

A free project, compliments of...

Two Creative Studios

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Silk Fusion by Sue Bleiweiss

Making silk fusion is easy and fun! I'm going to show you my preferred method in this short tutorial. When you're done you'll have a beautiful piece of silk fusion fabric.

I like to make my silk fusion with two layers. Begin by pulling off a length of the soy silk fibres about 12" to 18" long. I find it's easier to work with short lengths of the fibres rather than trying to hold the entire hank of fibres in my hand at once.

Put down a piece of netting a little larger than the sheet of fusion you want to make. Pull off a short length of silk fibres and place them on the netting a few inches in from the edge. Pull off another short length of silk and place it next to the first overlapping them slightly. Continue until you have the size sheet of silk fusion that you wish to make.



Once you have laid down your first layer add another one on top at right angles to the one below it.



Supplies

- Silk fibers (I like to use soy silk fibers)
- Jo Sonja Textile Medium
- Nylon netting
- Hot water
- Liquid dish soap

When you have completed the second layer put another piece of netting on the top of the silk and use a paintbrush to paint both sides of the sandwich with hot water mixed with a drop or two of liquid dish soap. Make sure that your silk sandwich is totally saturated or you will have un-fused sections in your final paper. Use your hands to smooth the sandwich and help to push the water solution through the layers. It's important to use hot water because the water helps the fibres to relax and open so that the textile medium can penetrate through. I use water that's hot enough to make tea with just be careful not to burn yourself. Take your time with this step and be sure that the silk is thoroughly wetted down.

Use a rag to pat some of the excess water out of the fusion and then paint each side with the JoSonja's textile medium through the netting and hang your fusion to dry completely. You can dilute your medium if you like but I don't. I use it full strength right from the bottle. You don't need to use a lot, a thin layer of it is plenty. Depending on the weather conditions where you are your silk fusion sheet may take as long as overnight to dry. I hang my sheets to dry but you can also leave them flat if you prefer however they will take much longer to dry.

When your sheet of silk fusion is completely dry iron both sides with a hot iron to set the textile medium. Once it's pressed your fusion is ready to use.

The silk paper can be used to construct three dimensional objects such as boxes, lampshades, bowls, jewelry, journal covers and more. Essentially anything that you can create with traditional paper or fabric you can make with silk fusion!

