

PATRICIA'S DUSTING MEDIUM

I have experimented in making a really fool proof Dusting Medium and have been using this mix for several years and have found this to really work well. Students have found it easy to use.

Any colour combination can be used in dusting. Yellows, Gold based Pinks, e.g. Rose, Cyclamen, Ruby's and Deep Ruby's look really nice. Purples, Lavenders, Blues and Pale to Midnight or Navy. Antique Rose and Claret Ash are also good colours to use. Experimentation is the way to go, and if unsure of how the colour will look dusted, try a little on a tile and fire before you paint your piece. White flowers can also be dusted. They are painted with White rose (which is a very light grey green colour), then dusted with flux or white. If you wish to have pale colours, use the colour of the flower and then dust with Flux. For reds and other iron colours, experimentation is best at first. Banksia Red gives a deep red brown colour. Yellow Red, a deep Yellow Red Colour. Do not dust any Iron colours with flux, as it will make them patchy.

Mix the powder colours you have chosen for your flowers with Pure Copaiba to a stiff consistency. Do not mix too much or the paint will dry and cannot be kept for long.

Using dusting medium to paint with, block in flowers or fruit and then with brush, oiled and dried lightly, shape up the petals or fruit. A wipeout tool cannot be used to mark out the highlights as this will take the paint off the article and you will have white spots on your subject. Spot dry your subject with a hair dryer until they look dull. If they are too wet they will pick up too much paint when dusting and if too dry they will not pick up enough paint. I find that when the back of the piece is hot, the subject will be dry enough to dust.

On a piece of greaseproof paper place little piles of powder paint, using the colours you have chosen for the subject. Rub your palette knife over the powder paint to get out any lumps. Place a cotton ball on each colour and have some spare.

Then picking up the lightest value of powder on your cotton ball CAREFULLY and GENTLY, using a circular motion rub the powder into the parts of the subject you wish to be light. Then with the other colours chosen, rub this colour into the parts of the subject you wish to have as this colour. Repeat these steps with the other subjects.

With another cotton ball, dust off the excess paint from your plate. The painting should look like suede. With cotton buds, dipped in citrus solvent and dried, clean up any smudges on your pieces as any grain of powder left on will fire as a bright spot.