

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 Elmer's Glue gesso ground

### Key points

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

### Materials

1. Whiting Gesso
2. Elmer's Glue
3. Distilled or filtered water
4. Brush
5. Sandpaper

### For Brush

- 3 parts Gesso whiting
- 1 part Elmer's Glue
- 1.5 parts Distilled or filtered water

### For Spray for Panels

- 3 parts whiting
- 1 part Elmer's Glue
- 6 parts Distilled or filtered water

Modern Recipe for Gesso Ground: I will forgo using the Rabbit skin glue recipe. I have found that this recipe is far easier to make, with great long lasting results. The Elmer's Glue recipe has greater flexibility than the antique recipe.

### Procedure

1. Measure dry & wet ingredients separately.
2. Put water into a large or tall container allowing room for the gesso.

3. Slowly sift the Gesso into the water let gesso sit until there are no more bubbles coming out of the mixture.
4. Slowly add the Glue then stir.
5. This mixture can last a few weeks 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.*