

Acrylic Skins

Coloured skins can be made from any Golden Heavy Body or Fluid Acrylic paint. Clear skins can be made from almost any of the Golden Gels & Mediums, and I have had good success with Soft Gel (Gloss), Self-Levelling Clear Gel, Polymer Medium, and Fluid Matte Medium.

Skins can be made on glass and on polyethylene rubbish bags, which the acrylic won't stick permanently to. If using rubbish bags cut out a section and tape it down as wrinkle-free as possible over some cardboard or similar flat surface.

Spread a thin layer of gel or paint over the surface of the bag with a spatula or palette knife. The film should be about 0.5 – 1.5mm thick. This film will take between 8 – 48hrs to properly dry depending on the material used (paint dries more quickly than gel), thickness of the layer, and weather conditions.

Once the skin has dried, an edge can be lifted off the rubbish bag using a palette knife, and the skin peeled off. The side in contact with the rubbish bag is the smoothest side.



A marbled paint skin is peeled from the rubbish bag.

Stack your skins between grease-proof paper, as they can stick to paper and each other.

The skin can then be adhered to a surface using Soft Gel (Gloss), or can be painted with Digital Ground Clear if you want to print on it using your desktop (inkjet) printer.

To do this, paint the smooth side of your skin with Digital Ground (a foam brush works best) and leave to dry, about 30 minutes. Position the skin on a carrier sheet (A4 paper) and tape down the leading edge and one side using a low-tack tape such as Magic Removable Tape. Load it into your paper stack and print!