

Notes from Max Doerner & Jacques Maroger

MAKING GESSO GROUND FOR THE CANVAS

Objective

So far we have covered many of the attributes of grounds. If you want to experiment with the various grounds and recipes I would refer you to Max Doerner's book *Materials of the artist and their use in painting*.

For this recipe you may alter the glue and gesso amounts to achieve your desired outcome. Make sure you take notes!

For this tutorial I am going to make the famous gesso ground traditional method.

Key points

1. Gesso Ground
2. Ingredients & Measurements
3. Procedure
4. Permanence

Materials

1. Whiting Gesso
2. Rabbit Skin Glue
3. Distilled or filtered water
4. Brush
5. Sandpaper

For Brush

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 3 | parts Gesso whiting |
| 1 | part Rabbit Skin Glue |
| 1 | parts Distilled or filtered water |

For Spray for Panels

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 3 | parts whiting |
| 1 | part Rabbit Skin Glue |
| 6 | parts Distilled or filtered water |

Procedure

1. Measure dry & wet ingredients separately.
2. Put water into a large or tall container allowing room for the gesso.
3. Heat the purified water to blood warm.
4. Heat the glue to blood warm.
5. Slowly sift the Gesso into the water let gesso sit until there are no more bubbles coming out of the mixture.
6. Slowly add the Glue then stir.

7. Occasionally check the temperature to make sure the mixture stays blood warm. Reheat when necessary.
8. This mixture can last a week in the refrigerator.

The stronger the glue, the less absorbent the formula is. You can vary the ingredients to suit your needs. *** Note if you mix the glue in with the water, the Gesso Whiting will not mix well. Follow my steps carefully, and you will have success with this recipe.*