BASTIONPAINT
SPECIAL EFFECT PAINTS

Acrylic pouring guideline starting mixing ratios by volume

These guidelines give you a starting point for mixing your paints for various techniques. This is an artform so there are no absolute instructions.

“Metallic Paints” refers to our normal Metallic Paints, Soft Pastel Metallic Paints, Interference Metallic Paints and Colour Transition Metallic Paints. These all require the same mix ratios.

Traditional Pouring Techniques:

Traditional techniques include flip cup pours, straight pours, dirty pours, puddle pours, ring pours, marble pours, dipping pours, open cup pours, kiss pours, string and chain pull pours, split cup pours, swipes, Dutch pours and others. There are numerous variations of these techniques, many of which have their own names.

Add a few drops of Turbo Cell to required colours to get cell formation.

Acrylic Pouring Paints

1 Paint : 1 Original Flow Control
(Add a little water for techniques requiring thinner paints such as Dutch pours. Add slightly less Original Flow Control if you require thicker paints for ring pours.)

Metallic Paints

Techniques that require thicker paints such as ring pours:
1 or 2 Paint : 1 Metallic Paint Flow Control

Techniques that require medium flow paints such as swipes, flip cups and dirty pours:
2 or 3 Paint : 1 Metallic Paint Flow Control

Techniques that require thinner paints:
2 Paint : 1 Metallic Paint Flow Control : 1 Original Flow Control

Bloom Technique:

This refers to the Sheleeart Bloom technique where the paints are blown and then spun out on a spinner. Spinning spreads the paints and thus also reduces the chance of crazing. Our Cell Activator Flow Control is used to make a cell activator for the Bloom technique. The same cell activator can also be used as a top layer in swipe techniques and even in Dutch Pours. Cells form without the use of any oily additives.

Pillow (base layer) using Acrylic Pouring Paints

2 Paint : 1 Original Flow Control
To avoid crazing, do not leave the pillow layer too thick (spin or tilt paints out well).

Colours (middle layer) using Acrylic Pouring Paints

1 Paint : 1 Original Flow Control (no water will need to be added as this borders on a thinner mix).

Colours (middle layer) using Metallic Paints

1 or 2 Paint : 1 Metallic Paint Flow Control

Note that all “colours” used in the pour should have the same flow so you cannot just blindly use these ratios without checking. When Acrylic Pouring Paints and Metallic Paints are used in the same pour they must all have the same flow. Add a small amount of water to any paints that feel a bit thicker.

Cell Activator (top layer) using Acrylic Pouring Paints

1 Paint : 2 Cell Activator Flow Control
(Or for a thinner Cell Activator use 1 Paint : 2.5 Cell Activator Flow Control.)

Cloud and Pearl Techniques:

Our Cloud & Pearl Flow Control creates specific chemical and physical interactions that allow clouds and pearls to form without the use of any oily additives.
In Pearl techniques, the paints that will form the pearl cells are placed below a top layer of paints that will not form pearls.

Pearl pours require slightly thinner paints than Cloud pours so it is normal to add a tiny amount of water to the ratios below when doing Pearl pours.

Note that when using our paints and Cloud & Pearl Flow Control for pearl pours, the paints do not need the extremely high flow that tends to be used in pearl pours using certain satin enamel paints.

In cloud and pearl techniques the flow of all paints in a single pour should be the same, whether using Acrylic Pouring Paints, Metallic Paints, or a combination of both. If necessary, a little water can be added to adjust the flow of any paints that feel slightly thicker than the others.

Acrylic Pouring Paints that will form clouds or pearls

1 Paint : 1 Cloud & Pearl Flow Control
(Usually add a tiny amount of water for pearl techniques.)

Metallic Paints that will form clouds or pearls

1 Paint : 1 Metallic Paint Flow Control : 1 Cloud & Pearl Flow Control
(Usually add a tiny amount of water for pearl techniques.)

Acrylic Pouring Paints that will not form clouds or pearls

This includes the paint that is used in the top layer of pearl pour
1 Paint : 1 Original Flow Control
(Usually add a tiny amount of water for pearl techniques.)

Metallic Paints that will not form clouds or pearls

This includes the paint that is used in the top layer of pearl pour
2 Paint : 1 Metallic Paint Flow Control : 1 Original Flow Control
(Usually add a tiny amount of water for pearl techniques.)

We have also found that a simpler mix of 1 Metallic Paint : 1 Original Flow Control can work as the top layer in pearl pours.

Avoiding Crazing Cracks

After years of testing, experience and feedback, we have four simple recommendations that will eliminate the formation of damaging crazing cracks.

- The final paint layer thickness must not be too thick. Ensure you tilt or spin adequately. Bloom techniques without spinning usually give crazing.
- Do not have any air movement over the drying paint. While air conditioners and fans are especially bad, even an open window or door in an adjacent room can cause crazing cracks on paintings that are not covered.
- Do not attempt to speed up drying with the use of a heater or direct sunlight.
- Unless the conditions are fairly humid, it is always safer to dry your art under a sealed plastic cover. Evaporation causes the air under the plastic to become more humid which slows drying and reduces the chance of crazing. Remember that each time you lift the plastic, you will allow dryer air in again. Below a RH of 55% it is usually essential to dry under plastic. At very high RH's (humid conditions), a plastic cover may make the paint dry too slowly and even form condensation on the surface which damages the painting. If the RH is consistently above 70% then you should not need a plastic cover but make sure there is no airflow over the art surface.
    - RH below 55%: Always dry under a plastic cover.

- RH 55 to 70%: You may get away without a plastic cover depending on other factors.
- RH greater than 70%: A plastic cover may cause slow drying or even condensation to form.