

# Using InkTense Pencils and Blocks on fabric

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# Product Overview

- Inktense Pencils and Blocks are made by Derwent, a company in England
- The company was established in 1832, but InkTense products have only been around since about 2010
- Both products are ink based and permanent once combined with water or other medium
- Fabric art pieces created with InkTense products are washable
- Although InkTense products are new, the company does claim all products are archival quality
- Both products can be used on fabric or paper
- They last a long time, and you will get many projects out of one set

# Inktense Pencils

## Products and supplies needed

- Inktense pencils
- Aloe Vera gel
- Scrubber Brushes
- Fabric Protector and Sun Block
- Paper towel
- Painter's tape
- Craft board or plastic sheeting
- White muslin fabric
- Small hand-held pencil sharpener

# InkTense Pencils

- Purchase online at Amazon or Dick Blick
- These are water soluble ink pigment in pencil form
- These come in 12, 24, 36 and 72 count. I recommend the 24 count as a minimum assortment of colors
- Prices vary greatly and do go on sale. Shop for the best price when you go to purchase
- When you run low on just one color, these can be purchased individually at Dick Blick online
- Made in England, these pencils do not fit in US made mechanical pencils sharpeners. Use a hand-held sharpener



# Brushes

- Brushes can be purchased from Dick Blick Art Supplies. Look for Silver Scrubbers
- These come in a pack of three sizes  $\frac{1}{4}$  ",  $\frac{1}{2}$  " and  $\frac{5}{8}$  "
- These have short stiff bristles to work the pigment on the fabric
- I prefer the angle style brush seen here



# Aloe Vera Gel

- Aloe Vera is the medium to use when you want control of how the color is applied
- Purchase at Walgreen's or Walmart. Look for it in the skin care and sun exposure area. The Walgreen's brand is not always available.
- If you find a different brand,
  - Alcohol will cause your colors to bleed



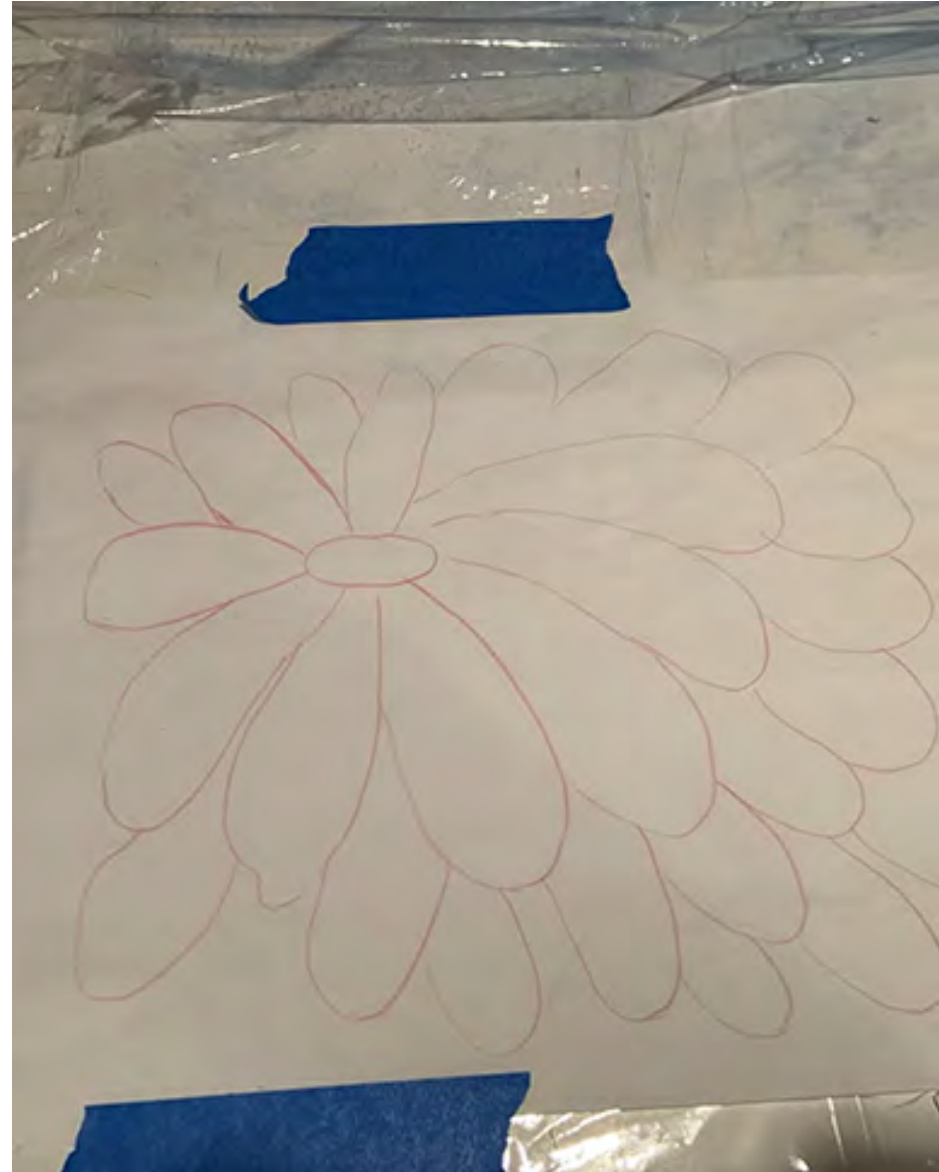
# Finish and Seal

- Fabric Protector and Sun Block
- These seal and protect your finished fabric
- For best results apply the SunBlock first, then the Protector
- You can apply the SunBlock to the finished quilt top, and the Protector to the finished quilt
- Purchase at Joann's, you will find it near the drapery accessories



# Pattern

- You will want some kind of pattern to trace onto your fabric
- This can be a photo or sketch or just part of a photo
- I usually create my pattern on tracing paper, then print on copy paper. This works well for images up to 16 x 20.
- Trace your pattern using the inkTense pencil in the color you will use to fill





## Set-up

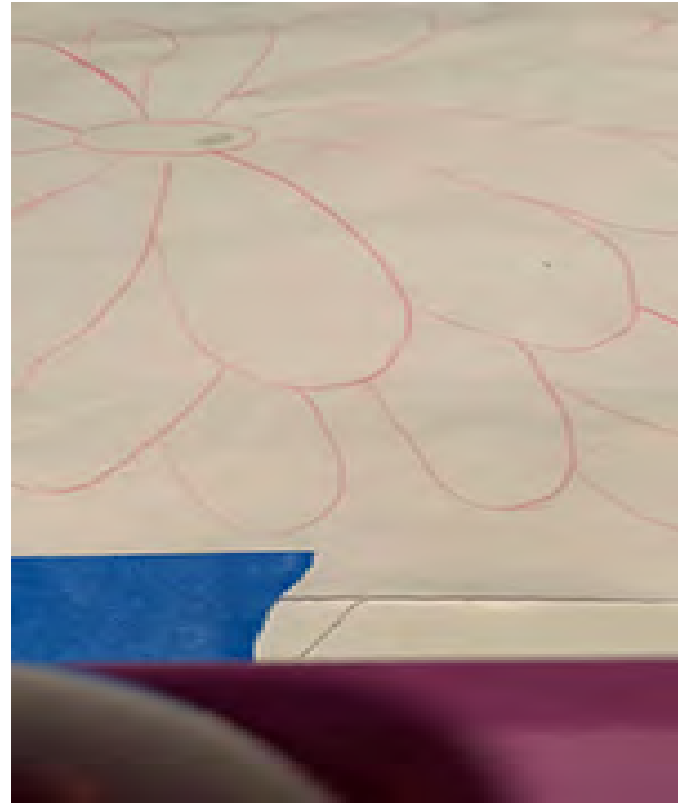
- Protect your work surface
  - Craft board
  - Plastic sheeting
  - OR back your fabric with freezer paper
- Container for Aloe Vera medium
  - Small plastic or paper cup
  - Palette tray
- Stabilize your fabric
  - Painter's tape edges down to surface
- Paper towel for wiping brushes between color changes



# InkTense Pencils Video demonstration

To view the video demonstrations, click on the links below

InkTense Pencils on Fabric



# Finishing

- Once you are satisfied with your creation, let it dry. You will need to heat set with a hot iron
- Use a piece of parchment paper to protect your iron from picking up any color
- Apply SunBlock using the spray setting, and let dry. This will darken the fabric while it is wet, but will dry to the original color. It does not change the hand of the fabric.
- From there you can create your quilt sandwich and proceed to quilt and embellish in any way you like



## Sample finished quilt

- This pattern measures 9 x 12
- Set in three borders it makes a perfect size for placemats or a tote bag
- Great first project, the flower can be completed easily in about two hours



# InkTense Blocks

## Products and supplies needed

- InkTense Blocks
- Aloe Vera OR
- Spray bottle with water
- Latex gloves
- Brushes
- Paper towel
- White muslin, hand dyed or commercial fabric

# InkTense Blocks

- Purchase online at Amazon or Dick Blick
- These come in 12, 24, 36 and 72 count
- I recommend the 36 or 72 count when they go on sale at either site
- Prices vary greatly, shop for the best price when you go to purchase
- When you run low on just one color, these can be purchased individually at Dick Blick online



# Brushes

- Larger brushes are used when you want to create overall color to use for a background
- For detail with the blocks you can still use the smaller brushes that are used with the pencils



# Using blocks for working larger areas

- I use InkTense blocks when I want to create a quick background or work a larger area.
- Use them with water when you want your color to bleed or blend.
- Use with Aloe Vera to add color to larger sections in a similar manner to the pencils
- They can even be used with a gelli plate ( I have yet to experiment with that)



# Video on creating a background fabric

InkTense Blocks Video 1



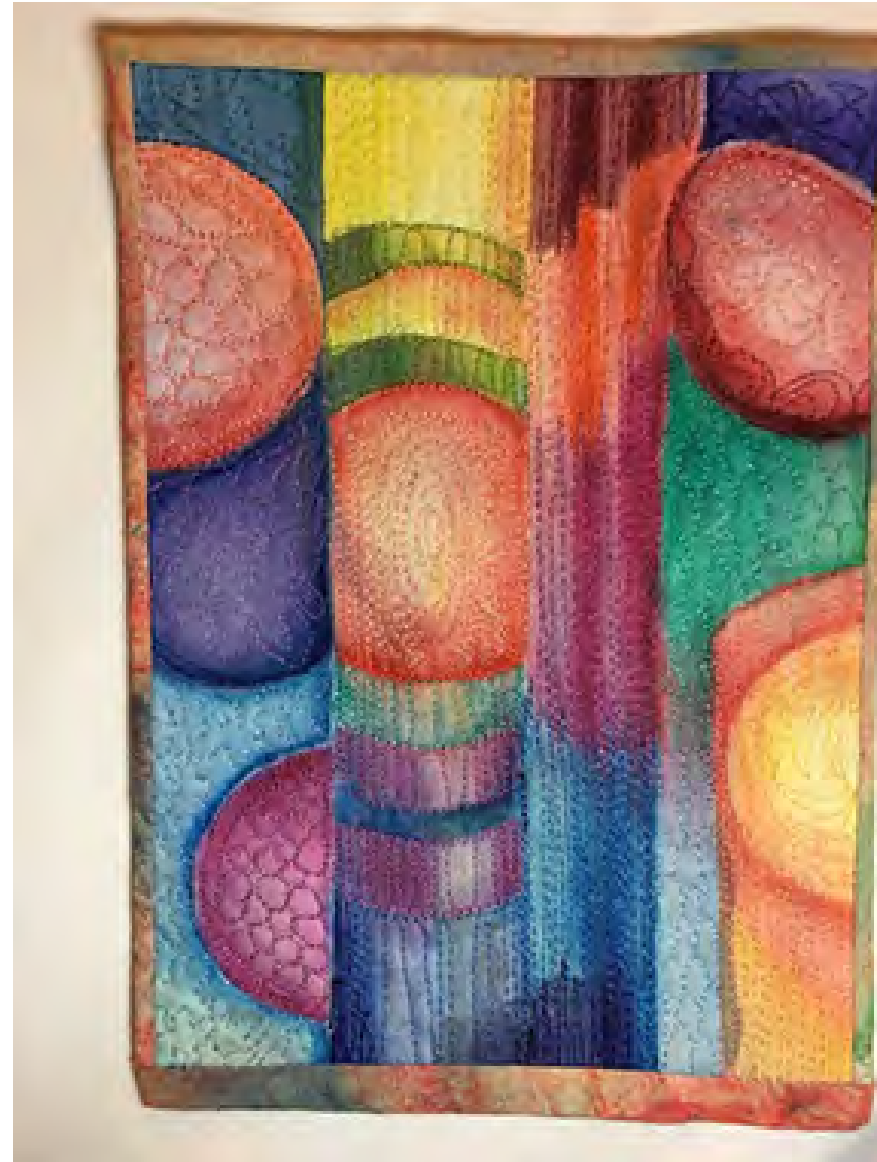
# Video to create another overall effect

InkTense Blocks Video 2



# Abstract done with painter's tape and InkTense pencils

- This is a small quilt about 8" x 10"
- The technique used two-inch painter's tape to mask off alternating sections in strips
- Then I cut circles of the tape, and laid those down in the open strips
- This is a fun way to play with the colors without using a traced pattern



## Sections pieced together

- The characters on the bench are done on a separate piece of muslin, using the pencils based on a photo
- The rest of the composition is done in sections of different fabrics, the sky, the water, the beach and the boardwalk. All were layered over a plain muslin base
- The bike is done with the pencils on 830 Pellon interfacing with Misty Fuse backing so it would not fray
- Accepted into Floridian Flavors



# Combined in collage

- The red orchids were cut from a batik with large splashes of red that suggested flowers
- The batik was enhanced with InkTense pencils
- Batik fabric was backed with Mistyfuse and applied to the background with raw edge applique
- Background leaves are all raw edge applique enhanced with the pencils
- Accepted into Flagler County Art League – Every Color has a Story



## Collage with shadow and detail

- On this piece I worked with the pencils and blocks after the quilt was layered.
- The veining in the leaves was done with the pencils and then stitched
- The shadows on the leaves and the stones were done with the blocks using aloe vera gel
- I like using InkTense for shadows like this because they are translucent and you still see the same fabric through the penciled shadows just darkened
- The Koi fish were cut from hand dyed fabric
- Accepted and displayed in Houston Quilt Festival 2019



## Whole cloth quilt with just borders added

- The center of this quilt is done entirely with InkTense blocks and pencils on muslin
- This is a large piece measuring 39" x 43" overall
- I took a photo of the orchids, created a line drawing in photoshop, and had it enlarged for my pattern
- Using the photo as my guide I "hand painted" using the InkTense blocks with Aloe Vera rather than paint



## Using hand dyed or ice dyed fabric as a base

- Before
- This is a one-yard piece of an ice dyed fabric I purchased
- The shapes suggested flowers





## Using hand dyed or ice dyed fabric as a base

- After
- Here I used a light wash of diluted white acrylic to lighten the area for the sky.
- The rest is all done with a combination of InkTense blocks and pencils to bring the flowers to life.
- Accepted and displayed in Houston Quilt Festival 2019



# My first InkTense project

- This is a current picture of the first quilt I did when I bought my first set of the pencils in 2014
- This is the oldest sample I have of how the colors hold up
- The flowers were photographed in my front yard
- The flowers are done on small rectangles that are set into the pieced background where I was attempting to create a pixelated background.



## Summary and conclusion

- InkTense products do not change the hand of the fabric
- When Aloe Vera gel is used you may want to rinse out the gel after you heat set. It will make it slightly easier to quilt. But it is not necessary, I have often gone ahead and quilted without rinsing.
- There are a number of YouTube videos you may like to view. Just enter InkTense in YouTube
- I hope the samples and demonstrations here inspire you to try InkTense pencils and blocks in your art quilting journey.

