

Albright Art Supply

Frequently Asked Questions at Albright Art Supply

Here is a short list of questions we have been asked by our customers.

1. How long as the store been here?

In 2009 Bonnie Albright started with Albright Art & Crafts downstairs at 32 Main Street. The shop evolved over the years to include a contemporary art gallery along with a professional grade art supply shop which took up the entire downstairs. In early 2014 the contemporary gallery was closed with Revolutionary Concord, owned by Marie Foley, moving into the gallery space. That same Fall Marie took the opportunity to purchase Albright Art Supply and has put her own mark on the business. The selection of art supplies has now widened including student to professional grade art supplies with children's supplies & kits as well. Through lots of outreach & a relationship with The Umbrella & Concord Art Association the shop is always busy with artists & their creative ideas!

2. What's the difference between Zinc White and Titanium White?

Zinc White is semi-opaque while Titanium is opaque. The tinting strength of Zinc is only 1/10 the strength of Titanium White. If you were to add a small amount of Zinc to another color, the color would minimally change. Whereas Titanium will dramatically change it by lightening the color. For example, when adding a small amount of Titanium White to Red the new color created is Pink. Adding Zinc White will give you a slightly lighter Red but not Pink.

3. What type of paint do I use if I want to paint on plastic?

Acrylics work best on porous surfaces such as wood and paper. Because plastic is smooth and non-porous, it will be difficult to paint on plastic with acrylics.

Clean the item and let air dry. Lightly sand the surface then apply a primer such as gesso. Now the item is ready to paint plus the gesso gives you more control on how the paint flows on the surface. If this item will be handled often, it might be best to apply a sealer such as DuraClear Varnish or Mod Podge.

Plastic items made of polypropylene (recycling logo with a 5) cannot be painted.

4. Do you have mat board? Do you have Gator board?

Yes, we do have mat board. We carry Strathmore Museum Mounting Board. It is an archival grade matting/mounting board made of 100% cotton fibers. This mat board is acid-free with a 4-ply thickness. We do not have Gator Board; however, we are looking into if we can stock this specific item.

5. Do you have a starter kit for (Soft) Pastels?

We have a variety of soft pastel sets. We carry Nupastel Sets and Faber-Castell 48 Half Stick Set—both are great beginner sets. We currently have Sennelier Soft Pastel Sets, which are an artist quality pastel.

Albright Art Supply

6. Do you carry Fabric Paint?

- Golden's GAC 900. Mix GAC 900 with Heavy Body, Matte or Fluid Acrylics for brush or screen application. Fabrics treated with GAC 900 must be heat set for launderability. Iron (medium-hot) for 3-5 minutes on reverse side or place in household clothes dryer at a high temperature for 40-50 minutes.
- Ooly's Fabric Doodlers. These markers can be used on many fabrics. They are permanent and will not wash off.
- Versatex Screen Printing Inks for Fabric and Paper

7. How does one add color to Model Magic or Das Clay?

There are a few ways to add color or paint your air dry clay. First method is to poke a colored marker into the (white) clay. After making several dots, knead the clay into itself to disperse the color. Please note, this method will make the color lighter than the original marker color. Another way to add color to your piece is to color or paint it after it has dried. Markers, watercolor, tempera paint, and acrylics can be used on air dry clays.

If you wish to prolong the longevity and durability of the piece, it is best to seal the piece after it is dried prior to painting. Keep in mind, air dry clays are dry to the touch from a few hours to 24 hours later. It is completely dry at 72 hours. Apply Mod Podge, which is a sealer, if you plan to keep this item for a longer period of time. Now the piece can be painted. Crayola, the maker of Model Magic, mentions using an acrylic varnish to seal a piece. However, they suggest testing the varnish on a small piece to see its compatibility with the clay before applying it to the finished piece.

8. How are Conte Crayons, Compressed Charcoal and Vine Charcoal different?

A Conte Crayon is powdered graphite or charcoal is mixed with clay. They were first created in response to a shortage of graphite during the Napoleonic Wars in 1795.

Both Compressed Charcoal and Vine Charcoal are carbonized powder when wood is burnt in the absence. Compressed Charcoal is the powder mixed with a gum binder; the amount of binder determines the hardness or softness of the stick. Vine Charcoal uses sticks of wood typically willow and does not contain a binder. It is usually much lighter and more brittle. Compressed Charcoal will give a darker black.

9. Do you have classes at Albright Art Supply?

We do not have classes at Albright Art Supply. In the past, we have held demonstrations from local artists on a specific medium. We will post any demos on our website and throughout the store. The Concord Art (Lexington Road, Concord, MA) and The Umbrella Arts Center (40 Stow Street, Concord, MA) have a variety of classes for adults and children.