

Encaustic Art

Encaustic Iron Encaustic Stylus	Encaustic Card Waxes	Disposable paper/paper towel Plain white candle (for cleaning) Lining Paper (Table covering)
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The encaustic medium is a mixture of wax and pigment. This wax colour is melted and applied to a surface. The heated tool is similar to a small travel iron, except that it has a high quality thermostat to allow careful control of temperature. It also has a polished metal base rather than a Teflon coating. The surface is a sealed card, which remains clean underneath the wax, thus allowing re-melting and changing of the wax effects.



To get started

The iron needs a low heat (similar to the nylon setting on conventional travel irons). Spread the wax onto the base plate of the warm iron.

Spreading the wax

Once the iron is 'loaded' it is time to spread the wax onto the sealed card in a smoothing manner. The card should be placed on some disposable under-paper. The rounded shape of this iron's top edge causes the horizon in the emerging landscape.



Lifting the iron for a different effect

When the iron is lifted off the card, a most amazing effect occurs. This 'foliage' patterning is caused by breaking the suction between the wax, card and iron.

As air rushes into the space that lifting the iron creates, the wax is pushed into 'channels'. These appear as an organic form which can be used to imply all sorts of things within images such as trees and bushes.

Adding more details

The edge of the iron is very good for sliding through the wax to form slender 3D grasses.

The tip of the iron is used to add a bird or two.



Smoothing



Lifting



Sliding with iron edge

CAUTION

Hot iron and stylus. Make sure that you do not touch the metal plate of the iron or the metal half of the stylus, use only the plastic handles.