

# Z-CRACKLE FINISH

ANTIQUE CRACKLING SYSTEM

# TIPS & TECHNIQUES

**Z-CRACKLE FINISH** provides an excellent antique crackling system for posters, and prints. It is water based, and cleans up with soap and water. When dry, it eliminates the need for glass, leaving a protected surface. *It is highly recommended that you test your work before using this product on customer's work. Z-Crackle Finish is best with printed offset reproductions, and used with lighter backgrounds to help achieve that "Stained, and Cracked" finish. It is not as effective with dark background images.*

## OFFSET PRINTS AND POSTERS:

Mount to matboard or illustration board first. It is not recommended to mount to foamcore. Squirt the product in swirling motions onto the surface of the print. Apply the **Z-Crackle Finish Step 1** with a foam brush. Cover the entire surface completely. The heavier the application, the more pronounced the cracks. Let dry until slightly tacky to the touch. If you let dry completely, this too will affect the cracks. They will be smaller in size the longer you let dry.

Squirt the **Z-Crackle Activator Step 2** in swirling motions onto the surface of the print, apply with a different foam brush, using a light touch to the stroke (like icing a cake). Let dry about 4-6 hours. Some high humidity conditions may need up to 24 hours to dry completely.

After completely dry, apply droplets of the **Antiquing Polish** around the surface of the print and rub into the cracks using a swirling motion with a lint free paper towel or a sponge until the swirl marks from the polish have disappeared. You can wipe away more of the surface polish, or you can choose to go darker and apply a second coat.

**Z-Crackle Antiquing Polish** dries in minutes. You can wet the sponge slightly, and go back in a rub out areas to better control the intensity of the polish. Do not rub too hard as the surface will get sticky.



## PHOTOGRAPHS:

This process is not recommended for photographs. If you choose to do so, you will need to treat the photograph, using a spray fixative. As with all of these processes, we strongly advise you to test your work first.

## GICLEES:

*Giclees should always be tested first!* There are some inks used that are water based, and will smear, as this is a water based product.

## BRUSH STROKES:

We recommend a finely textured foam brush to move the crackle finish around the print. It is important to cover the entire surface completely with as few stroke lines as possible. Be sure to use a quality foam brush as some inexpensive products may break down in process, causing small black flecks in the medium.

## THINGS TO REMEMBER:

Use a dry brush when applying the crackle finish, and use separate brushes for Step 1 and Step 2. Again, the thicker you apply the Step 1 product, the more pronounced the cracks. You will need to experiment before charging a fee for your services. *Every image will be different.* That is the nature of this hand applied product. When drying, lay flat, as this product will run, causing drip marks. *Use at your own risk. HAVE FUN!*



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