

PASTEL CHALK

From Kirk Kirkham's Newsletter "Exhibits" he cites an Email from Scott Dobberfuhl regarding the use of pastel chalk on ESAKI tissue. Scott had picked up the following from the net was entered by Chris Parents. Here's Chris's report on the net:

"Pardon the evangelical tone here, but I've got to say (again) that Chris Parent is on to something revolutionary with the chalk on tissue technique he's been gently suggesting for months now. If it all sounds too simple and too good to be true, trust me - - it ain't.

Run, do not walk, but run to the art supply store and get yourself a basic box of pastels. Grab a sheet of Esaki tissue from your stash (I happened to try red) and cut a bunch of sample swatches. They don't have to be huge - - 2" by 4" or so will give you a big enough sample to see the color you've created. Put the swatch, rough side up, on a piece of glass and grab any color from your pastel box. Rub the chalk over the tissue until there's lots of chalk pigment on your tissue. Now take a paper towel or a wad of toilet paper and gently rub the pigment into the pores of the paper. Brush off as much excess as you can (don't worry, you can't brush all the color out). Take a pencil and write color of chalk you used somewhere on your swatch and then tape the swatch (shiny side UP) to a piece of white bond paper.

Repeat with different colors. Be bold! Use the royal purple on red. Don't shy away from the black! If you've got chartreuse, rub it into the red tissue. Never mind if you think it will clash.

Once you've got all your chalked swatches taped to the white bond sheet of bond paper, add a "control swatch" of plain old Esaki in whatever color you've been chalking. Here's where the fun starts. Spray the swatches with Krylon and watch your new' colors emerge. If you did everything right (and probably even if you did it wrong'), you'll have a range of colors from orange to purple to brown to reddish black - - NONE of which I ever imagined were lurking in a sheet of red Esaki tissue. Green chalk on red tissue creates a brown that might be perfect for a WW I model. Brown chalk on the back of red tissue makes a rich mahogany perfect for the Ansaldo SVA-5. Orange on the back of red makes a vibrant red-orange that cries out for a Mr. Smoothie racer, Red on red makes - - RED!

I'm not preaching anything here that Chris hasn't already said several times, but seeing is believing, I've got a palette of red tissues I never imagined I'd have at my disposal for the price of a box of chalks. Instead of the basic white, red, blue, yellow, green, and orange models I've been building, I'm thinking in Crayola shades now!

Chris is already moving beyond chalks and is coloring tissue with Pantone inks, ionized water, and an eye of newt concoction he brews under the full moon, but chalked tissue is quick, easy, cheap. and lightweight - - even for mere mortals like me.

Testifyin' mode off."

In a snail mail follow-up. Scot said he'd previously tried using chalk just to enhance the color of tissue, making brown browner and green greener.

"However. my latest project, the Thompson-Balboni midget racer, requires a maroon tissue, so I tried to find out what could be achieved from a base of regular Esaki red."

He described the method, rubbing on and wiping off the excess.

Then, "a quick spray of Krylon on the smooth side of the tissue and the color is set. If you try rubbing tile chalk off on your fingers. you'll find that! it's almost impossible,"

What's "Krylon?" Sweeny says it's a fixative used by artists and available at Art Supply stores. It's a clear spray they use on charcoal and pastel drawings to fix the chalk and charcoal so it doesn't smear or rub off.