

Inkpad guide

For perfect stamped results every time, it's essential that you use the correct type of inkpad. We guide you through your options

Pigment inkpads

Pigment inks come in a wide variety of colours and the fact that they dry slowly makes them ideal for heat embossing with. You'll get bold colour results with these inkpads and they're good for using with the direct-to-paper technique. You can use a wet paintbrush or waterbrush to draw colour into your image from the stamped outline with pigment inks and they're easy to clean. However, they won't dry on non-porous surfaces such as vellum, glossy card and acetate unless they're heat-embossed.

EXAMPLES

- ▶ Tsukineko VersaMark & VersaColor
- ▶ Ranger Adirondack
- ▶ Clearsnap ColorBox Cat's Eye & Queue
- ▶ Brilliance

USE FOR

- ▶ Heat embossing
- ▶ Inking edges

Dye-based inkpads

Dye-based inkpads are water based and dry very quickly, making them unsuitable for embossing. They result in clear stamped images and the firm felt pad makes it easy to ink up your stamps without smudging. Dye-based inkpads clean easily and the water base means that the inks won't bleed

when they come into contact with alcohol-based products such as Copic markers and ProMarkers. However, the colours can be less vibrant than those of pigment inks and they will bleed if used with any wet mediums such as watercolours.

EXAMPLES

- ▶ Ranger Adirondack Dye, Big and Juicy & Distress
- ▶ Tsukineko Memento & Kaleidacolor Rainbow
- ▶ Impress

USE FOR

- ▶ Colouring stamped images with Copic markers & Letraset ProMarkers
- ▶ Clear stamped images
- ▶ Brayered backgrounds

Oil-based inkpads

Oil-based inks are ideal for stamping very detailed images, and they dry reasonably quickly. As they repel water, they're suitable for using with watercolouring techniques. However, they're not recommended for colouring with pencils, such as Derwent and Sanford Prismacolor, and they won't dry on all surfaces, although heat setting may help.

EXAMPLES

- ▶ Tsukineko VersaFine
- ▶ Ranger Archival

USE FOR

- ▶ Detailed images
- ▶ Watercolouring



Solvent inkpads

Solvent inks are permanent and fast drying and will stamp on a wide variety of surfaces. The firm felt pad makes it very easy to ink up your stamps, and you'll be left with a very crisp, detailed image. However, a specialist stamp cleaner is required to clean your stamps after using solvent inkpads. They're not suitable for children due to the solvent base and they can't be used with Copics and ProMarkers as the stamped

image may well bleed. They can, however, be used with AquaMarkers.

EXAMPLES

- ▶ Tsukineko StazOn

USE FOR

- ▶ Crisp, detailed images
- ▶ Stamping on a wide variety of surfaces
- ▶ Colouring stamped images using AquaMarkers

HOW TO LOOK AFTER YOUR STAMPS

If you look after your stamps properly, you'll be able to enjoy them for many years to come. You should never hold your stamps under running water or immerse them in water as this may damage them. Most standard inks can be washed off using normal soapy water, and an old toothbrush is perfect for cleaning off any ink that's clinging to the stamps. Alcohol-free baby wipes are also ideal for cleaning stamps and are a handy way to keep them clean during a stamping session. Specific stamp cleaners are available from your local craft store and if you use StazOn ink then we highly recommend that you invest in a bottle of StazOn cleaner. Avoid any cleaning products that include alcohol, as this can cause the rubber to dry out and damage the stamp.