

Mediums In Class:

A medium is used to change the viscosity of the paint. (To allow it to flow more smoothly on the canvas.) Depending on the medium used, you can change whether you want a painting to be glossy, or matte, or if you want your paint to dry fast, or slow.

Oil:

1/2 turpentine - (mineral spirits to help thin the medium) - Distillate of pine resin. Used as a thinner for oil paints and mediums. Properly called "pure gum spirits of turpentine." Used to thin paints or mediums. Should not be used for cleaning brushes. It leaves a gummy residue. Turps must be free of water or impurities, so it is necessary to use only artist grade.

1/2 linseed oil - (stand oil is more dense linseed oil) - An extraction from the seed of the flax plant, the same plant that is used to make linen for canvas.

How to apply mediums and how much: Fat over lean: Fat over lean is better understood as 'flexible over less flexible'. The proportion of medium used in each successive layer of oil colour should be increased. The higher proportion of medium makes subsequent layers more flexible and prevents the painting from cracking. Contrary to many publications, neither oil absorption nor oil index information is required for observing this rule. *The general rule is to use little medium. It is only to be used as an additive.*

For Glazing:

Liquin – Bottled alkyd medium. Enhances the flow properties and transparency. It is quick drying and resists yellowing. A modern replacement for dammar varnish.

Acrylic:

Retarding Medium -- Use this to increase the drying time when working out of doors in the sun, in a dry atmosphere, or when working wet-in-wet for extended periods of time.

Matte and Gloss Mediums -- These are about the consistency of cream and can be thinned with water (never more than 50%). They are added to the paint to change the finish look. They will also make the paint more transparent and improve the flow characteristics. They can also be blended together to get almost any finish you want. Also, they can be brushed over the surface when the painting is done, like a varnish, to change the final surface appearance.