

**“Isn't life a series of images that change as they repeat themselves?” - Andy Warhol**

**HYATT'S**  
All Things Creative™

# Gel Image Transfers

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## Gel Medium Image Transfer Direct Image Transfers

Gel transfers are a great way to create translucent images that can be incorporated into your artwork as a collage element. Once you get the basic concept down, you can go off in all sorts of directions with these transfers. A gel transfer derives its name from the transfer of an image from paper onto the surface of acrylic gel. Before we get started: this is a rather experimental process, no guarantees. You will have to play around to find out what works for you.

## Gel Skin Image Transfer



Step 1. Coat a laser copy with a clear gel. Polymer Medium, Gloss, a thin medium will take several coats. Allow each coat to dry. Other options, Soft Gel Gloss, Self Leveling Gel or Tar Gel will only require one coat. Coat image directly. Let dry thoroughly. Thick applications of gel will take longer to dry. The image of the lady lamp was coated with Tar Gel. Note: work on wax paper or a plastic garbage bag. Acrylic won't stick to these surfaces.

Step 2. Wet or dampen the paper side. Carefully rub off the paper. Use sponges, scrubbies or a soft cloth. This usually takes several rubbings to remove the paper. Allow to dry. When dry you will see the spots where you have not completely removed paper. When the dry gel is completely saturated with water it will turn white, but this will clear when the skin dries.

Step 3. Use the "skin" as a collage element. This sample was painted on the backside of image skin with Golden Fluids. It was glued down with Soft Gel Gloss Gel.

Nearly any gel, medium, or acrylic paint will work to lift an image, depending on the texture, clarity, and color you want to trap the image within.

1. Apply the gel or paint, and while it is wet, place the image side of a laser copy directly into the wet gel. Let dry overnight
2. Dampen the paper with a wet sponge. Give it a few minutes to allow the water to soak the paper. Begin rubbing carefully. Use a scrubbie, or a soft cloth to remove the paper. You will probably have to remove the paper a few times, for a clean transfer. When the water evaporates, you will be able to see the areas that you missed.



Heavy Gel Gloss--This dries to a clear glass like surface completely transparent.



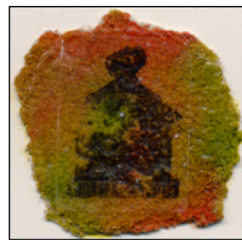
The Molding Paste was tinted with a small amount of Fluid Green Gold. Molding Paste dries to a very flat surface retaining good detail with transfers.



Matte Fluid dries to a very matte flat surface, retaining detail with transfers. The low viscosity or "fluidity" of the Fluids allow for a brush stroke free application. This orange color was achieved with mixture of Diarylde Yellow and Pyrrole Red Matte Fluids.



Light Molding Paste is a porous with a "frosting" like viscosity. This sample was mixed with Fluid Quin Red Light, for a luscious pink.

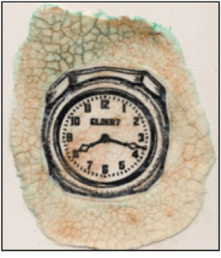


This image took several steps. A layer of Pumice Gel Coarse was applied with a palette knife and allowed to dry. The dry Pumice Gel was stained with Fluids: Green Gold and Vat Orange, thinned with water. When this stain was dry, a layer of Tar Gel was poured on top, immediately the transfer was applied.

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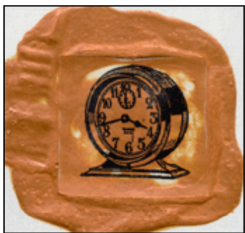
The Crackle Paste was applied with a palette knife. If you apply it thickly, the cracks will be large and highly irregular. Thinner applications will promote a smaller crackle. Apply the transfer while the Crackle Paste is wet. The cracks will appear overnight. After the transfer is removed, stain the surface with Iridescent Bronze Fluid, thinned with water. The area where the transfer is applied will not crack. The clock image was trimmed before application.



The Scotty Dog Clock ( was applied to a mix of Acrylic Ground for Pastel, tinted with a few drops of Fluid Quinacridone Gold/Nickel Azo Yellow. A thin application of the Acrylic Ground for Pastels allows the base color to show through. The dry surface has a slight tooth for drawing with graphite, color pencil, or pastel. It also imparts a wonderful surface for watercolor like washes with thinned Fluids.



This clock was applied to a mixture of Coarse Granular Gel tinted with a few drops of Cobalt Teal Fluid. The Granular Gel dries to a irregular surface, so transfers do not retain all the detail.



This clock was transferred into one thin coat of Interference Oxide Red Fluid.

## More Information

This text was adapted from Golden Acrylics web site at [www.goldenpaints.com](http://www.goldenpaints.com). Please visit for more info by clicking the link. Also, while this information is from Golden, other brands will work with varying results.

## Golden Mediums

H77000	8oz Soft Gel Gloss
H77003	8oz Soft Gel Semi-Gloss
H77004	8oz Soft Gel Matte
H77006	8oz Regular Gel Gloss
H77009	8oz Regular Gel Matte
H77012	8oz Reglr Gel Semi-Gloss
H77015	8oz Heavy Gel Gloss
H77018	8oz Heavy Gel Matte
H77019	8oz Heavy Gel Semi-Gloss
H77021	80Z X-Heavy Gel Gloss
H77024	8oz X-Heavy Gel Matte
H77025	8oz X-Heavy Gel Semi-Gloss
H77027	8oz X-Heavy Molding Paste
H77030	8oz High Solid Gel Gloss
H77033	8oz High Solid Gel Matte
H77036	8oz Fine Pumice Gel
H77039	8oz Coarse Pumice Gel
H77042	8oz X-Coarse Pumice Gel
H77043	8oz Clear Granular Gel
H77044	8oz Glass Bead Gel
H77045	8oz Clear Tar Gel
H77047	8oz Coarse Molding Paste
H77048	8oz Molding Paste
H77050	8oz Hard Molding Paste
H77051	8oz Light Molding Paste
H77052	8oz Self-Level Clear Gel
H77054	8oz Crackle Paste
H77060	8oz Fiber Paste
H77084	8oz Glaze Liquid Gloss
H77087	8oz Glaze Liquid Satin
H77100	16oz Soft Gel Gloss
H77103	16oz Soft Gel Matte
H77104	16oz Soft Gel Semi-Gloss
H77106	16oz Regular Gel Gloss
H77109	16oz Regular Gel Matte
H77112	16oz Regular Gel Semi-Gloss
H77115	16oz Heavy Gel Gloss
H77118	16oz Heavy Gel Matte
H77119	16oz Heavy Gel Semi-Gloss
H77129	16oz Self-Level Clear Gel
H77139	16oz Coarse Pumice Gel
H77142	16oz X-Coarse Pumice Gel
H77145	16oz Clear Tar Gel
H77148	16oz Molding Paste
H77151	16oz Light Molding Paste
H77169	16oz Polymer Varnish Satin
H77200	32oz Soft Gel Gloss
H77206	32oz Regular Gel Gloss
H77209	32oz Regular Gel Matte
H77221	32oz X Heavy Gel Gloss
H77248	32oz Molding Paste
H77251	32oz Light Molding Paste
H77303	4oz Airbrush Transp Extender

H77306	4oz Retarder
H77309	4oz Acrylic Flow Release
H77310	8oz Polymer Varnish Gloss
H77311	8oz Polymer Varnish Matte
H77312	8oz Polymer Varnish Satin
H77320	8oz Polymer Medium
H77323	8oz Fluid Matte Medium
H77326	8oz Matte Medium
H77329	8oz Airbrush Medium
H77330	8oz Silkscreen Medium
H77335	8oz Retarder
H77338	8oz Acrylic Flow Release
H77342	8oz Gac-100 Acrylic
H77343	80Z Gac-200 Acrylic
H77345	80Z Gac-500 Acrylic
H77348	8oz Gac-800 Acrylic
H77349	8oz Gac-900 Acrylic Heatset
H77363	16oz Fluid Matte Medium
H77366	16oz Matte Medium
H77380	32oz Polymer Medium
H77383	32oz Fluid Matte Medium
H77499	Set Mediums & Molding Pastes

## Liquitex Mediums

H78000	Gloss Medium/Varnish 8oz
H78009	Gloss Medium/Varnish 16oz
H78018	Gloss Medium/Varnish 32oz
H78027	Gloss Medium/Varnish Gallon
H78030	Gloss Medium/Varnish 4 oz
H78033	Gloss Heavy Gel Medium 8oz
H78200	Matte Medium 8oz
H78209	Matte Medium 16 oz
H78218	Matte Medium 32 oz
H78227	Matte Medium Gallon
H78300	Airbrush Medium 8oz
H78418	Gloss Gel Medium 8oz
H78427	Gloss Gel Medium 16oz
H78436	Gloss Gel Medium 32oz
H78445	Gloss Gel Medium Gallon
H78450	Gelex/Ultramatte Gel 8oz
H78466	Matte Gel Medium 8oz
H78476	Fabric Medium 4oz
H78477	Jarpaque/Ultra Matte 8oz
H78495	String Gel 8oz
H78660	Pouring Medium 8oz
H78662	Pouring Medium 32oz
H78700	Iridescent Tinting Medium 8oz
H79350	Texturegel Ceramic Stucco 8oz
H79351	Texturegel Natural Sand 8oz
H79352	Texturegel Resin Sand 8oz
H79353	Texturegel Blended Fibers 8oz
H79354	Texturegel Lt Model Paste 8oz
H79355	Texturegel Glass Beads 8oz
H79356	Texturegel White Flake 8oz
H79357	Texturegel Black Lava 8oz
H79400	Modeling Paste 8oz
H79409	Modeling Paste 16oz
H79418	Modeling Paste 32oz

