Graduate Oil Colours are traditionally crafted with a soft buttery consistency and high pigment loading. They offer excellent brushability and are easy to mix while being suitable for smooth brush applications and impasto. All colours are either Permanent 4**** or Normally Permanent 3**** and surface dry to a uniform low gloss satin sheen within four to five days.

Available in a range of forty-two vibrant colours, many of which are single pigment which ensures that colours are brighter and cleaner when mixed. The unique formulation of refined linseed oil and modern drying agents creates oil colours which are easy to squeeze from the tube and effortlessly mixed on the palette. The Graduate Oil Colour range has a well balanced choice of opaque and transparent colours. This is ideal for painters who like to experiment with the layering techniques of transparent oil colours or to create bold and expressive opaque impasto with colours such as Coeruleum, Rose Madder, Phthalo Blue or Viridian Hue. Alternatively, high lustre metallics: Silver, Gold, Rich Gold or Copper mix beautifully with transparent colours.

With over 200 years of expertise in oil colour manufacturing, Daler-Rowney traditionally crafts Graduate Oil in England. Every colour and every batch is carefully checked to exacting quality standards ensuring they deliver the consistent brilliant colours which artists have come to expect from Daler-Rowney.

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Graduate Oil Characteristics

- Available in 42 Vibrant Colours including 4 high lustre metallics
- Easy to mix buttery consistency
- Great low gloss sheen across all colours
- Surface dry in 4 to 5 days
- All colours are rated as Permanent 4**** or Normally Permanent 3****
- Well balanced Primary colours, ideal for beginners
- 26 opaque or semi-opaque colours
- 22 single pigment colours for cleaner and brighter colours when mixed
- 4 highly pigmented metallics, Gold, Rich Gold, Silver and Copper
- A combination of Linseed and Sunflower Oil is used in Titanium White, Zinc Mixing White and Metallic Silver for optimum drying properties whilst reducing the effect of yellowing
- Suitable for smooth brush applications or impasto techniques
- With over 150 years of oil colour manufacturing expertise, Daler-Rowney traditionally crafts Graduate Oil in England

For creative ideas and information visit daler-rowney.com
Titanium White is an opaque white with strong covering power. A small addition of Titanium White to a transparent colour will make it opaque.

Zinc Mixing White is weaker than Titanium White and is ideal for mixing and creating tints.

Lamp Black is a very strong, highly opaque colour which is most suited to use on its own when mixed it masks other colours.

Ivory Black is a far weaker colour compared to Lamp Black, ideal for mixing or shading effects.

Blending Thick oil colour is a technique used by oil artists to blend oil colours together. This is done by using a palette knife and a thin layer of oil. The oil is then blended together using small circular movements until the desired colour is achieved.

Opacity and Transparency of Colours

The pigment used in the colour determines the degree of opacity or transparency. Information is printed on the colour label as a guide to artists and to help them mix their colours. Opacity, Colour, Stain and Oil colours all have a different level of transparency. Transparent colours can be used to create glazes which allow the underlying colour to shine through. The Graduate Oil range contains a good balance of both opaque and transparent colours.

Blending Thick Oil Colour

Using a palette knife and a small amount of oil, blend the two colours together until the desired shade is achieved. It may be necessary to add more oil to thin the mixture.

Creating Tints and Shades

Titanium White is an opaque white with strong covering power. A small addition of Titanium White to a transparent colour will make it opaque.

Zinc Mixing White is weaker than Titanium White and is ideal for mixing and creating tints.

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Glazes

A glaze is a ‘thin layer of paint’, where the upper layers will reveal the lower layers beneath. There are three ways to dilute glaze oil colours to create glazes:

1. Mix with a medium. Mediums are products which can be blended with oil colours to adjust their properties such as transparency, viscosity or drying time.

2. Mix with a solvent. Using turpentine or low odour thinners will also make the oil colour more fluid but the finish will be more matte and the colour more dispersed.

3. Mix with an oil. Diluted with an oil such as Linseed Oil or Poppy Oil, the colour becomes transparent and takes longer to dry. Adding Linseed oil to pale colours may cause yellowing. Use Poppy Oil to resist yellowing.

Drying

Oils dry by oxidation; this is why they dry slowly while all other pigment dry at the same speed. Graduate Oil Colours have been specially formulated to become surface dry in 4-5 days so that artists can add subsequent layers or complete their paintings faster than with other drying oil colours.

Permanence of Colours

All Graduate Oil Colours are classified as Permanent (***), or Normally Permanent (**). Unlike permanent colours, Normally permanent colours exhibit some loss of permanence if used in a thin glaze or if mixed with White.

Key

Opaque

Semi Opaque

Transparent

Basic Colour Palette for Mixing

If buying loose tubes a recommended starter palette would include: Ivory Black, Payne’s Grey, Burnt Umber, Yellow Ochre, Raw Umber, Sap Green, Viridian Hue, Prussian Blue, Cobalt Blue Hue, Primary Blue, Ultramarine Blue, Primary Blue, Rose Madder, Cadmium Red Hue, Primary Yellow, Lemon Yellow, Titanium White, White.

Alternatively purchase colours in one of the following Graduate Oil Sets:

- Vibrant Single Pigment Colours

- Oil Mediums

- Oil Dilutents

- Purified Linseed Oil

- Alkyd Flow and Alkyd Gel Medium

- Paintbrushes

- Step by Step Guide

- Essential Materials for Oil Painting

The range of materials used in the creation of this guide is extensive. Please refer to the Essential Materials for Oil Painting section for further information.