



Jacquard Products' Textile Paints and Inks FAQs

We have combined the FAQs for Jacquard's Textile Paints and Inks to compare and contrast our products in order to help you decide which product(s) are best-suited for your use. Details for each individual product can be found by visiting the Product and Instructions page at our web site.

Note: MOST of our paints and inks MUST BE heat set to ensure colorfastness and washability (see individual product's Instruction page). Piñata Color inks are alcohol-based, do not need to be heat set and are not designed for use on fabric (please see the Piñata Color Instructions page).

Jacquard Products has seven lines of textile paints and inks that are easy-to-use and versatile: Textile Colors, Lumiere, Neopaque, Dye-Na-Flow, Jacquard Professional Silk Screen Inks, Versatex Screen Inks and Airbrush Colors.

Do you have a paint or ink that will work on synthetic fabrics?

All of our fabric paints and screen inks are formulated to work well on untreated natural AND synthetic fabrics, as well as, most papers. We recommend pre-washing fabrics to remove any sizing or other substance.

Do you have a paint or ink that will work on canvas and paper?

All of our fabric paints and screen inks work very well on canvas and paper. Heat setting is not required on pieces that will not be washed. Mix Neopaque Flowable Extender into any color to create transparency without changing the consistency of the paint. For a transparent metallic shimmer, the extender can be mixed with Pearl Ex Powdered Pigments. Textile Colorless Extender is the acrylic base for Textile Colors and can be used in the same way.

Are your fabric paints and inks dry-cleanable?

All of our fabric paints and screen inks are dry-cleanable (once properly set).

What is the difference between Dye-Na-Flow, Textile Colors, Lumiere and Neopaque?

All are water-based. However, each one has its own unique characteristics. Dye-Na-Flow is a very fluid textile paint which has the consistency of water and can be used for watercolor-like washes and silk painting techniques. Textile Colors are medium-bodied semi-opaque paints ideal for fabric painting. Lumiere and Neopaque are light bodied, flexible paints suitable for various surfaces such as leather, paper and fabric. Lumiere paints are a gorgeous assortment of metallics and pearlescents. Neopaque paints are opaque and excellent for covering dark materials.

Can I mix Jacquard Products fabric paints lines with each other?

Neopaque and Lumiere can be intermixed. Textile Colors, Dye-Na-Flow and Versatex can be intermixed. Mix only enough for one painting session. Note: The consistency of each paint may be different; the resulting mixture may be thicker or thinner than the original product(s).

How do I apply Jacquard Products' fabric paints and inks?

Textile Colors, Lumiere and Neopaque can all be applied directly from the bottle with brushes, sponges, stamps, squirt bottles or airbrushed and diluted up to 25% with water. When using rubber stamps we recommend applying them to the stamp with a sponge brush for best coverage and consistency. In addition to screening, Jacquard and Versatex Screen Inks can be applied with wood, foam or linoleum blocks, stiff brushes (stenciled), or short napped roller for painting on fabric. Dye-Na-Flow can be painted, sprayed, or sponged on fabrics. Note: Jacquard fabric paints are all water-based. When they dry and set they become hydrophobic (water repellent). Cracking, peeling, and flaking may result if you paint wet onto dry paints.

What is the difference between Jacquard Professional Screen Inks (JSI) and Versatex Screen Inks (VPI)?

VPI is formulated for use on fabrics and can be used on some papers. VPI has a softer "hand" than JSI. JSI is permanent on most non-porous surfaces including: fabric, paper, vinyl, leather, metal and some plastics (always test). JSI has an exceptionally long open time in the screen in comparison to other water-based products making it perfect for small production runs.

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What screen mesh is best for JPSI and Versatex Screen Inks?

Optimal mesh size depends on the particulate content of the screen inks. We recommend #110 mesh for Opaque Colors and #86 mesh for Metallic and Super Opaque White screen inks. All other colors can be used with a #156 mesh screen.

Can Jacquard Products' fabric paints and inks be used for airbrushing?

Textile Colors, Neopaque and Lumiere can be thinned for airbrushing by adding up to 25% water. Dye-Na-Flow does not require thinning to be used with an airbrush. However, the best choice for airbrushing is our artist-quality Airbrush Colors. These paints are specifically formulated for airbrushes and are intermixable. Airbrush Clear Varnish can be used as a top coat on non-porous surfaces when added durability is desired. Airbrush Color is a good, all around fabric paint. It can also be applied straight from the bottle, brushed or stamped on and intermixes well within the color line. It can also be used on a multitude of surfaces (always test).

When do you use the Neopaque Flowable Extender and Textile Colorless Extender?

Neopaque Flowable Extender is the medium-bodied clear acrylic base for Neopaque and Lumiere. Mix it into any color to create transparency or glazes without changing the consistency of the paint. For a transparent metallic shimmer, the extender can be mixed with Pearl Ex Powdered Pigments. Textile Colorless Extender is the acrylic base for Textile Colors and can be used in the same way.

How do I clean up Jacquard Products' textile paints and inks?

Textile Colors, Lumiere, Neopaque, Dye-Na-Flow, Jacquard Screen Inks, Versatex Screen Inks and Airbrush Colors are all water-soluble and can all be cleaned up with soap and water.

What does "fixing" or "setting the color" mean?

After your paints or inks are completely dry, you must "fix" the color to ensure colorfastness and washability. Ironing is the best method. The best results are achieved using a dry iron on appropriate setting for the fabric and iron on the reverse side (refer to the product packaging for actual time). Some products may fix if run in a clothes dryer (35-45 minutes) set on the hottest setting recommended for the fabric.

I've followed all the directions for heat setting, but my paints are washing off, what did I do wrong?

Ideally, all fabrics should be prewashed before being painted or dyed to remove any factory sizing. Make sure that you are using a dry iron at the correct temperature setting for the fabric. If you do not heat set at a high enough temperature for a long enough time, the paint may not be thoroughly set. Sometimes if you are using a top loading washing machine, it can abrade the paint from the fabric.

Do I have to heat set or is there any other way to fix these paints?

Jacquard Airfix is an additive for Jacquard Textile Colors, Lumiere Neopaque, Dye-Na-Flow and most other acrylic fabric paints. It is used as a catalyst to fix colors when heat setting is not practical. Add 1 tsp. Airfix per quart of paint. Note: the mixture is only good for six hours; add it to the paint right before you are going to use it and always use in a well-ventilated area. Let the fabric air cure for 72 hours. Versatex Fixer can be used with Versatex Screen Printing Inks to fix inks when applying heat may not be desirable.

What is the best way to paint fabric covered furniture?

Any of our fabric paints can be used to paint furniture. Depending on what type of effect you want the paint can be brushed, sprayed, squirted, stamped or stenciled onto the cloth. Always do a test on a scrap of fabric or on an inconspicuous place to see if you can get the results you want before tackling the whole piece. Note: Painting the surface of an upholstery fabric may affect the feel of the fabric.