

PAINT YOUR OWN COOL TOYS & ACCESSORIES

PG 13

# Craftideas®

presents



## ÀZTEK®

# Airbrush Designs

*for family fun*

- Airbrushing  
Learn the Basics
- Easy DIY  
Project Ideas
- Helpful Hints &  
Techniques

FAMILY FUN 2014  
Testors.com







www.testors.com



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# Crafts-Man-Ship

Testors® is the best choice in paints, stains and textures to bring all the parts of your project together. Testors® is available in enamels, acrylics and lacquers - plus tools and adhesives to apply the iconic Testors® look and feel to almost any surface.



Available nationwide at select craft stores, art supply retailers and online merchants.

MAKE LIFE A HOBBY™





# contents

Testors – Family Fun 2014



Cover  
Craft  
page 22



## about testors

Since 1929, Testors has provided products for every surface and every project, inspiring limitless creativity in kids and adults.

### 6 THE BASICS

What is an airbrush and what is it used for? Find out everything you need to know for success.

### 10 THE PRODUCTS

Testors products make crafting with your kids more memorable, and prove you don't have to break the bank to spend quality time together. Explore fun-to-use Testors Aztek airbrush systems and paints.

### 13 PROJECT IDEA: SUNNY KITE

Imagination and pride will soar sky-high when you fly this homemade kite! Airbrush a combination of your favorite colors over a string-wrapped surface to get this cool effect.

### 16 PROJECT IDEA: ROSE LAMP

Use stencils and Testors airbrushable paints to upgrade a plain, old lamp with a charming design that complements your room and adds creative flair.



13



16



18

### 18 PROJECT IDEA: KALEIDOSCOPE

Gazing into a kaleidoscope takes you to a world of unexplored delight. As light bounces off an array of colored glass beads, endless patterns stimulate your imagination.

### 21 DESIGNER SPOTLIGHT: MARIE CARTER

Find out what inspires Marie, designer of The Maiden of the Sea doll on the cover.

### 22 PROJECT IDEA: THE MAIDEN OF THE SEA DOLL

While a mermaid's song is irresistible, this wide-eyed gal will capture your child's heart with her flashy hair and vibrant colors. Testors' airbrushing products make it easy to create.

## in every issue

4 Let's Get Inspired

26 Tips & Techniques

28 FAQs

30 Patterns

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## company message



*Craft Ideas* is proud to present *Testors® Aztek® Airbrush Designs for Family Fun*, a collection of fun how-to projects the whole family will enjoy creating. Packed with tips and helpful hints, this guide will help kids and adults master airbrushing techniques and will inspire more great looks for kids' rooms, clothes, hobbies, school supplies, sports and more.

Turn your imagination into a keepsake creation with Testors finishing products. Testors manufactures a one-stop shop of craft and hobby supplies which includes paints, Aztek airbrushes and paints, compressors, adhesives, paintbrushes and tools. In business for over 80 years, Testors has long been associated with quality and integrity. Testor paints, glues, airbrushes and accessories are sold world-wide and are still proudly made in the USA.



### company history

The company started back in 1929, when Nils F. Testor, a young Swedish immigrant, purchased the assets of a small Rockford, IL, company making an adhesive product called "Karlson's Klister".

Klister was an adhesive made for mending women's stockings, and chiefly used by local cobblers for making and repairing shoes. As the glue became more popular, other applications were developed.

The young company eventually fell on hard times. Axel Karlson, the founder, sold his interest in the firm and returned to Sweden. Nils Testor recognized the need for this kind of adhesive and stepped in and took over what was soon to become the Testor Chemical Company.

Testor quickly realized that this product would be useful in a wide variety of applications and began to market the glue as "Crystal Clear Household Cement." The adhesive was still sold in bulk to the shoe repairmen, but it was now beginning to carve a niche for itself on the home front. Household Cement was—and still is—used to mend china, glassware, leather goods, and any number of common household products. Glue sales increased dramatically and became so popular that, for many years, Testors and glue were virtually synonymous. Even now, the Testor Consumer Relations Department frequently receives mail from folks who have been using Household Cement for decades. While times have changed, demand for this cement is as strong as ever before!

In the late 1930's, hobby enthusiasts began using Testors cements and adhesives for their modeling projects. The Hobby Industry of America was formed in 1940 and the Testor Chemical Company was a founding member. Testor products were now selling very well. The company was building a solid base and a complete product line and this continued for the next 40 years. The portfolio included Testors-branded Enamel and Acrylic paints, Model Master branded Enamel and Acrylic Paints, as well as the Aztek Airbrush system with "Ready To Spray" Acrylic Paints.

In 2012, Testor introduced CreateFX which has stimulated learning and creativity in school, club and craft and hobby projects. CreateFX is a comprehensive line of finishing products that enhance detail, texture and effects – making projects come to life.

Today, Testors continues to broaden its offering to address emerging trends that include personalizing, customizing and "making it your own". "Do It Yourself" has never been stronger and the high-quality, trusted paints from Testors provide solutions to make this happen. There truly is a Testors product for every surface and every project. We are inspiring creativity every day and giving kids a reason to grow up with Testors all over again.

The Testor Corporation is now part of The Rust-Oleum Group, which has No. 1 brand recognition and market share in the U.S. and Canada in the rust-preventative, decorative, specialty and professional segments of the small-project paint category. Rust-Oleum is a subsidiary of RPM International, Inc.

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[www.testors.com](http://www.testors.com)



# Color That's In Your Vase!

For that "in-your-face" kind of color, Testors® is the best choice in paints to finish a home decor project exactly as imagined. Testors® paints are available in enamels, acrylics and lacquers, along with tools and adhesives to bring iconic Testors® colors or textures to almost any surface.



Available nationwide at select craft stores, art supply retailers and online merchants.

MAKE LIFE A HOBBY™





## the basics

### what is an airbrush and what is it used for?

An airbrush is a small air-operated tool that uses an air propellant, such as a compressor, to “break-up” paint droplets into a fine mist. The paint mist is then sprayed onto whatever is being painted.



Most airbrushes are designed to work with both acrylic and enamel paints. They are great for controlling the amount of paint that is applied and result in a smooth, even coverage of paint, using less paint, with no unsightly brush marks. The fine mist also makes it easier to airbrush intricate detail work, without filling in the detail.

Soft colors can be created by spraying with a light hand and deep rich colors can be produced with heavier sprays. By blending colors, airbrushes help to create the illusion of shadows and highlights. Other special effects, as well as color depth and intensity can be achieved by layering different colors of paint. From fine art to t-shirts, cake decorating to spray tanning, airbrushes have long been the

preferred tool by visual artists in various creative disciplines.

### general airbrush product information

Airbrushing has never been easier than with Testors® Aztek® airbrush collection, the most convenient and versatile airbrush system on the market. The airbrushes are lightweight, durable and ergonomically designed to conveniently fit into either hand. They are easy to master, simple to clean and virtually maintenance free. With the airbrushes' unique detachable nozzles and interchangeable parts, Testors offers a creative airbrush solution for all skill levels.

There are three key operational differences in basic airbrush design, that impact the complexity and performance of each airbrush model; how the trigger operates, how and where the paint and air are mixed together, and how the paint is fed into the system.

#### the trigger

The trigger mechanism on an airbrush is either pushed or pulled (or both) to control the flow of air and/or paint. Aztek airbrushes feature either a Single-Action trigger or a Dual-Action trigger. In the single-action models, the trigger is pushed down to control the airflow. In some models, the paint volume is adjusted with separate controls. The paint control mechanism moves the needle farther in or out of the nozzle, depending upon amount of paint desired. They are great for long, steady sprays. The width of the spray, from a wide spray pattern to thin lines, can be controlled by moving the airbrush closer







to or farther away from your project and by adjusting the air pressure. Single-action airbrushes are easy-to-use and affordable, making them a great choice for beginners and children.

The trigger on a dual-action airbrush enables you to control both the airflow and paint volume, at the same time. Pushing the trigger controls the airflow and pulling the trigger, toward you, gives you instant control over the amount of paint being sprayed. This allows for much more versatility when creating thin lines and fine detail. Testors Aztek dual-action airbrushes provide more control when blending colors, creating highlights, shadowing and producing other special effects. The ability to spray only air is also helpful if you need to dry an area of paint quickly. This YouTube Video shows you how to use your Aztek Airbrush in Double Action. <http://youtu.be/f9iocSTRe0I>

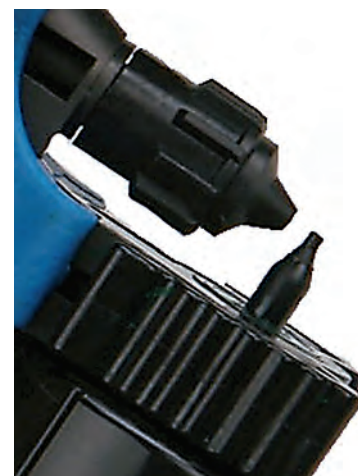
### the mix

There are two different types of airbrush designs, when it comes to

combining the air and the paint: external mix airbrushes and internal mix airbrushes. Both types can also have either single-action or double-action triggers.

An external mix airbrush combines the air and the paint outside of the airbrush. As air passes over the paint tip, it sprays the paint toward your project. This mixing method produces a courser, grainier spray, making freehand spraying and detail work more of a challenge. However, this is the easiest and least expensive design, which makes it a great choice for the beginner airbrusher and children.

Aztek's internal mix airbrush combines the air and paint together inside of a "mixing chamber" at the tip of the nozzle assembly. This mixing method produces a fine microdot and a very smooth finish, which enables smoother blending of colors and more realistic special effects. The superior finishing capabilities of the internal mix airbrushes make them the design of choice for crafters, fine artists and hobbyists alike.







### the paint feed

Paint can be fed to an Aztek airbrush through one of two ways; a siphoning process or a gravity feed process. Siphoning is the principle method used for the single-action, external mix airbrush models. However, either approach can be selected for use with Aztek's single-action and double-action, internal feed airbrush models.

Aztek's siphon-fed airbrush has a paint container connected to either the bottom or side of the unit, close to the nozzle assembly. A tube runs from the airbrush to the paint and as the air source is activated, the air runs over the paint, at the top of the tube, and pulls it into the airbrush. The paint is then sprayed out of the nozzle. Since the siphon-fed airbrushes can typically accommodate larger paint cups/containers, thus a larger volume of paint, they allow for



longer spraying times on large objects such as murals and backgrounds. They require more air pressure to spray effectively but allow for quick color changes. Most siphon feed containers have tops on them, which prevents acrylic paint from drying out as quickly.

Aztek's gravity-fed airbrushes have a paint cup that is mounted on either side of the airbrush. Gravity pulls the paint from the cup into the airbrush, where it is combined with the air source and sprayed out of the nozzle assembly. Gravity-fed airbrushes require less air pressure, resulting in less overspray. Less air pressure also gives the artist more control over the flow of paint, allowing for finer detail work and thinner line widths. This method of paint feed will also work better with thicker viscosity paints than the siphon-fed models.

### air sources

Since airbrushes require an air source to function, you will need some type of an air supply. You have several options to choose from; canned air, a hobby compressor or a general-purpose compressor. Aztek Airbrush kits include





a compressor adaptor or can be screwed onto a can of propellant.

Canned air is a canned propellant that can be purchased at most craft supply stores and specialty retailers. It is quiet, disposable and the least expensive source of air for your airbrush. However, they provide a limited amount of usage time and you will have little to no control over the rate of air delivered.

Your best bet is to use an air compressor. Compressors are the most commonly used air source for airbrush artists. An air compressor is a machine that extracts air from the atmosphere and compresses it into a holding chamber. They deliver an endless supply of air at a constant rate of pressure. Many models include an air regulator for pressure adjustment. Hobby compressors are preferred since they are made specifically for airbrush use. They tend to be more expensive than general purpose compressors, as they are designed

to be much quieter. However a general-purpose compressor will work fine, as long as you can adjust the air pressure to between 10-40 psi. Your desired pressure will vary depending upon the type of project you are working on and the amount of detail you require.



## the products



### testors® aztek® airbrush selective assortment amazing air activity set™

Testors makes crafting with your kids more memorable with the Amazing Air Activity Set™. It is the perfect starter airbrush set for kids' crafts. The airbrush is a simple-to-use system that builds



children's confidence, while teaching them the joy of creativity. It features a trouble-free, snap together assembly and easy-to-clean features, which allow for more fun time, bonding and making memories together. The kit includes everything kids need to create custom, trendy airbrush designs: an ergonomic airbrush, five popular acrylic colors, a propellant can, flame stencil and an idea booklet.

### testors fine external mix airbrush set (A2708)

Spending quality time together doesn't need to break the bank. Testors® Aztek® Fine External Mix Airbrush set, a creative, educational and affordable tool, promotes a sense of pride and accomplishment. It is a beginner oriented single-action, external mix airbrush that is a perfect choice for adults new to airbrushing or the more advanced child crafter. The Fine External Mix airbrush is ideal for partnering with stencils or spraying freehand, and to custom decorate a variety of baked goods, canvas art and general arts and crafts projects with confidence. Parents and crafters alike will appreciate the system's patented quick color change configuration, easy-to-adjust controls and lightweight, ergonomically designed body. The set includes airbrush, 6' air hose, compressor adapter, top feed color cup,



siphon feed cap/bottle assembly, three nozzles – general purpose, fine line and large area, and an instruction booklet.

### testors single action internal mix airbrush set (A3206)

For enhanced creativity and more refined results, step up to Testors Single Action Internal Mix airbrush set. For the crafter with some airbrush experience or who is new to airbrushing but looking for a system with additional features and performance capabilities, a roller mechanism on the airbrush provides precise control over the volume of paint being sprayed. From wide spray patterns to thin lines, this airbrush is fantastic for producing a smooth, fine microdot finish.





To support a variety of paint application options, both siphon and gravity-fed adjustable cups are included. Cups can be adjusted for either right or left hand usage and swiveled to enable airbrushing in virtually any position. This lightweight and durable airbrush features Aztek's patented quick color change configuration, EZ clean technology and interchangeable nozzles and bottles. The set includes airbrush, 6' air hose, compressor adapter, two nozzles – general purpose and high flow, top feed color cup, siphon feed cap/bottle assembly, instruction manual and DVD, and plastic storage case.

## intermediate double action internal mix airbrush set (A4306)

Enhance your home décor and gift creations with Testors Aztek Intermediate Double Action Internal Mix airbrush set.



This work-horse system integrates a double-action trigger for more air and paint control, allowing for a greater variety of artistic special effects. Adjustable line width control, pinpoint accuracy control, EZ clean technology and Aztek's patented quick change nozzle system make this airbrush a must-have for crafters who want to refine their airbrushing skills. This system also includes interchangeable nozzles and bottles, and an adjustable paint cup that swivels and adjusts for right or left hand usage. The set includes a lightweight, durable ergonomic airbrush, 6'

hose, three nozzles – general purpose, high flow and detail, top feed color cup, two siphon feed cap/bottle assemblies, nozzle wrench, instruction manual and DVD, and plastic storage case.

## professional single/double action internal mix airbrush set (A4307)

For performance that is sure to please, nothing but Testor's premium airbrush design will do. This system leverages the benefits of both single- and double-action airbrushes, together in one system. Professional visual artists will appreciate the Single/Double Action Internal Mix airbrush's optimal performance. This tool provides you with the ultimate in pinpoint accuracy and precision, that is required to turn your vision into a stunning masterpiece. Featuring a dial for paint control, this system works as a single- or double-action airbrush. Also featured is Testors patented quick-change nozzle system, EZ clean technology, and an adjustable gravity feed cup that swivels and adjusts for right or left hand usage. Aztek's premium ergonomic airbrush design is available in a lightweight, durable resin (A4307) set, which also includes 6' hose, three nozzles – general purpose, high flow and detail, two siphon feed cap/bottle assemblies, nozzle wrench, instruction manual and DVD, and compartmentalized wooden storage case.



## professional single/double action internal mix metal airbrush set (A4809)

For the Ultimate Metal Airbrush set, Testors premium airbrush design is also available in forged die-cast metal. This set provides the weight of a metal airbrush with the balance and feel of the ergonomic Aztek design. It also features all of the attributes of the premium airbrush design mentioned above. The set includes airbrush, 6' hose, metal compressor adapter, nine nozzles, five top feed color cups, two siphon feed cap/bottle assemblies, nozzle wrench, instruction manual and DVD, and wooden compartmentalized storage case with velvet airbrush pouch.





## testors® airbrush friendly paint selection

Testors paint is the perfect choice for use in an array of craft and hobby projects. It is available in various formulations and a multitude of colors to enable every creative vision. The collection line-up includes acrylic and enamel paints.

Acrylic paint is the ideal selection for use in a variety of craft projects. Acrylic paint is versatile, provides excellent adhesion on most surfaces, allows for water wash-up, and is non-toxic and fast drying. Testors has five different acrylic paint formulations to bring your creation to life: Aztek® airbrushable paints, Testors® acrylic and Model Master® acrylic paints, CreateFX® acrylic paints and washes.

### aztek airbrushable paint

Aztek Airbrushable Paint is specially formulated for use with airbrushes. All of our paints can be airbrushed, the advantage of Airbrushable Acrylic is it is pre-thinned and ready to airbrush and comes in the larger 2 oz. bottle with flip cap. Other acrylic paints will need to be thinned with our Acrylic Thinner or water. This superior, ready-to-use acrylic paint features exceptional pigment quality, vibrant colors and produces a rich, long-lasting finish. It is available in 40 trend-right colors for unlimited possibilities.

Testors acrylic paint sets and Model Master acrylic paints are available in hundreds of authentically matched colors. The Model Master paint was developed for, but not limited to, painting figurines and fine detail work. They both can be airbrushed or hand painted.

CreateFX paint is a comprehensive line of finishing products that enhance detail, texture and effects – making projects come to life. CreateFX Acrylic Paint is a fast drying, easy-to-apply finish and can be used on most surfaces. It is comprised of finely ground pigments, for superb flow and coverage. (It is not recommended for rubber or flexible vinyl because it will remain tacky on these materials.)

CreateFx Acrylic Wash is also fast drying and easy to apply. This is a thinner formulation for enhancing detail and tinting/shading a surface.

CreateFX Enamel paint is lead-free, fast drying, easy to apply and can be used on many kinds of surfaces like glass, wood, metal, leather, Styrofoam®, polystyrene plastic and ABS plastic. Finely ground pigments mean superb flow and coverage. (It is not recommended for rubber or flexible vinyl because it will not dry on these surfaces; it will remain tacky to the touch.) It will not adhere to polyethylene or polypropylene.

CreateFx Enamel Wash is also fast drying and easy to apply. This is a thinner formulation for enhancing detail and tinting/shading a surface.

Testors Model Master enamel paint offers the most comprehensive system of modern and historical paint colors available. Well respected for its superb color fidelity and unmatched availability and shelf life, Model Master cures to a hard, permanent finish on a variety of surfaces. It can be airbrushed or hand painted.

Testors Enamel Paints are recognized by their vibrant colors and exceptional adhesion, making them an essential for any crafter, hobbyist or home décor enthusiast. Authentic Testors solvent-based paints are extremely durable and excellent for use on any surface imaginable. The paint can be applied with a paintbrush or can be thinned with an enamel paint thinner and sprayed with an airbrush.





# sunny kite

**Imagination and pride** will soar sky-high when you fly this homemade kite! Airbrush a combination of your favorite colors over a string-wrapped surface to get this cool effect.

## MATERIALS

- *Kites In The Sky* Colorfly Diamond Ready-to-Fly Kite Kit

## TOOLS

- Testors Aztek Airbrush System with Airbrushable Opaque Acrylic Paints: Yellow (9442), Red (9446), Orange (9443), Black (944105)
- Yarn
- Craft knife
- Adhesives: 3M Scotch Spray Mount Repositionable Adhesive, hot glue gun with glue sticks

## BASIC SUPPLIES

scissors, paper towels, painter's tape, staple remover, ruler, iron and pressing surface, cardboard larger than kite, pencil, stapler, disposable gloves, newspaper (to cover work surface)

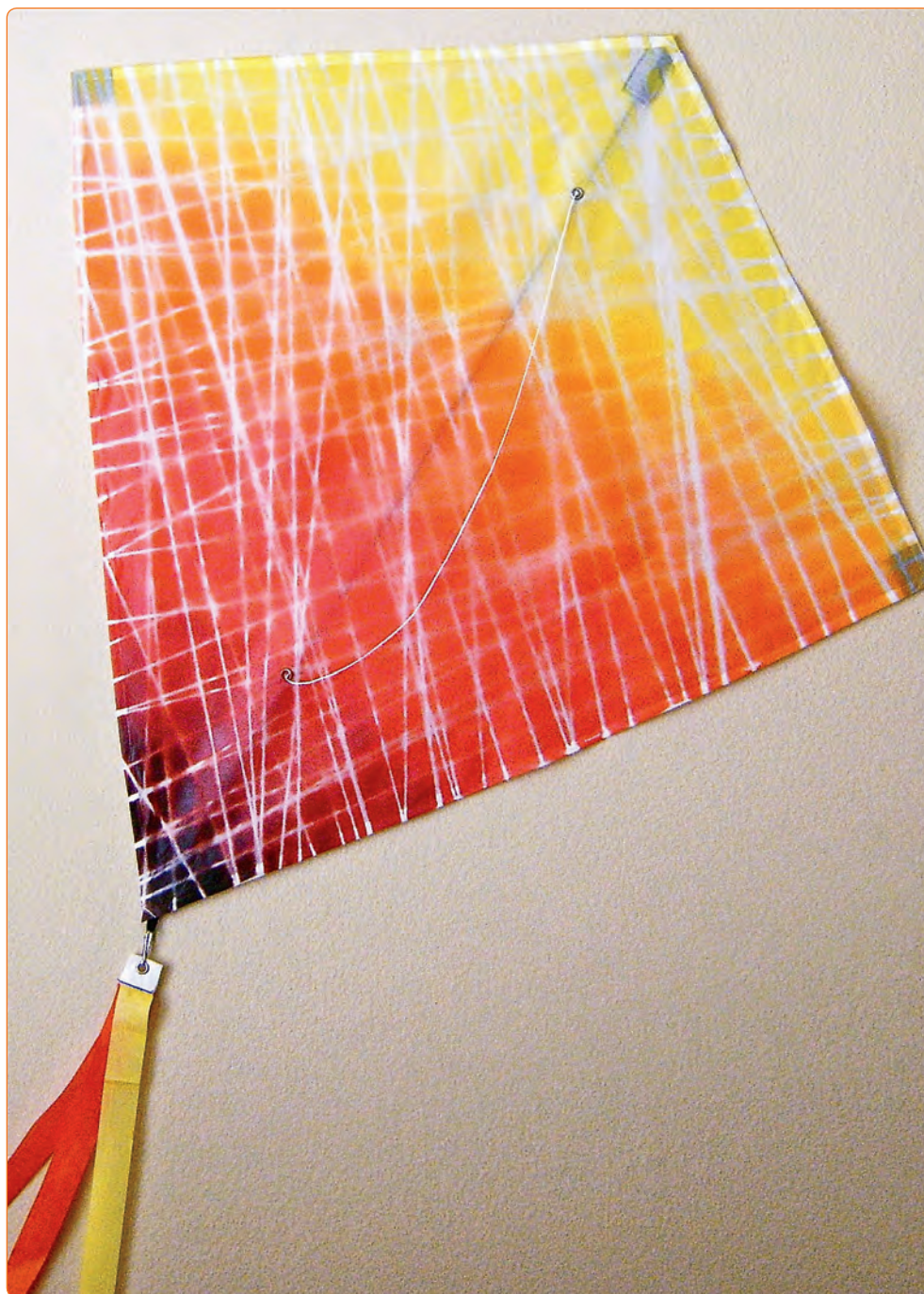
## DIRECTIONS

(Note: Mask off all surfaces to avoid overspray. Allow paint to dry thoroughly between steps.)

- 1 Remove plastic end cap on center kite rod and slide white cord off rod to detach it completely from fabric. Remove cord from kite. See **Photo 1**.



Photo 1



by Gloria Uhler ([www.domestic-divaonline.com](http://www.domestic-divaonline.com)) for Testors Corp. ([www.testors.com](http://www.testors.com))  
size: 30"x30", excluding tail



## airbrushing for family fun

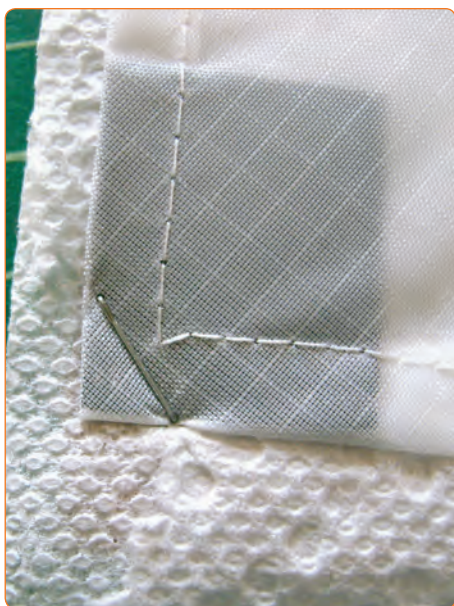


Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5

**2** Press folds out of kite fabric using synthetic setting on iron.

**3** Place kite fabric on cardboard and trace outline. With  $\frac{1}{2}$ " margin added to each side, cut kite shape from cardboard using craft knife. **Adults should help kids when using craft knife.**

**4** Cover cardboard with paper towels.

Place kite flat on cardboard surface and smooth out. Staple kite corners to cardboard. See **Photo 2**.

**5** Create design on kite by wrapping with yarn. Start by taping yarn end to backside of cardboard. See **Photo 3**.

**6** Wrap yarn around cardboard and kite in one direction from left to right. See **Photo 4**.

The more wraps you create, the more white will show through on finished project. Don't hesitate to wrap at odd angles to add interest.

**7** If yarn doesn't stay in place, simply create small slits in half-inch margin of cardboard around kite and slip yarn strands into them to hold yarn firmly. See **Photo 5**. Keep wrapping. When you have all the coverage you want, tape down end



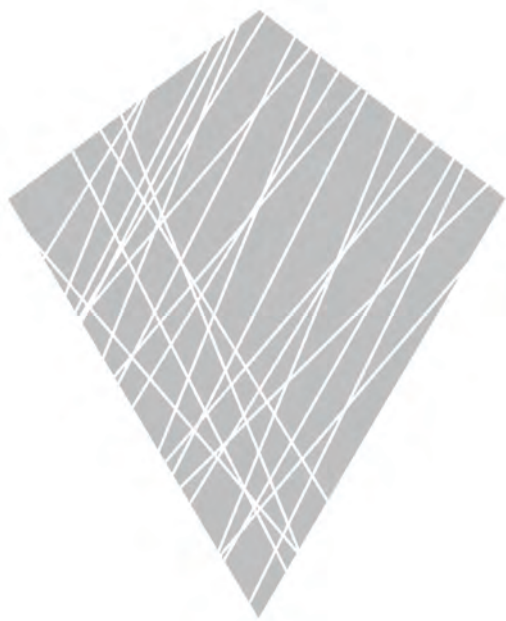


Photo 6

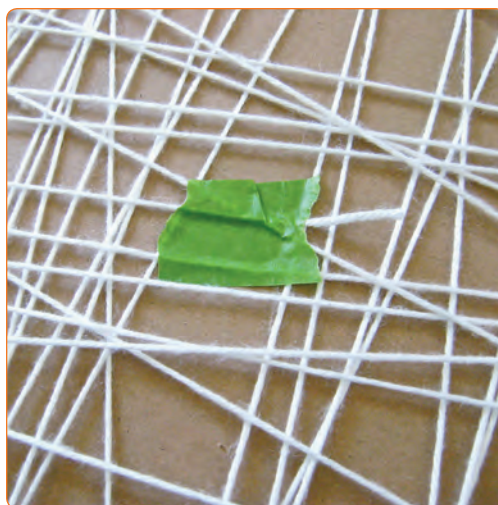


Photo 7

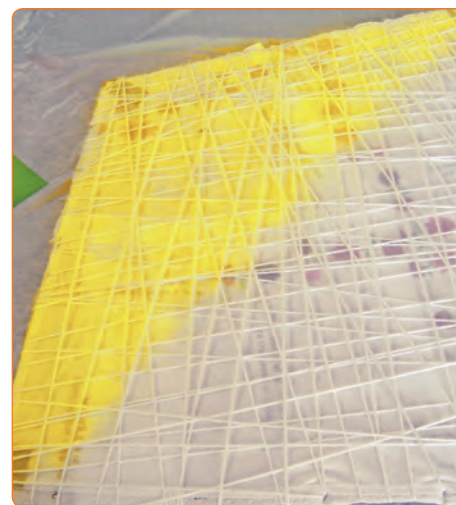


Photo 8

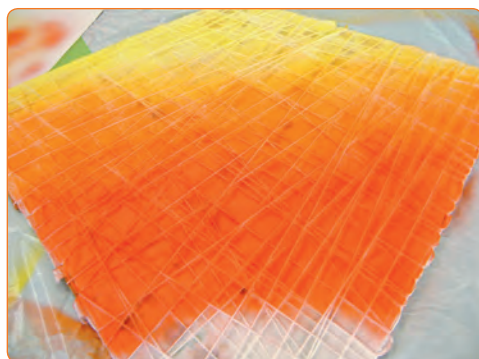


Photo 9

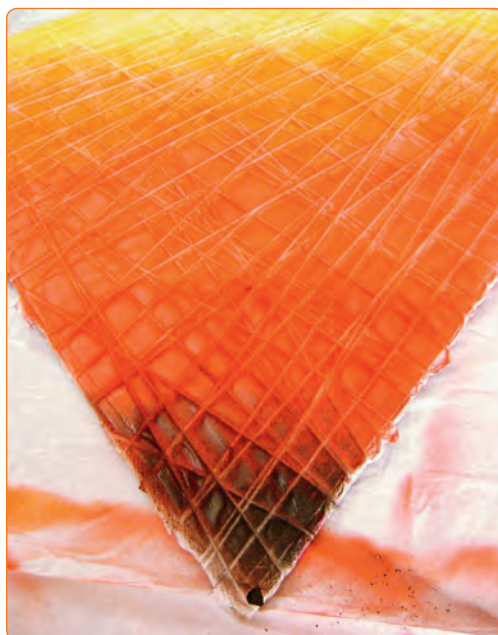


Photo 10

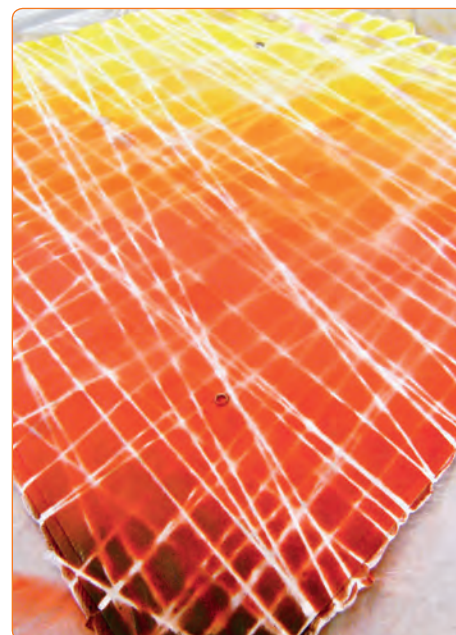


Photo 11

of yarn to backside of cardboard.

**8** Start new piece of yarn wrapping in opposite direction, from right to left. See **Photo 6**. Tape down end of yarn as before when you're done wrapping. See **Photo 7**.

**9** On protected work surface, airbrush top quarter of kite with yellow paint. See **Photo 8**.

**10** Overlapping bottom edge of yellow, airbrush another quarter of kite using orange paint. Switch to red paint and airbrush another quarter of kite using same overlap technique. See **Photo 9**.

**11** Add bit of black paint to red and airbrush half of remaining uncovered fabric. Finish painting with full-strength black paint. See **Photo 10**.

**12** When paint has dried completely, unwrap yarn. Using staple remover, release fabric from cardboard. See **Photo 11**.

**13** Cut paper towels into strips wider than kite tails. Lay one tail piece down on paper towel strip and airbrush it yellow. Repeat with remaining tail pieces using orange and red. See **Photo 12**.

**14** Assemble kite according to manufacturer's directions.

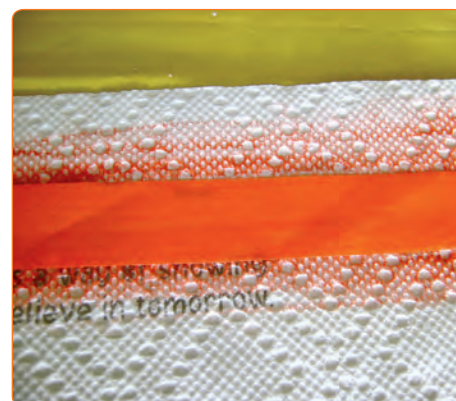


Photo 12



# rose lamp

**Infuse your décor with personality!** Use stencils and Testors' airbrushable paints to upgrade your plain old lamp with a charming design that complements the motif in your room and adds a bit of creative flair.



by Gloria Uhler ([www.domestic-divaonline.com](http://www.domestic-divaonline.com)) for Testors Corp.  
([www.testors.com](http://www.testors.com))  
size: varies

## MATERIALS

- Lamp shade of choice, 7" tall
- Small lamp base of choice
- Trims, approximately 3 yds. each: sheer polka dot ruffle with rosettes, black medallion with rhinestones

## TOOLS

- Testors Aztek Airbrush System with Airbrushable Opaque Acrylic Paints: Green (9451), Purple (9448), White (9440), Black (9441)
- Fine-tip paintbrush
- Rose or flower stencil of choice, 1¼" tall
- Craft knife
- Adhesives: 3M Scotch Spray Mount Repositionable Adhesive, hot glue gun with glue sticks

## BASIC SUPPLIES

disposable gloves, scissors, paper towels, painter's tape, wooden craft stick

## DIRECTIONS

*(Note: Allow all paint to dry between steps.)*

**1** Spray back of stencil with repositionable adhesive and position stencil on shade. Tape down stencil edges. Cover inside and outside of shade with paper towels to protect shade from overspray. See **Photo 1**.



**Photo 1**





Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6



Photo 7



Photo 8



Photo 9

**2** Cover leaf shapes on stencil with tape. Mix purple and white paints to match ruffle; airbrush flower sections of stencil. See **Photo 2**.

**3** Remove tape covering leaves. See **Photo 3**.

**4** Cover flower shapes with tape. Airbrush leaf sections of stencil with green paint. See **Photo 4**.

**5** Remove stencil and protective coverings from shade. See **Photo 5**.

**6** Hand paint black outline on flowers and leaves using fine-tip paintbrush. See **Photo 6**.

**7** Adhere ruffle to bottom edge of shade using hot glue. See **Photo 7**.

**8** Cut rhinestone trim segments to fit between rosettes on ruffled ribbon. Adhere to shade in center of ruffled trim using hot glue. Smooth with craft stick. See **Photo 8**.

**9** Adhere strip of rhinestone trim at base of lamp where desired. See **Photo 9**.

**TIP:** Create your own stencil by scanning a favorite stencil or image, resizing and grouping images if desired, and printing onto cardstock. Cut out using craft knife. This lamp was stenciled using *Wall and Mural Stencils* Rose Flower Stencil, which was scanned, resized, and grouped.



# kaleidoscope

**Gazing into a kaleidoscope** takes you to a world of unexplored delight. As light bounces off an array of colored glass beads and reflects into mirrors, endless beautiful patterns emerge to stimulate your imagination.



by Gloria Uhler ([www.domestic-divaonline.com](http://www.domestic-divaonline.com)) for Testors Corp.  
([www.testors.com](http://www.testors.com))  
size: 10½"x1½"

## DIRECTIONS

- 1 Cut mailing tube to 10" length using craft knife; set removed portion aside. (Note: Even after tube label is removed, remaining glue residue may interfere with final painted finish.)
- 2 Spray adhesive mount on one side of blank 8½"x11" printer paper.
- 3 Cut sheet of freezer paper to 8½"x11"; press to printer page with dull side against adhesive. See **Photo 1**.
- 4 Load bonded page into inkjet printer tray so print will appear on shiny side.

5 [Click here](#) to print text page onto bonded paper. (Note: Type on page, which gives a detailed description of a kaleidoscope and how it works, is intentionally backward.) Do not touch any type on printed page; letters will smudge very easily due to waxy finish.

6 Cut printed page to 5½"x10". Peel freezer paper away from blank page, but be prepared as freezer paper will want to curl up. Prevent curling by holding paper in blank margins and weighing it down during Step 7.



Photo 1



## MATERIALS

- Mailing tube, 1½" diameter
- Cardstock: white, silver metallic
- Darice Mirrors Plastic Mirror Sheet, 6"x9"
- Small clear plastic craft container with screw-on lid, 1⅜" diameter
- Foam pieces
- Beads: glass beads in various colors, 6/0; red, 4mm
- Rhinestones in various sizes and colors

## TOOLS

- Testors Aztek Airbrush System with Acrylic Paints: Model Master Grape Pearl (4650), Stop Light Red (4633), Dark Green Pearl (4670); Aztek Pearl Gold Acrylic (9742)
- Craft knife and cutting mat
- Sanding films
- Reynolds Plastic Coated Freezer Paper
- Adhesives: 3M Scotch Spray Mount Repositionable Adhesive, Elmer's White Glue

## BASIC SUPPLIES

computer with inkjet printer and paper, round hole punch, paper trimmer, scissors, spray bottle of water, paper towels, bath towel, ruler, painter's tape, newspapers to protect work surface



Photo 2



Photo 3

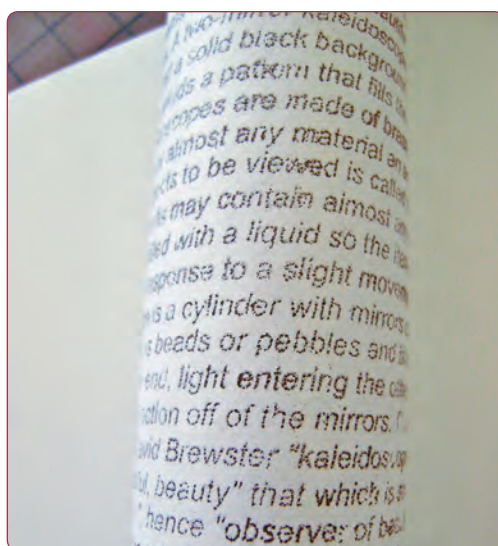


Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6

**7** Dampen paper towel with water using spray bottle. Wrap damp towel around mailing tube to dampen tube slightly. (Note: Too much water on tube will blur lettering when it is transferred.) Test how much water is needed by practicing on the reserved excess tube. See **Photo 2**.

**8** Remove paper towel from tube. To transfer type, press printed page onto tube and wrap it around. Press entire page to tube with hands or back of large spoon. Do not slide or move page. See **Photo 3**.

**9** Type will darken when it comes in contact with dampness. (Note: This is how you know the type transferred.) It is not necessary for type to transfer perfectly. Some faded spots will add interest. See **Photo 4**. Remove printed page and allow tube to dry; use blow dryer if desired.

**10** If cut end of tube is slightly irregular or looks frayed, smooth and straighten with sanding film.

**11** Spray tube with gold metallic paint in irregular patterns using airbrushing system. Put down heavy amounts of paint in some areas and lighter amounts in others, leaving faint coat in some areas. The objective is to have legible type on the majority of tube.

**12** [Click here](#) to print stencil onto white cardstock; cut out black areas using scissors and craft knife. Spray back of stencil with

adhesive. Press sticky side of stencil onto bath towel, then peel off. Repeat several times to minimize stickiness of adhesive. (Note: Too much adhesive may pull paint and type off when stencil is removed from tube.)

**13** Place stencil on tube with long straight edge 5" away from bottom end of tube. Use tape to keep stencil wrapped around tube if necessary. Protect rest of tube and stencil openings from overspray. See **Photo 5**.

**14** Spray bottom, large open area with purple paint using airbrush system. Then spray purple, red, green, and gold paint on stars and other shapes. Plan where each color will be applied by marking stencil. When painting is complete, remove stencil. See **Photo 6**. Let tube dry completely.

# airbrushing for family fun



Photo 7



Photo 8



Photo 9

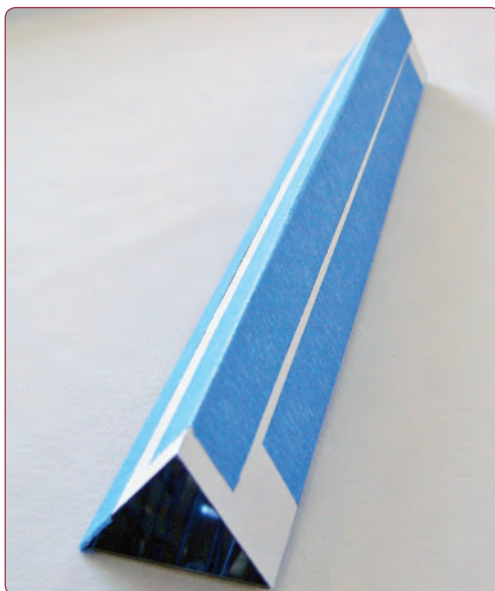


Photo 10

**TIP:** For optimum viewing, hold bead end of kaleidoscope up to window or other light source. Turn tube in hands toward light source while looking through viewing hole. Occasionally jiggle tube to redistribute beads to provide unlimited image combinations.

**17** With scuffed side facing out, place bead container halfway into cut end of tube. See **Photo 8**. Adhere rhinestones to stars and other painted shapes as shown.

**18** Begin making mirror "tent" by cutting mirror sheet into three 1 3/8"x10" strips. Place strips mirror side down on work surface; tape together. See **Photo 9**. Remove clear protective film from mirrors.

**19** Tape last two edges together to form triangular tent. See **Photo 10**.

**20** Insert mirror tent into tube. Place foam pieces between mirror tent and tube wall to prevent tent from shifting inside when kaleidoscope is rotated. See **Photo 11**.

**21** Make viewing hole by cutting out most of center of mailing tube's plastic cap using craft knife. See **Photo 12**. Leave enough cap surface to adhere cap cover.

**22** Using cap as pattern, cut out piece of silver cardstock to cover cap. Punch clean hole in center. Adhere cardstock cover to cap. See **Photo 13**. Let dry completely.



Photo 11



Photo 12



Photo 13

**15** Scuff bottom side of clear plastic container using sanding film. Sand enough to prevent clear view through plastic.

**16** Add glass beads to container; screw on cap. Make kaleidoscope interesting by matching bead colors to tube's paint colors. See **Photo 7**.





# marie carter

**A little bit about me...** I was blessed to be born into an artistic family and was inspired by family members to paint mixed media art and watercolor paintings on canvas.

I learned different art techniques over time through trial and error, and by helping my mom, dad, and grandpa work on their creative pursuits. My family has always encouraged me to try new things and to not be afraid of failure. Failure leads to lessons learned and new paths traveled.

After high school, I started a business painting murals inside of homes and businesses, and on the outside of buildings. It was definitely a crash course in business 101. Over time, I have evolved into a mixed media artist, and my favorite disciplines are fiber arts and doll making.

Currently, I live in Stillman Valley, IL, and am inspired to create in an old dairy barn. I dye and spin wool roving into art yarns for sweaters, doll hair and felting. I have Lampworking tools that enable me to create custom beads that are used as adornments for clothing and jewelry. My dolls are made from heavyweight muslin fabric and feature jointed elbows, shoulders, hips and knees. Their faces are hand painted and their hair and dresses are crafted from top quality wool that I have dyed and spun. Check out my website at [www.spilledpaint.com](http://www.spilledpaint.com).

Additional examples of my work can be found on my "Spilledpaint" Etsy Shop and at [www.pinterest.com/spilledpaint](http://www.pinterest.com/spilledpaint). I designed The Maiden of the Sea mermaid doll in this issue, too!

**DESIGNER TIP:** When designing a new creation, trust your gut and go for it – you can't do anything wrong!





# the maiden of the sea

☞ **While a mermaid's song is irresistible**, this wide-eyed gal will capture your child's heart with her flashy hair and vibrant colors. Testors' airbrushing systems and paints make it easy to create!



by Marie Carter for Testors ([www.testors.com](http://www.testors.com))  
size: 15" tall

## MATERIALS

- Medium-weight muslin, ¼ yd.
- Fiberfill stuffing
- Large pink emerald-cut gemstone
- Mixed fiber/texture yarn in coordinating color (yarns available [here](#))
- Ribbon or scrap fabric, 3"x9"

## TOOLS

- Testors Aztek Airbrush System with Airbrushable Acrylic Paints: Model Master Hot Pink Pearl (4640), Green Gloss (4669), Gun Metal Semi Gloss (4681), Reefer White Flat (4873); Aztek Opaque Peach (9444), Opaque White (9440), Opaque Red (9446), Opaque Turquoise (9450), Pearl Gold (9472)
- Small paintbrush
- Sewing machine, needle, and coordinating thread
- Sharpie Fine Point Black Permanent Marker
- Hot glue gun with glue sticks

## BASIC SUPPLIES

pencil, baking parchment paper, scissors, masking tape, quarters, dimes, straight pins

## DIRECTIONS

### the basics

**1** [Click here](#) to print pattern; tape body to tail. Trace onto parchment paper; cut out mermaid body and choice of arm, with or without thumb, on traced line from parchment paper. See **Photo 1**.

**2** Fold muslin in half with right sides facing. While fabric is doubled, trace one body and two arms onto top layer using light pencil mark. See **Photo 2**.





Photo 1

**3** Keeping fabric doubled, move to sewing machine. Set machine on medium stitch length and sew on traced line. Start on one side of tab and go all the way around, stopping at other side of tab. Backstitch at both ends. Go around each piece twice. Cut away excess fabric about 1/8" from sewn line. See **Photo 3**. Do not cut off tab. Flip all pieces right side out, using eraser end of pencil to help push ends out.

**4** Fold tabs even with seam. This will create clean lines to hand-sew closed after stuffing.

**5** Start stuffing body with fiberfill down by tail and work up until middle. Stuff head tight, making sure seams are pushed out and smooth, then firmly stuff neck and shoulders. Fill in body until nice and firm. Hand-sew opening shut. Fill arms from fingertips up. If desired, add stuffing in thumb. Hand-sew opening closed. See **Photo 4**. Attach arms to shoulders with needle and thread. See **Photo 5**. Mermaid is ready to be painted.

## airbrush painting

*(Note: Use small scrap of muslin to test any colors before using them on doll. Remember to apply paint to both front and back of doll body.)*

**6** To get nice flesh tone color, mix (1:1) Peach + White. Lightly go around seams of doll. Add small amount of color under chin area and to cheeks and belly. See **Photo 6**.

**7** Add drop or two of Red to flesh tone. Spray big rosy cheeks on doll. Use same rosy color for tail area and add some leopard-like spots along side seams of tail. See **Photo 7**.



Photo 2



Photo 3

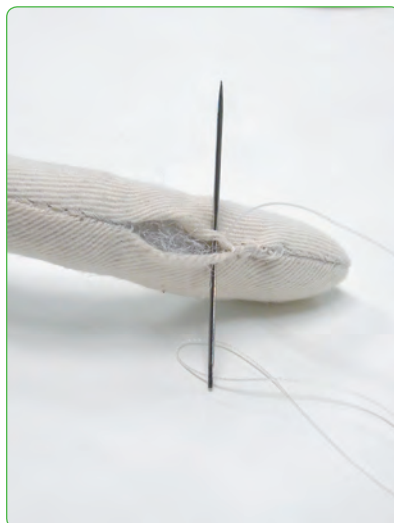


Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6



Photo 7



# airbrushing for family fun



Photo 8



Photo 9



Photo 10



Photo 11



Photo 12



Photo 13



Photo 14



Photo 15



Photo 16



Photo 17



Photo 18

**8** Switch color to Turquoise. Go wild and color in tail. Have fun with lighter and darker areas. Make sure tail is completely covered. See **Photos 8-9**. Set airbrush aside.

**9** Tear masking tape into random little pieces. Place tape pieces onto front and back tail mosaic-style, leaving gaps between them. See **Photo 10**.

**10** Using Gold, airbrush all gaps between tape pieces. Go over main tail section several times for good heavy coverage. See **Photo 11**. Let paint dry thoroughly.

**11** When paint has dried, remove tape pieces. See **Photo 12-13**.

## hand painting

**12** Place two quarters on face to mark where eyes will go. See **Photo 14**.

**13** Trace around quarters with pencil. Lightly sketch nose (*Note: Nose is the letter "C" turned on its side.*) and lips using pencil. See **Photo 15**. Use dimes to trace irises onto eye. See **Photo 16**.

**14** Outline sketched pencil marks using Sharpie marker, adding additional details as desired. See **Photos 17-18**.





Photo 19



Photo 20

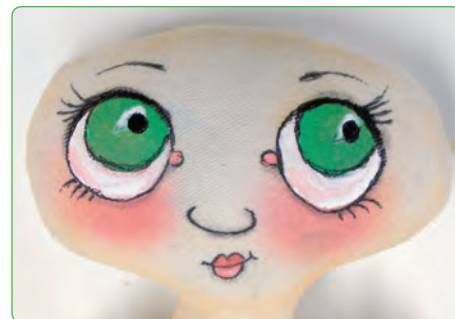


Photo 21



Photo 22



Photo 23



Photo 24



Photo 25



Photo 26

**15** Paint in whites of eye, eye color, and lips using paintbrush; let dry. See **Photo 19**. Using Sharpie marker, replace any lines that faded or were covered by paint.

**16** Add pupils and highlights to eye, as well as any additional details as desired. See **Photos 20-21**.

## finishing

**17** Wrap yarn around CD case or small book, then cut across looped strands to create several pieces, all the same length. See **Photo 22**. Repeat as necessary to replenish supply.

**18** Fold one yarn strand in half. Using glue gun, adhere folded end of yarn along seam at top of head a few pieces at a time. See

**Photo 23**. Repeat to fill in hair line all around top seam.

**19** On back of head at chin level, draw pencil line to follow. See **Photo 24**. Continue adhering hair along this line.

**20** Draw pencil line down centerline of back of head. See **Photo 25**. Adhere hair along line as before.

**21** Shake hair. Fill in areas as desired. See **Photo 26**.

**22** Pinch ribbon or fabric strip in middle; twist one complete turn. Using glue gun, adhere center twist of strip to doll in middle of chest. Wrap ends around to back and adhere. Adhere gemstone and any other desired embellishments or decorations. See **Photo 27**.



Photo 27



# helpful tips, techniques & inspiration



to start the paint flow. When completing a spray, the reverse is true. End the paint flow and then turn your air off.

**3** When beginning your work or changing colors, you should always spray on a piece of scrap paper, instead of your project. That will help to avoid any mistakes from colors that have not cleaned through your airbrush and will help prevent spattering paint.

**4** When spraying, keep the spray consistent by moving the airbrush with your elbow, not the wrist.

**5** Always airbrush in a well-ventilated area, whether inside or out, and wear latex gloves so the paint will not absorb into your skin.

**6** Always spray with the airbrush perpendicular to the surface. Spraying at an angle will produce overspray.

**7** The thicker the paint that you are spraying, the more air pressure you will need. If the paint is splattering out of your airbrush, it needs to be thinned. If the paint disperses unevenly (thin at the center of impact and running on the sides) it is too thin, you are spraying too close or you are using too much air pressure.

**8** To thin paint, use the correct thinner for the type of paint you are spraying: water for water-based products, petroleum-based or solvents for the other types.

**9** When you are first learning to airbrush, use water-based paints that are specifically formulated for an airbrush. They do not require thinning and are easy to clean up. That way you can focus on your technique.

**10** Finally, as with anything that you are trying to learn, practice is the key.

## top 10 airbrushing tips:

**1** Most airbrush malfunctions are the result of an airbrush that needs to be cleaned. Airbrushes should be rinsed between color changes, unless you are blending colors. Your airbrush should also be cleaned after every use.

**2** When using a double-action airbrush, it is important to depress the trigger mechanism to begin the airflow and then pull the trigger back



## a few techniques:

There are two general methods of airbrushing: Freehand and Masking. Using a frisking film or stencil is also considered a masking technique. Most airbrushers incorporate both methods into their work. Freehand airbrushing has a softer look with unrefined edges. If you want to achieve more distinct lines with your airbrush, you will need to use a stencil or masking object.

*Masking* is when you use an object, such as masking tape or a piece of paper, to shield a section of your work surface from the airbrush spray. The closer a mask is to your work surface, the more defined the paint edge becomes. The further away the mask is from the work surface the less defined the edge becomes.

For instance if you adhere a piece of masking tape to a t-shirt and spray over it, when you pull up the tape, there will be distinct lines on either side of where the tape was placed. Similarly when you place a piece of paper a couple of inches from the surface of the t-shirt and spray over it, the edge will be less defined but not soft like a freehand spray.

*Stencils* can be taped to your work surface or held over your work surface. Taping your stencil (or purchasing a stencil with adhesive backing) will provide you with a crisp line. Simply holding the stencil over the surface will enable some of the overspray to get under the edges of the stencil and result in a softer edge. When you decide what “look” you are going for, airbrush paint over the cut-out portions of the stencil. (Be sure to cover the project area around the stencil with paper, tape or cloth to prevent undesired overspray.) Spray the paint over and to either side of the cutouts, to avoid puddling. You will

want to remove the stencil before the paint dries, otherwise, some of the paint may come with the stencil when you pull it up.

A *Stipple Effect* is great for developing texture on your surface. There are two ways to produce the stipple effect. One way is to set the psi on your air compressor down to just a couple of pounds of pressure. The low psi results in incomplete atomization of the paint and your airbrush will spray large paint specks. The other way is to bounce the paint off of one object onto the surface of another. For example using a popsicle stick as the object you are going to bounce paint from, you would place the airbrush nozzle assembly right up next to the end of the popsicle stick. The closer you place the airbrush nozzle to the end of the stick, the finer the spray will be. The farther away from the end you place it, the larger the spray will be. Angle the popsicle stick and airbrush so that when you spray the paint, it will bounce off of the popsicle stick and onto your work surface.



## inspiration: i have an airbrush, now what do i do?

When you are first learning to use your airbrush, just spray the paint onto scrap paper, newsprint, cardboard, whatever. Become familiar with how the tool works. Learn how to use the trigger. Experiment with the air pressure. Release varying amounts of paint while fluctuating the air pressure. Spray close to your paper and then far away, to see how the spray pattern changes. Learn how to change colors. Learn how to clean your airbrush between colors. After you become comfortable with how your airbrush operates, you can try to get a little more creative. Below are some basic airbrush exercises that you should master.

### dots

Try to spray dots. You can create these by holding the airbrush close to your work surface, releasing the air and spraying the paint in a quick blast, without moving your hand. The farther you are from your work surface, the larger the dot will be.

### lines

Practice creating thin lines by getting close to your surface, using a very light amount of air pressure and releasing a small amount of paint. Keep the air pressure and volume of paint being sprayed consistent, while moving the airbrush steadily from left to right or top to bottom. To keep from having a blob of paint at the beginning or end of your line, start moving your hand before you start spraying and stop moving your hand after you stop spraying.

### dagger strokes

If you vary the distance between the airbrush and your work surface, while spraying and simultaneously moving your hand parallel to the surface, you will create dagger stroke. This a great technique to learn for forming letters in script.





## frequently asked questions



### Where can I purchase Testors Aztek airbrushes, compressors and paints?

Testors products are available nationwide at all Michaels, select craft stores, art supply retailers, and online merchants.

### What is the advantage of using an airbrush over a spray can?

You can't possibly get the detail and accuracy of an airbrush from a spray can. Depending upon the quality of your airbrush equipment, the finish effect is very uniform and blends nicely. The fine spray mist and precise control that an airbrush enables also results in significantly less fumes in the air.

### How do I clean my Aztek airbrush?

Aztek airbrushes are the most easy-to-clean airbrush systems on the market. The innovative tip technology allows for you to clean the accessories and NOT the airbrush body. You DO NOT disassemble the body of an Aztek airbrush like you would a standard model. Clean your airbrush after every use, optimally when the paint is still wet.

DO NOT IMMERSE THE AIRBRUSH BODY IN ANY THINNERS OR CLEANERS, INCLUDING WATER. Soaking the airbrush in solvents may damage some internal components, and removes the lubrication needed for the tool to function properly.

For detailed cleaning tips and instructions, please refer to Question #5 in the "FAQ" section found under "Help & Support" on Testors.com. [Click here](#) for information.

### What types of paints can be sprayed through the airbrush?

Any paint can be sprayed through the airbrush as long as it can be thinned to a flow-able consistency (such as that of milk) with the appropriate thinner.

### Can I spray different types of paint through the same airbrush?

Yes, although you should thoroughly clean the airbrush between paint types. This removes the residual paint and minimizes the chances of cross contamination.

### What air pressure level should I select when airbrushing?

Start at a lower air pressure, around 10-15 psi. Spray the paint

and gauge what type of finish you are getting. Adjust the psi until you get your desired "look".

A higher pressure atomizes the paint into finer droplets and helps to prevent clogs, but it also can result in more overspray and, since the paint droplets are so tiny, they may dry too quickly.

A lower pressure results in less overspray, more paint sticking to the surface, and provides the artist with more control over the volume of paint being applied. However, it also results in a coarser finish since larger paint droplets are being sprayed and clogging is more apt to happen.

### How do I prevent my airbrush from clogging?

Use paints that are specifically formulated for airbrushing. If using a regular paint, thin the paint to the viscosity of milk. If your paint is still clogging, strain it or thin it a little more. You can also increase your air pressure, or try cleaning your airbrush, as specified above.

For stubborn clogs, use an airbrush cleaning solution recommended for the type of paint you are using and give your airbrush a thorough cleaning.

### Why are there different size tips for the airbrush?

Different tip sizes enable the user to achieve different size/volume sprays, to airbrush different paint viscosities (thick or thin), and to create a variety of special effects. There are generally three tip categories to choose from: fine, medium, heavy.

### How do I remove your paint from fabric or carpet?

If you have a paint that has just spilled, water based acrylics will come up with water. Blot out with water and keep rinsing, followed by soapy water. For enamels, try acetone nail polish remover or mineral spirits; you will need to blot and not try to scrub out. In both cases, it is tough to

get paint completely out when you have a porous substrate. Fabric can be even more difficult because certain types of fabric can react with solvents, like mineral spirits, and can harm the fibers. It has been known to remove the dye from fabric or carpet. Once the paint has started to dry, it becomes even more difficult to remove, and the likelihood of getting all the paint removed is not probable. Always test fabric with the solvent in an area that won't be seen in case it does discolor the fabric.

### airbrush trouble-shooting tips

#### airbrush will not spray

- The nozzle is not inserted tightly enough and air is leaking into the paint line. Use the cleaning wrench; tighten hand tight and another ¼ turn with the nozzle wrench.
- The needle tip is bent. Replace with a new nozzle.
- The nozzle is clogged with dried paint. Remove and wash.
- Is the paint thin enough? Try cleaning out all passageways of the airbrush and paint cup, and thin the paint to the consistency of whole milk.
- Check the compressor power. Are you getting enough compressed air? If it's less than 18-20 psi, the airbrush may not spray even enamels properly. If you don't know the pressure, you can add a regulator to gauge your pressure.
- Check to see if the propellant or compressor has been turned on. Is air coming out of the nozzle when the trigger is depressed?
- Pressure in your canister of propellant may have dropped. Try placing your can in a bowl with room-temperature water to maintain a constant pressure and keep the can from freezing up.
- Check airline for kinks.
- Check that there is a blanking plug in the unused port.
- Check for paint in paint cup.
- Remove paint cup and blanking plug and clean between ports.
- Install new nozzle and thoroughly clean old one.

#### air bubbles in paint jar

- The nozzle is not inserted tightly enough and air is leaking into the paint line. Use the cleaning wrench to re-tighten the nozzle.
- Paint buildup on the needle causes air to blow back into nozzle. Clean the nozzle tip or replace (see cleaning instruction).
- The needle tip is bent. It cannot be fixed; replace nozzle.

#### intermittent spray

- Nozzle may not be tight enough, air is getting into the paint line and air is being sprayed. Re-tighten nozzle.
- Build up on the needle is interrupting the spray (common with acrylic paints). Thin the paint, reduce the air pressure and re-clean the nozzles.
- Nozzle may be damaged. Closely inspect it for bent needles and cracks (do not disassemble); try a new nozzle.

#### paint splits in line

- Nozzle needs cleaning, re-clean nozzle and air cap. Paint may be building up on the side walls.
- Make sure that the paint and nozzle type match.
- Check consistency of media, re-mix if necessary. Poorly mixed or lumpy paint goes through an airbrush at irregular speed.
- Moisture may be coming from compressor; you may need a moisture trap.
- Nozzles may be damaged, replace if necessary.

#### paint sprays continually

- Roller is too far open, adjust roller setting to loosen trigger.
- Nozzle needs cleaning, or it could be damaged. Removing the needle and spring can stretch; this causes the nozzle not to shut out.
- May have internal airbrush issues, will need to be returned to Testors for testing.

#### spider spray pattern

- Air pressure is too great for paint and nozzle, lower psi.
- Paint is too thin for selected pressure and nozzle.
- Wrong nozzle for paint and pressure setting, try another nozzle.
- Airbrush is too close to the surface being sprayed.

#### reverse flow

The "Reverse Flow" or "Back Flow" method is common for most other brands of airbrushes, however it should not be used with any of the Aztek Airbrushes. Please do not use this method; the paint should never be forced to flow through the airbrush body. Over time, paint may build up on the control mechanism and cause it to fail. The only parts that need to be cleaned are the nozzles and the nozzle housing.

If the airbrush still doesn't work, you can contact Customer Service for assistance or return the airbrush for evaluation. (See instructions on returning airbrush).





kaleidoscope  
2 patterns

TEXT BACKGROUND  
(print onto bonded paper)

*(Note: Type is intentionally backward.)*



## Return to pattern instructions



STENCIL  
(cut from white cardstock; cut out black areas)



kaleidoscope  
2 patterns



[Return to pattern instructions](#)





the maiden of the sea  
4 patterns

ARM W/THUMB  
(trace 2 onto  
doubled muslin)

MERMAID BODY  
(trace onto doubled muslin)

attach tail here



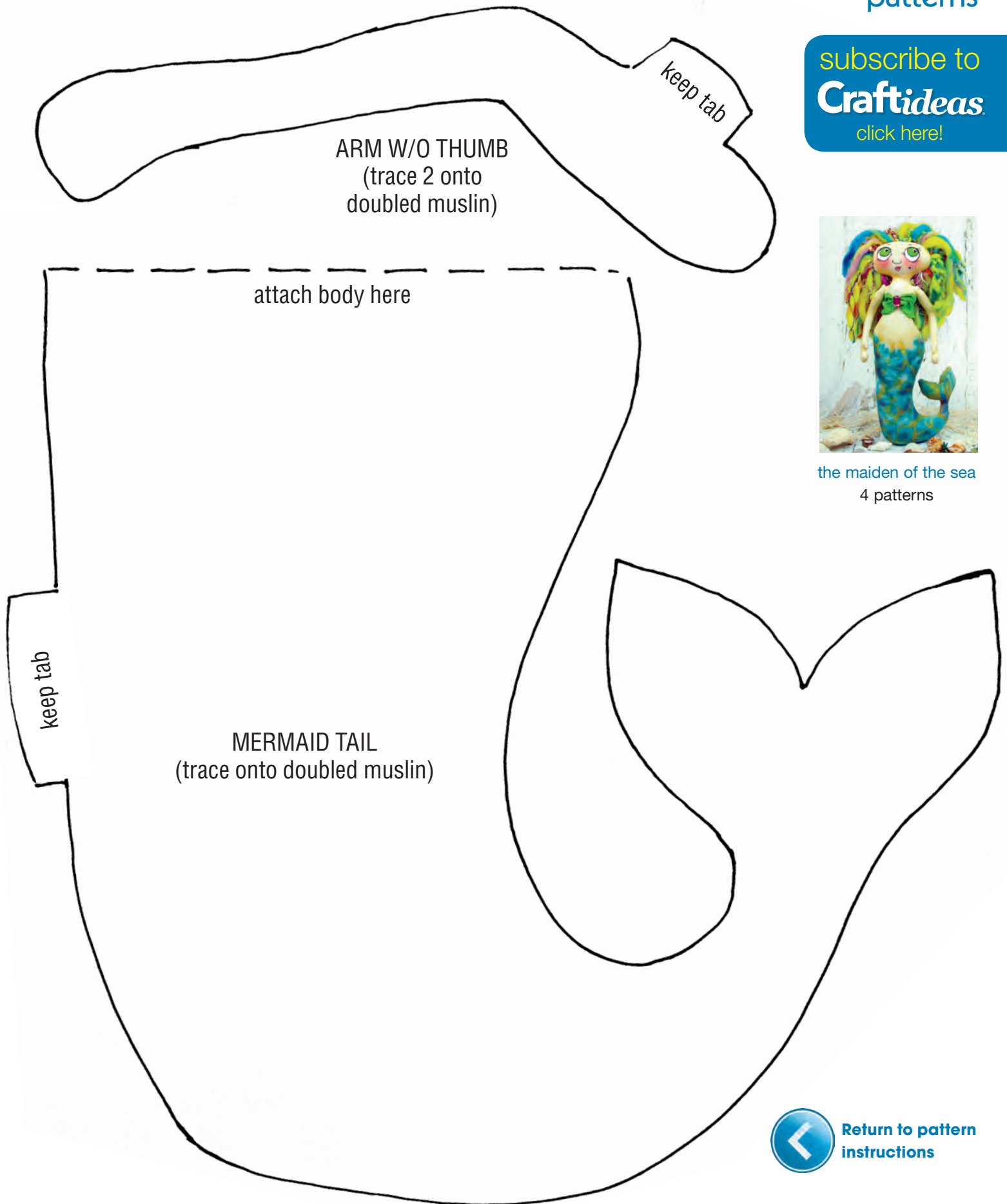
Return to pattern  
instructions

(Note: Outlines are for tracing/sewing.  
**DO NOT CUT FABRIC ON LINES.** See instructions.)

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the maiden of the sea  
4 patterns



Return to pattern  
instructions



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