

# Gutta And Resist Tools



Material and colored gutta

## 1. Gutta tools

- gutta or waterbased resist
- Applicator bottles (to be pierced with a pin)
- Normographic metal nibs (different sizes)
- A hair dryer, to speed up the drying time of the gutta

## 2. The different guttas

### a) Solvent-based gutta

It can be colorless or colored, it allows overlays, dries quickly and does not dilute.

It is toxic and is removed with solvent (work in a ventilated room). While you are working, place the full applicator bottles in a tightly closed jar with petrol.

**If you interrupt your work for a long time**, it is better to **put the gutta back in its original bottle** and to clean bottles and nibs with solvent or water depending on the type of gutta.

### b) The water-based resist

Colorless or colored, it does not allow overlapping. The silk remains natural or colored if it has been dyed before.

It is not toxic. It has to be heat-fixed with an iron and hardens slightly when fixed.

If drying time is longer, the lines tend to widen on the silk.

## 3. Applicator bottles

There are several kinds of bottle tips: some with fine or large tip.

### Preparing the bottle

It is better to pierce its tip with a pin (or a thumbtack) than to cut it. This will limit the flow of gutta.

Fill your pipette 3/4 full with gutta or resist and replace the tip.

Screw a standard nib on the tip. For more security, do not hesitate to tape this one.

Remember to flush the air from the bottle before you start using it.

Your gutta will keep up to 3 days in your pipette. When not in use, be sure to always put the pin back in the nib so that it does not get clogged.

## Reminder

The gutta or set prevents color to rock in silk fiber.



Colorless gutta



Colored gutta



## **Cleaning the nib**

Empty the applicator bottle and put it upright.

Let it dry the necessary time (from a few days to a few weeks depending on the type of gutta used).

When the gutta is completely dry, put a piece of cotton on the end of a wooden or metal rod (kebab stick). Lower this rod into the bottle and rotate it to peel the gum from the bottom of the bottle. Then the edges will peel off until the tip. You can then remove the gum residue.

If you don't want to wait for the gutta to dry, you can clean your bottle with Essence F (for solvent gutta).

Fill your bottle with Essence F solvent, shake it well and empty it. Then clean it with cotton swabs or a longer stick on which you will have placed cotton.

## **3. Normographic nibs**

The standard screw nibs are made of metal.

They are made up of a nib and a pin which prevents your nib from clogging when you are not using it.

They come in different sizes, depending on the thickness of the line you want.

## **Cleaning the nib**

Put a piece of cotton on the end of a stick and make it twist in the nib until it is clean (change cotton if necessary).

Introduce the pin in the pen and move it back and forth, wiping it each time until it comes out clean.

Store the screw nib in its box until the next use.

Warning! Do not leave your nib in solvent for an extended period of time as this will spoil it and it will damage the silk.



## Gutta And Resist

Silk paint and dye spread out and fuse on silk fabric. To control this phenomenon and achieve precise patterns, it is necessary to partition (or set) the silk with gutta.

Set in fine mesh, the gutta forms a barrier that blocks the paint or dye to spread in the silk fiber. The colored area will then have sharp edges (see Sheet n ° 8: «Gutta and resist tools»).

### 1. Using gutta

To be effective, **the gutta must dry in a few minutes** and melt completely in the fabric fiber. It must be imperceptible to the touch and be perfectly impermeable to the paint.

Although gutta (Serti N) has a naturally flowing appearance, it is often necessary to add some H Dupont Essence F (solvent) to it. There is also water-based resist which is non-toxic.

To check the consistency of the gutta, dip a stick in the container and pull it out. the gutta should flow from the stick into the pot in a fine line.

Depending on the thickness and quality of the fabric, it will be necessary to adjust the fluidity of the gutta.

It is therefore necessary to make some tests on samples of the silk that you will use.

For example, a thick fabric (twill, doupion), will be more difficult to work with than a pongee. The gutta will need to be further diluted.



*Gutta prevents color from flowing*



*Cut the tip of the new pipette*



*Pour the gutta into the bottle, add a few drops of solvent (essence F)*



*Hold the bottle as if it were a pen*



*Raise the edge of the ruler to avoid burrs*

### 2. Testing

Begin testing on a piece of paper.

Hold the applicator bottle equipped with a nib (different calibers) as if it were a pen and press the bottle lightly. The tip should move evenly, smoothly, so as to obtain a thin and regular line.

Press the tip lightly on the fabric to allow the gutta to penetrate into the fibers of the fabric.

**Do several tests with simple shapes** to master the proper movement. There must be neither hesitation nor resumption.

On thick fabrics, the line should be wider and the movement slower. You also need to put more pressure on the fabric. It may be necessary to make a bigger hole in the pipette tip and redraw the gutta line on the back of the fabric to be sure that the line will resist.

**Beware of the drop that forms at the start of each line.**

If possible before starting a line, place the nib on a piece of paper placed near you.

To draw straight lines, you can use a ruler. **Watch out for burrs.**

### **3. Prepare your equipment**

(see Sheet n °8: «Gutta and resist tools»)

### **4. Drawing**

After having stretched the silk (see Sheet n ° 5: «Preparing your work»), you can draw your design directly with the gutta by placing your drawing under the silk to reproduce it. The lines of the drawing will appear by transparency. Trace the drawing with the gutta.

You can also pre-draw your design on the silk with a soft pencil, vanishing pencil, or self-erasing felt-tip pen (watch out: it disappears within 24 hours) - See Sheet n°7: «Preparing your model».

**Check the gutta for leaks.** If lines appear weak or broken, touch them up. When the gutta is dry, test the good waterproofness of the setting with water.

In order to avoid your hand to brush against the wet gutta and cause trails, start your pattern from the top and opposite side of your writing hand (on the left for right-handers, on the right for left-handers).

**Be careful that the bottom paper does not come in contact with the silk while you set the gutta.**

(keep a minimum distance of 1 cm).

To dry the gutta faster, you can use a hair dryer. Hold it 20cm away from the silk.



*Start at the center of the pattern*



*Then the juxtposed colors*



*Use 95% alcohol to dilute the burrs.  
Check the gutta is waterproof*

### **6. Apply the dye or paint**

**Start painting the lighter shades.** For small areas, use watercolor brushes or cotton swabs.

For larger areas, use large wash brushes or foam brushes (see Sheet n°6: «Tools»).

**Always start from the center of the area you wish to color,** then let the dye fuse to the resist barrier.

**Beware of excess dye (risk of stains, drips, etc.).** Remove excess dye with a wrung out brush.

If the setting is not «waterproof», there is a risk of dye passing from one pattern to the other.

Remove burrs with cotton wool soaked in pure alcohol (watch out for halos). Repair any gaps in your resist before resuming work.

#### **Problems encountered**

**The gutta does not dry quickly** (time > 10 minutes).

The line is too thick or the gutta is not fluid enough.

The gutta remains sticky after fixing.

In this case, **completely soak the silk in Essence F solvent** to completely eliminate the gutta.

**Any traces of dye will also be diluted.**

**It is thus best to act before coloring.**

**BE CAREFUL, water gutta cannot be eliminated.**