

## Acrylic Paints For Decorating Fighter Kites

Acrylic paints and paint pens work very well for decorating fighter kite skin materials. Also, some of the acrylic inks also work well, depending on the specific skin material you are working with. It's a good idea to test the paints you plan to use on the exact material of your kite's skin to be certain the results will be appealing to you.

Most of the acrylic paints are opaque with will block light from behind the kite from shinning through. This is one of the elements to consider in your design of the skin painting. There are some acrylic inks and paints that are translucent and allow light to penetrate.

Some of the acrylic paints I have tested don't adhere well to the slippery plastic films often used as kite skins. Testing is important.

In addition to using acrylic paints to paint the front face of your kite skin, several fighter kite builders paint the bow and spine of the kite. This really adds to the artistic aspect of the kite and is relatively simple to do although takes time. The spine can be painted with any pattern, multi- or single color, same with the bow. Although these are decorations that can only be seen on the back side of the kite, it really sets the kite apart from others!

The following are a few examples of what kite makers have done with acrylic paints, dyes and inks; you can see more decorating ideas on the photo gallery page.



Mike Wyatt used acrylics on white Orcon



Dennis Crowley used acrylics on Tyvek



Ralph Resnik used bleach, then acrylics to create the kite on the left.



Ralph painted the white Orcon with acrylics



These two kites Ralph painted acrylics on black polyfilm after using bleach to create the clear patch.



Dennis Crowley used a combination of acetone to remove the color from the black polyfilm and acrylic ink and paint for color. You can see the acrylic painted spine on the back of his kite.



Jim Martin painted acrylics on Orcon.



Jeff Gandee painted Orcon with acrylics

Bruce Lambert 9 2005

As you can see from these few examples that acrylics can really make wonderful looking kites!

Biggrins, bruce