

Albright Art Supply

A Quick Guide to Black Paint in Acrylics and Oils

Are you looking to use black paint in your acrylics or oils? There are many choices that it can be hard to determine which black to use. Below you'll find information on the black paints in acrylics and oils we sell at Albright Art Supply.

Acrylic Black Paint

Golden Artist Colors Heavy Body Paint

Carbon Black (Pigment: PBk7; Historical Name: Lamp Black)

It is an opaque paint produced with soot from burning gas. The dark and fine particles make this paint Golden's darkest and most neutral black. It has an excellent ASTM Lightfastness Rating.

Mars Black (Pigment: PBk11; Historical Name: Mars Black.)

It is a synthetic black iron oxide opaque paint. Mars Black is warmer compared to Golden's Carbon Black. It has an excellent ASTM Lightfastness Rating.

Bone Black (Pigment: PBk9; Historical Name: Bone Black)

The paint is produced by charring animal bones and only semi-opaque. Like Mars, it is also warm. It has an excellent ASTM Lightfastness Rating.

Amsterdam Acrylics (Updated)

Lamp Black (Pigment: PBk7; Historical Name: Lamp Black)

It is an opaque, heavily staining black pigment that does not have much coverage or tinting strength. It has a great lightfastness rating.

Oxyde/Oxide Black (Pigment: PBk11; Historical Name: Mars Black.)

It is an opaque paint with a strong masstone (color straight out of the tube). It has a slightly warm tint and has a very strong tinting strength. It has a great lightfastness rating.

Oil Black Paint

Gamblin Blacks

Ivory Black (Pigment: PBk9; Historical Name: Bone Black.)

This semi-transparent all-purpose black is a solid choice for mixing greys and tinting.

Mars Black (Pigment: PBk11; Historical Name: Mars Black.)

An opaque black though not as black as Ivory; this paint has 3X tinting strength. It is slightly warm in tinting and is leanest matte black from the Gamblin line.

Chromatic Black (Pigments: PG36, PV19):

A semi-transparent made entirely from complementary colors. It is a neutral tinting black.

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Black Spinel (Pigment: PBk 28; Historical Name: Copper Chromite Black)

Most permanent of Gamblin's black that dries to a matte finish when no mediums are added. The only truly neutral black in masstone and tint.

M. Graham Blacks

Ivory Black (Pigment: PBk11; Historical Name: Mars Black.)

Cool tinting carbon black that is semi-opaque.

Mars Black (Pigment: PBk11; Historical Name: Mars Black.)

Very opaque black with a neutral tint. This black has good flow and firm feeling when working it with a brush.

Lamp Black (Pigment: PBk6; Its historical name is Shungite; a Natural Carbon Black)

This semi-opaque paint is a cool tinting carbon black.

M Harding Blacks

Vine Black

This vegan paint is a great alternative to existing blacks. This semi-transparent black is cool with a slight yellow undertone when thinned.

Lamp Black

Semi-transparent vegan black is a slightly warm shade. Dries to a matte finish.

Ivory Black

This semi-transparent black is denser in shade and cooler than Lamp Black. It has a strong tint power. It is frequently used and blackest black in the Michael Harding range.

References for Extra Reading

Handouts from the various companies on their paints (Golden Artist Colors, Gamblin Oils, M Graham Oils, M Harding Artist Oil Colours).

Color of Art Pigment Database

<http://www.artiscreation.com/black.html#PBk7>

Albright Art Supply Tips on Facebook

Trying to figure out which black to use in your acrylic paintings? January 5, 2022.

How well do you know the various types of Black Oil Paint? June 1, 2021.

<https://www.facebook.com/albrightartsupply/#albrightartsupplytips>