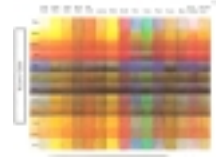


Painting Glazes



Answers to frequently asked questions on painting glazes with oils

For some reason there's a mystique about painting glazes and a belief that glazing is difficult or even near impossible to master. As a result, beginners (and not-such-beginners) often don't discover the fabulous results glazing can bring for far too long.

The truth is the basics of painting glazes is easy to understand, though it is a painting technique that does require some patience because each layer of paint must be completely dry before a new glaze is applied and some knowledge of the colors you're using in order to 'predict' the colors glazing will produce. The upside with Genesis is that you can dry on demand and start glazing right away.

What is a Glaze, or Glazing?

A glaze is simply a thin, transparent layer or coat of paint and glazing is simply building up color by applying thin, transparent layers or coats one of top of another. Each glaze modifies the color of what's already been painted on the canvas.

What's the Point of Painting Glazes?

Each glaze tints or modifies the color of the paint beneath it. When you look at a painting, the color is mixed optically giving a deep, rich color. For example, painting a glaze of red over blue gives a richer purple than you'd get if you mixed the red and blue paint together on your palette before you applied it. To rather over-simplify the science, the purple you're seeing is created by light bouncing back from the canvas, through the blue and then the red layer, into your eye, producing a deeper color than if it'd just bounced back from the surface of one layer of mixed paint.

Is It Necessary to Use Glazes in a Painting?

No, there's no painting rule that says you *must* paint using glazes. But it's a painting technique that shouldn't be rejected without spending some time learning the basics and giving it a go, as the results can be spectacular. (The terms 'glowing' and 'luminous' are commonly used to describe the effect.)

How Many Colors Can You Use in a Glaze?

A single glaze is a single layer of color. How many layers you glaze, depends on the results you're after and comes with practice. A glaze works best when each color you use is made from only one pigment, not a mixture of two or more. The more pigments or colors you use, the sooner you'll end up with a brown and gray.

Using paint colors that contain a single pigment rather than a combination of pigments also makes it easier to learn/predict the result of glazing with that particular color, helps retain color saturation, and reduces the risk of inadvertently creating dull or muddy colors. The paint tube label should tell you what pigments are in a particular color.

Do You Glaze With the Same or Different Colors?

It depends on what the final color is you're trying to produce. If, for instance, you're glazing a red over a blue to produce a purple, additional glazes of the red will make the purple deeper, richer, and redder. You glaze as many times as is necessary to get the color you want.

How Many Layers of Glaze Do You Need to Get the Best Effect?

Again, there's no hard-and-fast rule. It's the result that counts.

What Colors are Best for Painting Glazes?

Paint pigments or colors are classified as transparent, semi-transparent, or opaque. Some colors are so transparent that used thinly they barely showing on top of another color. Others are extremely opaque, totally obscuring what's beneath when used straight. Glazes work best with transparent pigments. Any Genesis color can be made transparent with the use of Glazing Gel. Or you can just mix it up with a palette knife and it will become thin and transparent.

Can You Glaze With Opaque Colors, or Only with Transparent Colors?

You can use opaque colors for glazing – the results just aren't the same as with transparent colors, producing a hazy effect that's ideal for painting distant clouds for instance. Try glazing with all the colors in your palette and get to know their characteristics and the results they produce. Paint up a sample glaze chart, recording what colors you used, so you've a record you can refer to - see page 3.



What Consistency Should the Paint be for Painting Glazes?

Glazing is about putting down thin layers of paint, so the paint should be fluid (thin) or you need to ensure that you spread it thinly when you paint.



What's the Best Type of Brush to Use for Painting Glazes?

You can glaze with any brush, but if you're new to glazing, start with a soft brush which makes it easier to paint smooth glazes, without visible brush marks. Be sure that it is very clean - if not the result will be "milky".



What's the Best Surface to Use for Painting Glazes?

Smoother surfaces reflect more light, so masonite painted white is ideal. But that's not to say you can't paint glazes on other grounds, such as canvas.

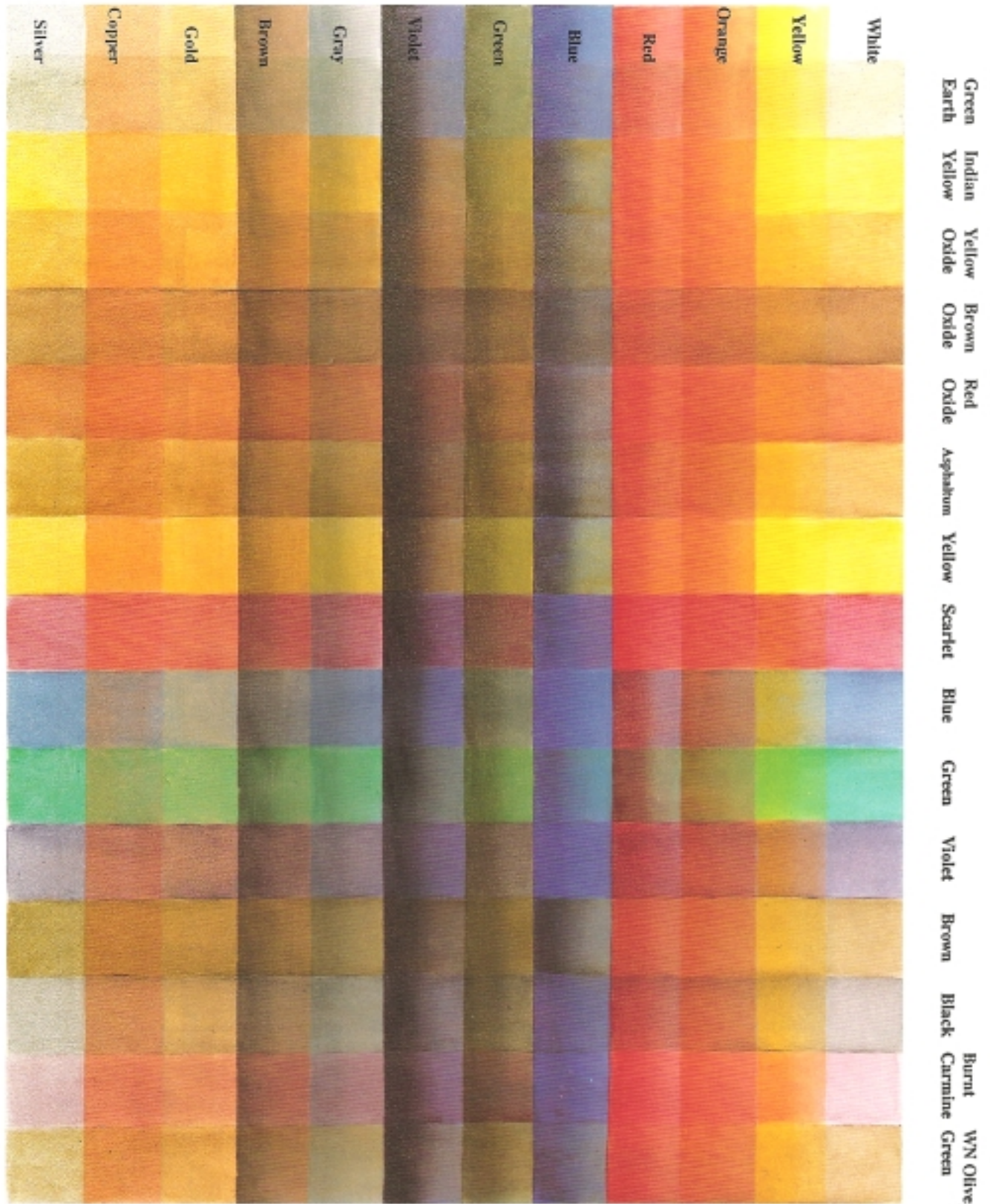
I Don't Get Any 'Glowing' Effect When I Apply Glazes ... What am I Doing Wrong?

If you've tried glazing and don't get good results, check that you're not glazing over a layer of paint that hasn't completely dried. Also check whether you are using transparent, single-pigment colors.



Each of the above paintings used glazes to create an effect ranging from transparent glass to making a baby shoe look antique.

GLAZING CHART



Make your own glazing chart by painting colors in a strip running horizontal across a prepared surface. When dry, pull pure pigment colors across. Note the effects. (From our book *Guide to Mixing & Using Color*)