

MASKING LARGE AREAS- for lustre application in the background

Use Red Covercoat/Resist (water based) for most of your work BUT if working with water or Metho use the Green Resist – such as lustre dipping in water.

Green Covercoat/Resist is Acetone based and Acetone is used to thin it down and clean the brushes. Green resist has a shorter shelf life than the Red but can be reconstituted by adding Acetone and letting it sit for a day or so.

Red Covercoat/Resist – when it becomes thick there are a number of ways to thin it down. Add very hot water and stir,; sit it in a bowl of hot water ; OR microwave (with the lid off) for a number of seconds .

There are a few rules for this type of work:

1. Masking lacquer should be fresh – thick will not work on those fine areas or edges of your design. The thick mask can be used as a fill in on the larger areas after masking the edges and fine lines
2. Brushes – Synthetic brushes are best –a very fine pointer and liner for the edges and a larger pointer or square shader to fill in.
3. Keep water close and every once in a while wash the brush as the mask clogs the brush and does not allow for fine work.
4. Using cotton tips – as you work use the cotton tips to clean up any mask which go over the design. Clean up the edges straight away. If you wait until the mask is dry you will just pull the mask off.
5. Apply mask very thick as if too thin –
 - a. It can melt when flooding the lustre,
 - b. the lustre could creep under the mask,
 - c. it will be almost impossible to take off.
6. Work slowly and methodically using magnifying glasses if possible. Taking care with your application of the resist will result in a good application .
7. Apply Resist as close to doing your lustrework or grounding as soon as possible. For example if you do it a few days before and leave it the resist can begin to lift.
8. If doing a large project, take a break from to time and walk away from the piece. This rests your eyes and just gives you a break from the intensity of the masking. I walk away every 10 or 15 mins.
9. Once your are happy with the masking and it has dried completely, prepare your piece for the lustrework or grounding.
10. Cast a final eye over your masked areas and ensure ALL areas are covered. If any small bits are left unmasked the lustre will mark this area and possibly ruin your work.
11. Very very gently rub Acetone over the white porcelain being very careful not to lift the mask. The Acetone takes off any fingerprints, greasy marks and dust. It also dries immediately not leaving any residue as Metho does. Metho will also begin to melt the Red Covercoat.

EXTRA TIPS:

Keep the top of the bottle clean of the dried resist.

Keep the lid on at all times when not in use.

When masking over lustre, chipped off areas, pastework rub a layer of Gum turps first . This creates a greasy barrier and the resist should not stick and will pull off easily.

Do NOT remove mask until the lustre has dried completely. A hairdryer can be used to dry the lustre.