Lesson 15  Some Other Techniques of Fabric Painting & Printing

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15. **SOME OTHER TECHNIQUES OF FABRIC PAINTING & PRINTING**

In the previous lesson we had learnt about the different techniques used in the art of hand painting like colour book painting, shading, highlighting, wet-on-wet, dry brush, and background effects.

In this lesson we will learn about some alternate methods of ornamenting the fabrics.

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15.0 **Objectives**

After going through this lesson you will:

- Become familiar with some more techniques of ornamenting fabrics.
- Understand some basic tips for care and maintenance of fabric paints and painted fabrics.

15.1 **Introduction**

In this lesson we will learn about some alternate techniques of ornamenting fabrics, besides the hand painting technique. We will also discuss some tips for care and maintenance of material related to hand painting and the products made by you. They will help you to decorate your fabric in different ways. These techniques are easier than free hand painting and anybody can use them, without any difficulty.

15.2 **Some Alternate Techniques of Ornamenting Fabrics**

15.2.1 **Stamping**

This is a technique in which colour is placed on a separate object and then pressed onto the fabric leaving an impression. Rubber stamps are perfect for working on fabric and may be used with fabric paint, which you may brush or sponge onto the stamp before applying to the surface.

Sponges are available in a variety of pre-cut shapes and sizes. You can cut your own. When the sponge is wet, it grows to full thickness, making it perfect for fabric stamping.

Before applying paint to the sponge, squeeze the sponge in a paper towel, to remove excess water. If the sponge is too wet, the colour may bleed on the fabric. When stamping with a sponge, always pour the paint onto a foam plate or palette. Dip the sponge into the paint, making sure that the flat side is covered with paint.
Blot paint on a paper towel to remove excess paint. Press the sponge onto the fabric with slight pressure. Several impressions may be achieved with one application of paint.

An alternative way to apply paint to your sponge is to paint it onto the stamping surface with a flat brush. Take a look at the examples shown below. (Fig. 15.1).

15.2.2 Stencilling

Stencilling is a simple technique, especially suited for beginners, who are learning the art fabric painting. It is the process of applying paint to the inside opening of a pre-cut design or stencil. There are hundreds of stencils available in a wide variety of styles and designs in the market.

If you choose to use a brush rather than a sponge, after loading your stencil brush, off-load the excess paint onto a paper towel. This will keep excess paint from bleeding under the edges of the stencil. Shown below are the fabrics decorated using stenciling techniques. (Fig. 15.2)

Self-check Questions

Fill in the blanks

1. Stamping is a technique in which _________ is placed on a separate object and then __________ onto the fabric leaving an __________.

2. Stencilling is the process of applying ________ to the inside opening of a pre-cut ________ or ________.
15.2.3 Block printing

In this method, wooden blocks of various designs that are readily available in the market, are used to print on the fabric (Fig. 15.3). Simple and interesting techniques of printing using vegetables like lady finger, potatoes, match sticks etc. can also be used (Figs. 15.4 and 15.5). We have already learnt about them in the Lessons 4, 5 and 6. These are simple and inexpensive techniques for ornamenting fabrics.

15.2.4 Embellishing

Embellishing means ‘beautifying’. Embellishing is a creative and artistic process that takes your painted project one step beyond the ordinary. It allows your personal creativity to blossom. Beautifying your fabric creations through techniques of embellishment, can be achieved with the help of:

- Jewels, beads, pearls, buttons and charms etc. These are affixed to the fabric with the help of a small amount of glue.
- Loose glitters can also be added to wet paint or attached with glue.
- Pre-printed fabrics, laces, ribbons, doilies, embroidered patches and sequin designs can also be used as beautiful appliqués. They are available as ‘ready to attach’ accessories, and are affixed using fabric glue, ‘iron-on’ bonding webs, or sewing etc.

Self-check Question

Fill in the blanks

1. Embellishing means ‘__________’. Embellishing is a _________ and artistic ____________ that takes your painted project one step beyond the ordinary.

Activity
1. Using block printing and different embellishments make an attractive gift item. (For example; wall hanging, book holder, cushion-cover or a pouch.)

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15.3 Tips for Care and Maintenance

Discussed below are some tips for care and maintenance of fabric paints and painted fabrics. Keep the fabric colours tightly closed at room temperature. Extreme heat or cold temperatures may subject them to break down. Store the fabric colour bottles upside down preferably. Never iron on top of the area, which has been painted.

15.3.1 Heat-setting

Allow 24 hours for the painted item to dry thoroughly. The painted fabric must be ironed on a medium temperature setting, without use of steam. While ironing, place a cloth over the painted area to avoid direct contact of the iron with the paint and heat-set for approximately 30 seconds. Items not suitable for ironing may be heat-set with the help of a dryer, for 20 minutes. The painted surface should be turned inside-out. Only the recommended heat-setting for the type of fabric you have painted, must be used.

15.3.2 Laundering

Wait at least five days for the paints to cure before washing the painted item. Then the fabric can be treated as you would treat any other fine fabric. Turn the garment wrong side out and wash by hand or in the gentle cycle of a washing machine, using mild soap. Strong detergents are made to remove stains and colour from fabrics and should be avoided. Any of the soaps used for washing baby items are best.

Self-check Question

Fill in the blanks

2. The painted fabric must be ironed on a ________ temperature setting, without use of ________.

3. Wait at least _______ days for the paints to cure before _________ the painted item. Then the ________ can be treated as you would treat any other ______ fabric.

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15.4 Assignments

15.4.1 Class assignments
i) Out of the 10 designs that you had transferred on fabric to make napkins, you have already painted six of them (three in your previous class and three as a part of your home assignment). You may paint two more of these designs in class, using different techniques.

15.4.2 Home assignments

i) Paint the two napkins at home.

ii) Take any existing piece of clothing which you have and try to ornament and embellish it further, using any of the techniques that you have learnt in this lesson.

15.5 Summing Up

In this lesson we learnt about some alternate techniques of ornamenting fabrics, besides the hand painting technique. We also discussed some tips for care and maintenance of material related to hand painting and the products made by hand painting. These techniques are easier than free hand painting and anybody can use them, without any difficulty.

15.6 Possible Answers to Self-check Questions

Fill in the blanks

1. Stamping is a technique in which colour is placed on a separate object and then pressed onto the fabric leaving an impression.

2. Stenciling is the process of applying paint to the inside opening of a pre-cut design or stencil.

3. Embellishing means ‘beautifying’. Embellishing is a creative and artistic process that takes your painted project one step beyond the ordinary.

4. The painted fabric must be ironed on a medium temperature setting, without use of steam.

5. Wait at least five days for the paints to cure before washing the painted item. Then the fabric can be treated as you would treat any other fine fabric.

15.7 Terminal Questions

1. Discuss briefly the stamping technique and cite some uses.

2. Explain the block printing method using various types of blocks.
15.8 References and Suggested Further Reading


15.9 Glossary

1. Colour bleeding Colour flowing out of its place and spreading around due to heat or water

2. Off loading the brush To remove the extra paint from the bristles of a brush over the edges of the pallette

3. Affixing To stick or paste any readymade ornamentation on to the fabric for value addition

4. Charms Trinket (small attractive jewelry) worn over a bracelet

5. Accessories Additional glittering or shining material available in the market for value addition