

Dear Readers,

Surprise! We have another G&S News for May. We just have so much to talk about and introduce that we've decided to send out another email.

We have had a great month at G&S. Thanks again to all of you who stopped by our booth at the Creative Sewing and Needlework Festival. We had our most successful spring show ever. I look forward to seeing everyone later this month at the Waterloo Quilt Festival (May 25-29, St. Jacobs Arena) as well. Again, if you would like to place an order to be picked up at the festival, send an email to dixon@gsdye.com.

For those who live in the Toronto area, you may have noticed that it's FREEZING OUT! My wife and I have been caught in rain, sleet and HAIL during our golf outings this past April. Normally a little rain doesn't deter us avid golfers, but the low, single digit weather is definitely putting a damper on our enthusiasm for the game. Hopefully, May and the rest of the spring/summer will be kinder.

All the best this month and MAYBE we'll be chatting again in June.

Regards,

Dixon Chan

Topics this month

- Discharge Painting
- New Products: Rayon and Silk Thread + new books
- Workshop Update + NEW summer demonstrations
- May Sales + special email specials
- Random Acts of Kindness

Discharge Painting

Discharge painting is one of my favorite techniques. Although I have dabbled with it in the past, I have only recently had time to fully test it's potential.

My latest experiments involve using discharge paste in combination with fabric paints to both remove and colour fabrics in one step.

We've all used bleach and/or Discharge Paste to remove dye colour from fabrics. This can be a messy and dangerous process, both for you and your fabrics! We have found that Discharge Paste is the easiest way to bleach out specific areas on your fabric. As it is sold in a paste form, you can paint or screen print it straight from the bottle. Once it has dried on the fabric, ironing with lots of steam will activate the chemicals and bleach out the image that you have painted or printed. This is a much easier product to use than mixing your own paste from Thiourea dioxide, and safer to use than household bleach. Discharge paste works on all fabrics, including silk, and is most effective on black fabrics.

Normally, Pebeo Setacolor Transparent, G&S Pigment System and G&S Liquid Colours fabric paints will not work on dark coloured fabrics. Being "transparent", the base colour of the fabric (let's assume we're working on black fabric), will affect the colour painted on top (ie: paint transparent yellow on black fabric and it won't show up). To paint on dark fabrics you have to use OPAQUE fabric paints (Setacolor Opaque/Shimmer). Opaque paints will cover the black colour on the fabric and appear true. The slight downside to using opaque fabric paints is that the hand of the fabric is not as soft. Although Setacolor Opaque paints are some of the softest, if not the softest, opaque paint on the market, the transparent paints (Setacolor and Liquid Colours) are still much softer.

Since Discharge Paste will take out DYE but not PAINT, we decided to try mixing our three types of fabric paint directly into the Discharge Paste to both bleach and colour the fabric in one step. We applied this mixture to our black fabric and waited for it to dry. As expected the colour did not show on the black fabric. We then proceeded to iron the fabric on high heat, with a pressing cloth, and watched the discharge paste take the black colour out of the fabric. While the black was fading, the colour from the fabric paints began to appear. The Discharge Paste can also be mixed in different ratios with the fabric paint to produce a more intense effect. We tried mixing in a 1:2 ratio and 1:1 ratio (Discharge Paste to fabric paint). Both ratios gave good results but obviously the 1:1 solution showed stronger colour because more of the black colour was removed.

The final product was simply amazing. The colours were both vibrant and extremely soft on fabric. Next time you are considering painting on black fabric, try out this great technique.

NOTES:

Discharge Paste is sold in 250mL bottles for \$9.95 and 1.0L bottles for \$30.00

Supply list:

- Discharge Paste
- Transparent Setacolor / G&S Pigment System paint / G&S Liquid Colours
- Iron
- Pressing cloth or a sheet of velum
- Black fabrics: T-shirt, black cotton or our new black rayon

New Products:

Rayon

For quite some time, we have been looking for a very high quality 100% rayon fabric. Finally we have found one that holds up to repeated washings, has a low shrinkage rate, and won't pill easily. Available in white and black, our new rayon is sold in 45" widths. Rayon is known for its great sheen, soft feel and luxurious drape. The white is dyeable with our Procion MX or H Dyes and the black is even dischargeable (see above article on discharging).

\$12.95 /yd for white
\$15.95/yd for black

YLI Silk Thread

YLI Silk Thread is a very high quality Japanese thread sold on spools; it can be used for machine or hand sewing/quilting and is dyeable. YLI is a great brand with an excellent reputation in the quilting community. We currently carry white and black with more colours pending on demand. You can purchase this thread from us for \$7.99/spool.

New Books

Fabric Painting. A Simple approach

By Ginny Eckley

Eckley focuses on achieving imagery on a variety of natural fabrics using paints rather than dyes. She offers lot of information on different types of paints, creating unique effects plus she provides traceable patterns and projects. This is a great book for people who want to create unique imagery and textures on fabrics, but don't want the mess and setting process involved with using dyes.

Fabric Dyeing for Beginners

By Vimala McClure

This book focuses on creating gradations and effects with "pickle-jar" dyeing. McClure also demonstrates numerous shibori techniques. This book is great for quilters because many of the techniques are more suited to smaller pieces of fabric.

Workshop Update + New Summer Demonstrations

We still have spots open in our June 19th Screen Printing Workshop and a couple of spots open in our Basic Silk Painting on June 12th. Call soon before they fill up! Toll free 1-800-596-0550

<http://www.gsdye.com/Canada/workshops.html>

Summer Demonstrations: With our workshop season ending soon, we are planning a series of 30-60 minute demonstrations starting in mid June at our Toronto store. They will begin at 3pm after the official closing time of the store. Margaret or myself will be demonstrating a wide range of techniques from; Transfer Paints, Microwave Scarf Dyeing, Basic Silk Painting, Tie Dyeing, Dyeing to Quilt, Foiling, Heat Transfers, Sun Printing and more.

The exact schedule will be posted on our website soon.

May Sales (remember to prompt us for these extra savings.)

- Over stocked on 8mm Habotai 36x36 scarves. Regular \$7.75 on sale for \$5.95 - extended through May also
- Pebeo Setacolor Transparent on sale 45mL \$3.95, 250mL \$12.95 and 1.0L for \$42.50
- G&S Transfer Paints reg \$9.95 each, on sale for \$6.95 each colour
- Crepe Back Satin fabrics (E1001, E1005, E1006 and E1007) 15% off

Random Acts of Kindness

As usual, we give unsuspecting readers free stuff. This month, the winners are:

Jaci Clements, Nova Scotia
And
Libby Moore, Newfoundland

They have won 250mL bottle of Discharge Paste + their choice of 3 x 45mL Setacolor Transparent paints. Please email me at dixon@gsdye.com with your full address and phone number so we can mail out your gift!

NOTES

If you are still receiving duplicates, please reply with the subject #'s of all the duplicates and I'll correct it. We have corrected many of the duplicate emails after last month posting this request, but if you are still receiving duplicates email me personally at dixon@gsdye.com

Also if you do not wish to continue to receiving our email newsletters, please email us at newsletter@gsdye.com and we'll take your name off the mailing.

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