



Alcohol Ink *on the Rocks*

Tips • Tools • Techniques

Cheatsheet

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Hey friend!

Thanks for subscribing to the Rock Painting Guide, I'm Tina the crazy rock painting lady behind the scenes. I hope you'll find this cheatsheet helpful in your rock painting projects ahead. Creating with alcohol inks is fun and beginner-friendly way to try abstract art. Abstract art is in the eye of the beholder and there's no right or way to do it!

For more awesome ways to paint rocks, visit my [blog](#) for great ideas and tutorials.

*Thank you,
Tina*

Alcohol Ink 101



What is Alcohol Ink?

Alcohol inks are permanent, dye-based vibrant pigments that's fast-drying and perfect media for beginners. It's typical used on non-porous materials such as glass, tile, ceramics', yupo paper, and metal.

Why use Alcohol Inks on Rocks?

Why not? Yes, some rock surfaces can be porous, but by applying a base coat of paint it creates a barrier. This makes it a perfect surface to paint with alcohol inks!

Where to buy Alcohol Inks for your next rock craft project?

My favorite and most popular brands are Tim Holtz and Jacquard Piñata. You can find most brands in craft stores, art supply stores, and online. You can purchase my starter kit available on Amazon or check out my Art Toolbox Essentials for popular inks and useful tools! These are affiliate links, so if you click on a link and make a purchase, I will receive a small commission at no extra cost to you. Here are the links!

- [Alcohol Inks on Rocks Starter Kit](#) (clickable link)
- [Art Toolbox Essentials](#) (clickable link)

Tips and Tricks

PREP TIPS AND CLEAN UP TRICKS

- Prep your work area with a piece of freezer paper or something that's not absorbent and paper towels.
- Wear an apron or clothes you don't mind getting ink on. Remember it's permanent.
- Glove Up! Don't get me wrong but I kinda like getting a little dirty but alcohol ink is tough to get off especially around and under the nails. Try using Dawn dish soap and baking soda to scrub inked up hands. Hand Sanitizer or Rubbing Alcohol works too.
- Alcohol... (Isopropyl too) is Awesome! You can also use it to clean your paint palette and paintbrushes.

BE THRIFTY AND DIY YOUR OWN ALCOHOL INKS

- All you need are sharpie permanent markers, 91% or higher Isopropyl Alcohol, containers for each color ink, travel size mister bottle, or eye-dropper bottle.
- With gloves on, remove the marker's nub and take apart the sharpie to get the ink pad.
- Put the marker nub and ink pad into a container with 1.5 oz of 91% or higher Isopropyl Alcohol. Let it sit for at least 2 hours.
- Fill ink the in the travel size bottles and throw away the ink pad.

ALCOHOL INK TIPS FROM THE PROS

- For more brush control add the alcohol inks into a wellied paint pallet, and let dry. Then reactivate the dried inks with a little bit of rubbing alcohol on your paint brush. This is useful for creating fine lines, and detail work.
- To create interesting brush lines, simply let the layers dry before painting more on.
- If you want more of a tie-dye look, simply add all your colors and let it blend together.



TOOL & SUPPLY CHECKLIST

PREP & CLEANUP

- Freezer Paper/Wax Paper to work on
- Apron or old paint clothes to wear
- Gloves
- Paper Towels
- Container for Alcohol
- Gesso base-coated Rocks

ALCOHOL INK SUPPLIES

- Alcohol Ink (Tim Holtz or Jacquard Piñata Brands)
- Paint Palette with wells for ink
- 91% or higher Isopropyl Alcohol or Blending Solution

ALCOHOL INK TOOLS TO TRY

- Paint brush
- Compressed can of air
- Q-Tips
- Magic Erasers
- Toothbrush
- Straw
- Felt
- Foam Brushes
- Even your own fingers! Possibilities are endless!



ALCOHOL INK TECHNIQUES

There are many painting techniques and methods that can be applied with alcohol inks. Here are a few that can be created on rocks.

DRIP TECHNIQUE

Drip a few drops of alcohol inks onto the rock. Mix and blend different colors and drip some alcohol to create stunning effects.

POUNCE METHOD

I like to use magic erasers pieces dipped in alcohol ink and pounce it on rock. This can achieve a nice blending or gradient effect.

BLOWING TECHNIQUE

Drip some alcohol ink a rock and using a straw or can of compressed air to move the ink around. You must work fast, the alcohol will dry the ink fast. Add some alcohol to reactivate it and to keep working with the ink.

SWIPE TECHNIQUE

You can use paper towels, cotton balls, or foam brushes to create a swipe effect. Simply add drops of alcohol ink and swipe it over a rock in the same direction. This can make for a nice background effect to your design.

PAINT BRUSH TECHNIQUE

Wet brush with alcohol then dip on desired alcohol ink color and paint rock.

SPLATTER TECHNIQUE

Simple and fun technique using a toothbrush. Just flick ink or alcohol to create a fun splatter effect.