



## Technical Data Sheet

### Illustration Colors, Illustration Opaque Colors, Bloodline, Lifeline Water-Based Acrylic Resin

#### **Description**

Illustration Colors are Createx's flagship airbrush paints designed for refined atomization and flow through the smallest of airbrush tip sizes, at low psi settings, without a stippled pattern when faded from a tint to a saturated color.

All Illustration Colors dry to a matte finish. Illustration Colors, Bloodline and Lifeline are transparent paints with no filler added and made with a saturated pigment volume for coverage out of the bottle. Illustration Opaque Colors have added filler for increased coverage. All color types share the same resin and are collectively herein referred to as "Illustration Colors".

#### **Soft Erasing**

Illustration Colors are unique in that the final cure is delayed for 48 hours, during which the colors may be "soft erased" for subtle manipulation. After this open cure window, Illustration Colors cure to a hard coating. When mixed with 4030, Illustration Colors do not soft erase.

Originally developed by artist Dru Blair, Illustration Colors work excellent for some unique reductive techniques and manipulation of the paint while it cures. For exceptional airbrush technique instruction, visit [schoolofrealism.com](http://schoolofrealism.com).

#### **Airbrush & Spray-Gun Settings**

Illustration Colors spray out-of-the-bottle through any tip-sized airbrush at a wide variety of settings. Although most artist will lower the paint's viscosity by thinning with 4011 Reducer 5% - 20% per volume, Illustration Colors spray well without thinning.

Airbrush: Any tip size, generally 1.0 – 2.5 bar  
Spray-Gun: 1.2mm – 1.3mm, ~ 1.2 – 1.5 bar  
Mini-Gun: 0.8 – 1.2mm, ~ 1.4 – 1.8 bar

#### **Mixing & Thinning**

Illustration Colors may be sprayed out-of-the-bottle or thinned with 4011 Reducer or 4013 Reducer.  
- 4011 Reducer is the standard thinner.

Airbrush: Generally, colors are thinned 5% – 20% per volume.

- Add reducer in small increments of about 5% per vol., until colors flow & atomize into fine droplets of color

Spray-Gun: Add reducer 5% - 10% per volume

For hard-surface & automotive application, mix colors with 4030 Balancing Clear 10% per volume, then thin with reducer.

- Improves flow, adhesion & mar resistance.

- Generally, colors thinned 10% - 20% per vol.

Allow reduced paint 10+ minutes to acclimate before spraying for optimum flow & leveling after drying as reducer breaks down water surface-tension in paint. Deionized or distilled water may be used as a thinner up to 10% per volume. Exceeding this may result in loss of adhesion and extended drying times.

#### **Drying Times and Humidity**

Dry Times & Curing are set to a constant temperature of 21 °C and 50% Relative Humidity. Extend drying times in colder temperatures down to 16 °C. Painting in lower temperatures not recommended.

Generally, colors dry to the touch in 10 – 15 minutes.

- Thinning with reducer 5% - 10% per vol. shortens dry times, as does mixing with 4030 Balancing Clear.

Use air movement, not heat, to assist drying. Force drying with heat may result in adhesion failure.

When painting in humid conditions, mix 4020 Reducer with 4011 Reducer for a quicker-flashing thinner. Mix in any ratio.



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#### Application

Illustration Colors are a fluid acrylic paint. They may be applied with a brush, airbrush or spray-gun.

Colors are made with lightfast pigments and an acrylic resin which is durable and non-water soluble after its completely cured. Final cure is after 48 hours drying time.

Taping & masking: Colors work well as an automotive, transparent color when mixed with 4030 Balancing Clear.

- Refer to Hard-Surface & Automotive Guide for more information on process to hard-surface.
- Allow for extended times when masking onto colors not mixed with 4030; ~ 4 – 6 hours min. dry time

Strain colors prior to use. Once opened, dried paint inside the bottle & cap may go back into the paint.

For application onto hard-plastics and other hard-to paint substrates, apply 4050 UVLS Gloss Clear as an adhesive primer, then apply Illustration Colors after 4050 Clear has dried. 4050 adheres to any substrate except silicone.

5092 Adhesion Promoter is a water-based clear used to make Bloodline and other water-based paints stick to latex.

- Also works as an adhesion promoter for flexible plastics, leather, vinyl and more.
- Apply 2 medium coats direct to the surface, allow each coat to dry 10 – 15 minutes then apply paint.
- Avoid applying dry or overly wetter, adhesion is best applied as a medium coat.
- May also be mixed with colors and applied direct to the latex. 5092 is added about 25% per vol. to colors, which are then thinned 5% - 10% with 4011 Reducer. This is Tim Gore's technique, creator of Bloodline & 5092. Please experiment with mix ratios and drying times.

Top-coat with a durable clear such as Createx UVLS Clears for exterior applications, for a gloss or satin finish, or to protect from repeated, direct handling & contact.

- Compatible with a wide range of clear types, including solvent-based, catalyzed urethane automotive clears.
- Sanding not required prior to applying clear.

#### Cleaning after Illustration Colors Cure

Colors should only be cleaned after the paint has thoroughly dried, best 72 hours after application. Delayed cross-linking feature means it takes longer for them to dry and not be affected by a cleaning prior to top-coating with a clear.

When mixed with 4030, colors are safe to clean 4 – 6 hours air drying after application.

Use a solvent-based degreaser or odorless mineral spirits.

#### Pot-Life & Storage

Illustration Colors do not have a pot-life.

Store air-tight in a cool, dry environment away from direct light.

Keep capped air-tight when not pouring paint. Fresh air promotes curing of paint at the surface level.

Long-term storage of paint is affected after mixing with reducer. Only reduce paint intended for use over a few weeks.

Adding reducer promotes curing and accelerates drying when exposed to fresh air.

Over-reduced paint, that is paint mixed with reducer past 10% per volume, should only be stored for a few days. Long term storage is questionable.



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#### **Cleaning Airbrush & Spray Gun After Painting**

Colors are best rinsed from the airbrush or spray-gun with 5618 Airbrush Cleaner or 4011 Reducer. Use 4008 Restorer as a rinse for final clean to remove dried paint.

#### **Health & Safety**

Use in a well-ventilated area. Avoid contact with eyes. Wash hands thoroughly with soap and warm water after use. Do not ingest. Use in a well-ventilated. Wear a respirator when painting. Eye contact: Rinse with clean water for 15 minutes. Seek medical attention.

Refer to Illustration Colors SDS for additional information.

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