

Distress Ink Pads

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It's a Distressing Situation...

If you haven't tried the new Ranger Distress Ink Pads & Re-Inkers by Tim Holtz you're missing out on a whole new world of possibilities. The combination of Tim Holtz's talent and the quality products of Ranger make these inks a must have for anyone who enjoys paper crafting. These inks are so versatile, they have a limitless number of uses as you will see and being acid free & photo safe, these lend themselves perfectly to scrapbooking.

It's amazing all of the results you can achieve with these inks. In the examples below, you can see how the same type of ink can create such a variety of different looks. You can stamp them directly to your paper with a heavy & gritty look but add a wet brush and you get a more blended smooth look. Maybe you want a more weathered effect. Try sprinkling or spritzing your freshly stamped paper with water. As you will note, the water pulls the ink off of those areas it touches for an authentic aged look. Using a combination of the ink and water you can take a simple stamped image and turn it into a piece from the past.

The re-inkers are just as versatile and handy as the ink pads. By mixing with simple water, you have a vast array of hues & tones at your fingertips. You may choose to use it full strength or you can lighten it as much as needed by just mixing with a few drops of water. By varying the amount of water used, you can have a look of antique walnut furniture stain to as light as a dusty old pane of glass.

Something that differentiates these inks from other inks is they are designed to be used with water. That means your black will stay black, not turn greenish or pinkish. The color will remain the same whether you give it a light spritz or really douse it.



Another cool idea is to use these inks on a transparency or other non-porous surface. In the example to the right I tried different ways to apply the ink to the transparency before I laid my tag onto the ink. It's such an easy way to achieve even more options!

1 - I used diluted ink spread evenly over the surface of the transparency.

2 - Full strength ink was sandwiched between 2 transparencies then pulled apart before I laid the tag onto the ink.

3 - Ink brushed in 2 different directions. (note the cross hatch pattern)

4 - Ink brushed in 1 direction (gives the look of wood).

5 - I used a stamp pad to stamp directly onto the transparency then I spritzed with water & laid the tag onto the transparency.

6 - Ink pad stamped directly onto the transparency and tag laid on it immediately.

7 - very diluted ink was used in an even layer.

8 - Ink pad stamped then smeared on the transparency.

9 - Laid the tag onto ink that was just drops on the transparency.



Try using the ink to dye a piece of twill or other ribbon or fabric. Instant vintage look! While it's still wet, press the item onto your paper...you get a perfect impression of the weave of the material transferred to your project. You can also

use the same twill /fabric and stamp a word onto it with the inks.

Distressing inks are photo safe & great for the aged effect.

Here is an example of the inks used on the same photo. Each picture was painted with full strength inks except the black soot which was lightend a bit. Notice how each color changes the whole look of the picture.



Compare these two photos below on the left~ I used a diluted black soot on the bottom one. The difference is remarkable. Now take a look at photo of my guys playing with their train set. After adding tea stain ink, it looks like a photo from vintage newsprint ready to be brought to life in your pages.

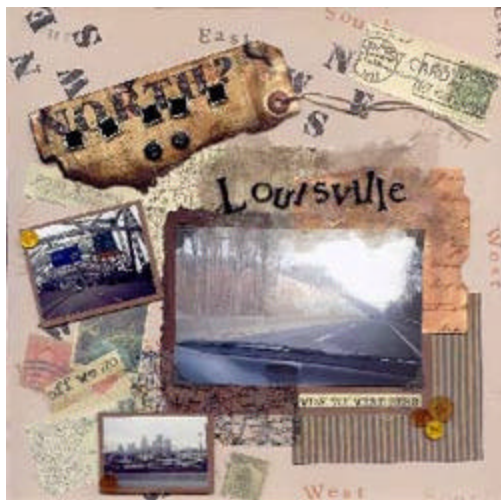


Inks in Action...here are a few ways to actually put those inks to use. In the "Moments in Time" tag, I took a white tag and crumbled it up and aged it with Old Paper; Tea Dye and Black Soot. I stamped the words & images with Walnut and Black Soot, added a few embellishments and a bit of fiber.

The card was made by aging the card paper and tags with Old Paper & Tea Dye, a bit of water brushed over the top to blend them together. I then used Walnut ink to stamp all of the background images, Black Soot for the words and image of the "antique" man.

The antique man is stamped onto vellum. I did notice that the inks do take a bit longer to dry on vellum but I just used my embossing gun to speed up the drying process. To

finish it off, I edged each of the tags and the card with Black Soot to give it that well used feel.



On the "North to Louisville" lay-out , I used each of the inks to stamp the directions on the background paper. I also used Tea Dye to stain the pattern papers. I used the Tea Dye as well as Walnut & Black Soot on the tags & journal pocket. The Black Soot on the title tag really gave it the "well traveled" look that I was going for in this lay-out.

I can't tell you how much fun I had playing with and experimenting with these inks. I know there are far more uses for these inks than can be discussed in one article but now that you've got a few ideas to get you started, go out and grab a pad or two and get your hands dirty! (you might want to wear gloves - LOL!!) No matter what your project,

Ranger Distress Ink Pads and Re-Inkers will surely be a great addition!

Get even more great tips from Tim Holtz himself on distress inks as well as alcohol inks and other terrific techniques in the awesome new DVD from PageSage, [An Altered Journey](#).

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