

White Velvet Instructions

By Ardy Bernier

Materials: White Velvet Texture Powder, Drying Water Based Medium, Fine sponge, wooden stick to scratch out design.

White Velvet is a white powder which is tinted with a pink vegetable dye so you can see where it is when you are working with it. The pink dye vanishes once fired. **Do not fire this over 780 degrees C. on porcelain or it loses the effect! Fire at 017.**

- Mix the White Velvet with water based medium until it is almost the consistency of toothpaste, and then loosen the mix of White Velvet using tap water before sponging onto the desired area, the mix should be thin-ish but not too thin maybe like a heavy cream or makeup base, and is better if applied smooth and even.
- Using a fine sponge pounce (like a makeup sponge), apply it to any appropriate area or border. Avoid applying to thick.....a nice fine even coat is far better. Work quite quickly in case it starts to dry before you have evened it out. It looks better when thoroughly dry. When it has a somewhat paler, hard and very dry finish it is ready to etch.
- The most important thing is not to touch it after application until it is TOTALLY DRY. You can speed up the drying time by using a hair dryer.
- If you try to etch too soon, you will create runnels and bad areas and it won't scratch out easily, it should turn powdery as you etch.
- When sufficiently dry, you then etch out patterns into the surface. e.g. butterflies, spider webs, small dainty flowers, leaves, scrolls etc. the list is endless. As you work and etch, gently dust away surplus with Swiffer cloth as you do not want to inhale the dust.
- Keeping patterns random is the simplest method..... then you don't have to try to keep matching patterns. Start by scraping out a simple wavy type line (like bramble and then attach and scrape out leaves and small flowers, Swirls, curls, scrolls...they all look great. The trick is to let as much shine and light back onto the ware because the more you etch out back to the shiny surface of the china the prettier it will look when finished because you achieve more twinkly areas when the Mother of Pearl is applied on the last fire.
- The piece can now be fired or further enhanced and decorated with Raised White Enamel or Raised Base for Gold..... It works fine on the unfired White Velvet.....but of course you have to be careful with any mistakes made when applying it. I usually apply my raised enamel work on the unfired surface of the White velvet while it is still pink (easier to see as you apply it), it also cuts out a firing. The raised enamel work gives more sparkle when the mother MOP is applied. Fire 017 before the MOP is put on.
- The last fire is to place Mother of Pearl over the white velvet surface. Using a brush, apply it quickly and evenly using a dedicated brush for MOP so as not to contaminate.

For more information search online for Jackie Halhead white velvet. There should be list of sites to look at, several with white velvet info and a video.