

Silk Banner Painting 101
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Materials needed:

1. Synthrapol fabric detergent or equivalent
2. Silk
3. Design
4. Pencil
5. Painters or masking tape
6. Resist & applicator
7. Silk dyes
8. Paint brushes
9. Iron / Ironing board
10. Press cloth
11. Q tips
12. Paper towels
13. Scissors

Steps:

1. Prepare silk.

- a. Prewash with synthrapol or equivalent.
- b. Hang to dry.
- c. Iron when dry.
- d. PRO TIP#1: You can buy pre finished silk scarves, or just use a large piece of silk (cheaper to buy that way).
- e. PRO TIP #2: 8mm Habotai is good for banners.

2. Plan design.

- a. Decide on shape/size of banner (Pennon, Banner, Streamer).
 - i. Include 3-5" extra on pole side.
 - ii. Measure AFTER washing.
 - iii. Include 1" on edges if doing a rolled hem.
- b. Consider what elements you want to incorporate.
- c. Look at examples (see last page for ideas)

- d. Print out or draw in the size you want.

3. Trace design.

- a. Tape design to firm surface.
- b. Trace with pencil.
- c. PRO TIP: The pencil cannot be erased and will be permanently visible under light colors. Keep that in mind when tracing your design.

4. Prepare to paint.

- a. Stretch silk on a frame (not too tight, but there should not be slack).
- b. See PVC frame example.
- c. You can use binder clips / rubber bands, or sew the fabric to the frame.
- d. If using wooden frame, thumb tacks can be used.
- e. Prop frame up so the silk is not touching anything.

5. Apply resist.

- a. Apply over the lines you just drew.
- b. Allow resist to dry thoroughly. (overnight is best.)
- c. PRO TIP #1: Be careful not to smudge with hand.
- d. PRO TIP #2: If you don't want to hand sew your edges later, you can paint a thick line of resist on the edges, and then trim later. It acts like fray check. If you do this, make sure you are using a permanent resist, and not one that is meant to wash away.
- e. PRO TIP #3: If you are using a pre-finished scarf, make sure you are careful to apply the resist around to the back to thoroughly cover the folded over part, otherwise the dye will travel.
- f. PRO TIP #4: double check your lines to make sure there are no breaks. If there are, dye will travel where you don't want it to.
- g. PRO TIP #5: Resist is available in many colors, even metallic and clear. We are using black, but note that there are many options to consider in your design. Resists also come in formulas that wash out, and formulas that are permanent.
- h. PRO TIP #6: When done, put a pin in your resist bottle to keep it from drying out.

6. Apply Colors.

- a. Start with lighter colors first, then do the darker colors.
- b. Don't saturate the brush too much.
- c. Keep a wet edge to avoid a streaky look.
- d. Use a different brush for each color if possible.
- e. Use a "PUSH" motion to push the paint up to the resist edge. Don't get too close to the resist line. The paint will flow up to the edge.

- f. Allow to dry when done. (24 or more hours). Dye may seem to dry quickly, but it takes 24 hours for dye to set throughout fabric.
- g. PRO TIP #1: You might want to do a second coat if your banner is streaky looking or faint, but be warned...another coat increases the chance for accidents. Also, the paint will not flow the same on the second coat. Use your discretion.
- h. PRO TIP #2: If the dye leaks or splatters, Use a Q-tip to absorb as much dye as you can. Add water to the spot to dilute the dye. Dark dye will not completely go away, but remember that the banner will be flying up in the air, so mistakes will not be very visible.
- i. PRO TIP #3: I use the main heraldic colors, but you can experiment with mixing colors if desired.

7. Finishing.

- a. Remove silk from frame.
- b. IMPORTANT!!! Heat set the fabric!
 - i. Iron on silk setting with a press cloth.
 - ii. Move in small circles.
 - iii. Spend 3-5 minutes on each section.
 - 1. It will take a good half hour for a 12”X60” banner. Put something on the TV and take your time. This step is critical!
- c. Wash silk with a capful of synthrapol or equivalent in warm water.
 - i. The Synthrapol suspends the dye and keeps it from re-depositing where you don't want it.
- d. Hang banner to dry.
- e. Iron if needed.
- f. Trim or finish edges as desired.
- g. Add ties or sew channel for pole.
- h. PRO TIP #1: There are alternate methods to heat set that involve steam, ovens, etc. Worth a look. I have not done these.

Resources:

For materials: Dharma trading Company <https://www.dharmatrading.com/>

Bibliography:

[SILK BANNER PAINTING – The Serti Technique \(housewolfstan.net\)](http://housewolfstan.net)

[Microsoft Word - 20UpWarStandardsHandout.doc \(genvieve.net\)](#)



PLATE XI

