FW Artist Inks

The major development of inks in recent years has been the increasing use of pigments and acrylic resins. In 1991 Daler–Rowney refreshed the recently acquired Steig F.W. Inks and changed them from dye based, fugitive inks to permanent, pigmented inks. The initially developed range of thirty inks used conventional pigments dispersed in an alkali soluble acrylic solution. The differences between the dye based inks and the pigmented inks were a slight reduction in colour intensity, but much improved resistance to fading. In 2004 the range was extended to 32 colours by the addition of Crimson, Brilliant Yellow, Paynes Grey, and Dark Green, Shimmering Blue, Red, Green, Gold and Velvet. Violet and dropping Gold imitation. The pigmented colours also have substantially greater water resistance when dry. All colours in the range are now rated as 3* (normally permanent) or 4* (highly permanent) for permanence. There is a mixture of transparent colours and opaque colours in the range which gives different effects when mixed with Pearlescent and Shimmering colours (see below). The pigments used in the conventional colours for the FW range are ground to a very small particle size (smaller than a grain of soot) so will pass through technical pens to a size of 0.18 mm and can be used through fine-line nozzles when airbrushing. They can, of course, be used with brushes or dipper pens. FW inks have grown in reputation over the years as a consequence of their high intensity and clarity of colour. The unrivalled lightfastness for the range of fully intermixable colours makes them ideal for use by artists in the production of pictures for permanent display. The inks are strong and rugged so bold artwork can be achieved in the style of artists such as John Piper or Graham Sutherland, where colour strength, expression and fluidity are required. Equally the colours can be substantially diluted to achieve subtlety of tones, very similar in character to watercolour. Such washes will dry to a water resistant film and successive washes can be overlaid in a highly predictable manner.

Pearlescent Liquid Acrylic

In recent years Daler–Rowney have taken advantage of developments in the pigment industry and introduced mica based pigments to the range that give a pearlescent or an iridescent finish. The previously named Pearlescent Inks have been re-branded as FW Pearlescent Inks. There are now 22 colours in the range, with the range being extended by one the tantalising Black Pearl. The Pearlescent colours contain the same resin as FW inks but the pigments are larger in particle size so will not go through fine line nozzles for airbrushes nor will they be suitable for technical pens or fountain pens. The best means of applying Pearlescent colours to is by using a dipper pen, ruling pen or brush. The shimmering pearl effect created by these colours is startling. All colours are intermixable. They are permanent and translucent, but work best is put down freely rather than by applying successive layers of colour. There are many interesting and exciting ways of using FW Pearlescent Inks—here are just a few ideas.

FW Pearlescent Inks should be applied freely with a dip pen or brush. The pearl effect is achieved even after dilution with water. The FW Pearlescent Inks can be used to dazzling effect in calligraphy, especially where highly decorative elements are required to illustrate basic letter forms. For the best results, FW Pearlescent inks should be applied freely with a dip pen or brush. The pearl effect is achieved even after dilution with water.

The conventional and Pearlescent inks within the FW range can be used for mount decoration. The unusual colours produced by the Pearlescent inks are much prized. Ruling pens, loaded by pipette or brush, can easily produce lines up to 36 inches long, thus facilitating the decoration of even the largest mounts. Applications by natural sponge are also recommended. For best effect FW Pearlescent inks should be used on darker mounts since the contrast maximises the shimmer, although more subtle shades can be achieved on lighter shade boards. Pearlescent can work on light and dark backgrounds.

Greeting Cards & Decorations

The sparkling characteristic of FW Pearlescent inks immediately lends itself to twinkling Christmas decorations and cards. Clearly they can be used in conjunction with the conventional and iridescent colours in the range in order to compliment the full range of artistic effects that can be obtained for the full range of inks. The potential for decoration is limitless. Christmas decorations and cards can be enriched with Pearlescent.

Mount Decorations

The FW Pearlescent Inks can be used in conjunction with the conventional inks to provide a wide range of artistic effects. The traditional use of decorative inks in calligraphy where a range of letters, rules and capitals are required is extended for the FW inks. The combination of conventional inks with Pearlescent inks allows for far greater range of artistic expression including enhanced decoration.
**Kandahar Ink**

Kandahar is a region in Afghanistan through which trade brought ink from the Far East to Europe. The original “Indian” Ink was made in China from a mixture of soot (Carbon Black) mixed with gelatin of donkey skin. Daler-Rowney Kandahar Indian Ink is made using Carbon Black pigment mixed with Shellac. Shellac itself is derived from a naturally occurring substance known as “lac”, which is a resin of insect origin. It is secreted by the Coccus Lacca insect that attaches itself to twigs to feed on sap and complete its lifecycle. The crude resin, called “stick lac” consists of twigs encrusted with the insect secretions and it is processed through many stages to produce shellac. The term lac (as well as the pigment term lake) is derived from Sanskrit writing as lakshatam, or ‘the tree that nourishes a thousand insects’. The shellac itself is dissolved in water and dries to become water resistant. It is important to stress that the black is water resistant and not waterproof, so it will withstand a degree of splashing but not soaking by water. Kandahar Black is designed to flow easily from a dip pen, ruling pen, brush or airbrush. The ink is not recommended for use in technical pens or fountain pens because dry colour may clog the mechanism of these pen types. Kandahar Black is ideal for illustration work and in mixed media technique, for example with watercolours, and is highly permanent to light. The most suitable surfaces for use are paper, card and board.

**Calli Ink**

Calli is an acrylic based range of pigmented water resistant inks designed specifically for the use in calligraphy, where flow characteristics from the pen or brush are essential. Calli Inks have excellent colour strength. Although the range is restricted to just six colours, all colours are intermixable with each other so the colour options are limitless. Calli Inks should restart as efficiently as normal fountain pen ink if the pen cap is replaced after use. They are not, however, recommended only for use with calligraphy pens rather than fountain pens the cleaning of the ink by use of alkali solutions (e.g. airbrush cleaning fluids) may upset the internal mechanisms of some fountain pens. Calli Inks can be used through airbrushes and with dipper, technical and ruling pens, plus be applied by brush.

**Cleaning**

All FW Inks can be cleaned using mild alkali e.g. many of the airbrush cleaning fluids on the market.

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**Daler–Rowney Inks—Information and Usage Chart**

The chart will help you select the correct ink for your particular creative requirements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Base Colours</th>
<th>Airbrush Pen</th>
<th>Dipper Pen</th>
<th>Technical Pen</th>
<th>Ruling Pen</th>
<th>Brush</th>
<th>Fountain Pen</th>
<th>Permanent</th>
<th>Opaque</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FW Pearlised Liquid Acrylic</td>
<td>Pigmented Acrylic</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FW Iridesc</td>
<td>Pigmented Acrylic</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FW acrylic Ink</td>
<td>Pigmented Acrylic</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calli Calligraphy Ink</td>
<td>Pigmented Acrylic</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Daler–Rowney Limited Bracknell, RG12 8ST, England**

Telephone: +44 1344 461000 Fax: +44 1344 486511

www.daler–rowney.com

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**Please turn over for creative ideas using Daler–Rowney FW Artist Inks**