

Add Gum Arabic to ink for the best Copperplate style results.



Gum Arabic added to ink makes the best result when doing copperplate styled calligraphy.

A working ink is one that allows the springy copperplate nib to stretch broad inkstrokes without splitting into two lines of ink on the paper. Most fountain pen inks from the bottle will do this, so, add the prescribed Gum Arabic solution. Plus when thin/light handed strokes are done the result is ultra thin written calligraphy.

NOTE: not to be added to acrylic based inks, use an acrylic liquid thickener if necessary, as acrylic is usually ok anyway.

This recipe is from the Zanerian Master Penman William Lilly:

With some Higgins Eternal black ink about a thimbleful (approximately 5 to 8ml or 1 to 1 1/2 teaspoon),

add 2x drips of liquid Gum Arabic.

OR:

1 1/2 oz. - 45ml. Pelikan 4001 fountain pen ink

1 heaping teaspoon of powdered Gum Arabic,
stirred-in until dissolved

NOTE: This Gum Arabic solution can be bought ready made in a bottle (Art Spectrum 50ml Gum Arabic, is a good brand. Winsor Newton brand Gum Arabic is a little thin when compared) or made up by yourself from real Arabic granules or powder.

The necessary know-how is to make using only pure water, use the above noted measure; say 1 1/2 oz. or 45ml, and being warmed may help it dissolve the small amount of added gum granule/powder. Add in the heaped teaspoonful of Gum Arabic, stir until it has dissolved. Store in one of those mini jam jars or an old ink bottle, don't forget to label it as Gum Arabic. The ready to use gum is also useful for artists making their own ground pigment powder paint colours. As Gum Arabic is the active glue ingredient that binds the powder together, which dries on paper as watercolour.

Use this to count a couple of drips into an approximate thimbleful of your chosen ink. These things are done this way so that you have control of every stage of the input items, and can reproduce the same again in the future.

Adding to much Gum Arabic to ink will cause it to dry with shiny patches, so this is best avoided. You would need to add more ink to re-balance it from having added to much Gum Arabic.

A help file from ORNASONOVA.com - see other free downloadable help files:

<http://ornasonova.com/Downloads.php>