse™.

Paint: I like to use Jacquard's Dye-Na-Flow paint for this. However, experiment with others such as Lumiere, acrylic and even oil sticks and inks.

Textile foil such as Jones Tones foil

I fused it to a piece of white cotton simply by laying the web face down on the fabric and pressing with a hot iron. You may need to press for a little longer than normal because of the paint. Let the piece cool for a moment before removing the paper.

Here I fused the painted web to a piece of cotton previously painted with Jacquard's Dye-Na-Flow paint. →



TIP

You don't have to use your painted fusible web as a whole sheet, cut it up into interesting shapes to add another dimension to your surface.

The web lets the imagery from the painted fabric come through to the surface. Since the surface is now covered with a fusible it's easy to add foiling. Just lay a piece of foil over the surface, I used Jones Tones, with the foil side up and use the edge of a hot iron to bur-nish the foil down onto the surface of the fusible web. Use quick strokes with the edge of the iron.



Wait a moment for the foil to cool and then peel it back to reveal a surface with some bling!



You could also lay some fibres or dried flowers on the fusible web and then cover with a piece of netting or organza. Cover the surface with a piece of parchment and iron to fuse it all together.

I do a lot of work with Mistyfuse and it is by far my favorite fusible to work with. Mistyfuse is a very fine fusible that comes without a paper backing. When I paint it, I use the same technique that I use to paint cheesecloth.

I pour a tablespoon or so of Jacquard's Dye-Na-Flow paint onto the surface and then use a length of Mistyfuse to mop it up. You can either lay the Mistyfuse flat or leave it crumpled to dry.



Painted Mistyfuse in a variety of colors.

You can use your painted fusible web on paper as well as fabric. To make these cards I bonded strips



of painted Mistyfuse to black cardstock. Foiling was added and then I cut the cardstock into shapes using a decorative edge rotary cutter which I then glued to the card fronts. →

TIP When ironing a surface that already has fusible web on it, be sure to use a piece of parchment or a Teflon pressing cloth or you will end up with fusible web all over the soleplate of your iron!

For these tags, I simply tore the painted Mistyfuse into pieces and fused them to watercolor paper that I had previously painted with diluted Dye-Na-Flow. I cut out a tag shape, punched a hole and added some fun fibers. These are perfect for adding to gifts.



Painted fusible web is not only for smooth surfaces like cotton and cardstock. Experiment and try fusing it to wool or velvet and then add some machine or hand stitching over the surface for added interest. Whatever you decide to use your painted fusible web surface for you can bet it will draw attention!