**What Are Alcohol Inks**

**Alcohol inks** are an acid-free, highly-pigmented, and fast drying medium to be used on non-porous surfaces. Mixing colors can create a vibrant marbled effect and the possibilities can only be limited by what you are willing to try.

**Alcohol Inks - What You Need To Know Before You Start**

Using alcohol inks can be a fun way to use colors and create backgrounds for stamping or card making. You can also use alcohol inks in painting and to add color to different surfaces such as glass and metals. The brightness of the color means that a small bottle will go a long way. [Alcohol inks](https://www.createforless.com/buying-guides/crafts/search/results.aspx?txtSearch=alcohol%20ink) are an acid-free, highly-pigmented, and fast drying medium to be used on non-porous surfaces.  Mixing colors can create a vibrant marbled effect and the possibilities can only be limited by what you are willing to try. Read below to learn what supplies you will need for crafting with alcohol inks and other useful hints regarding these vibrant colors and mediums.

Alcohol inks come in a wide range of colors and pigments. Sold in .5oz bottles, a little bit of ink can go a long way. [Adirondack Alcohol Inks by Tim Holtz](https://www.createforless.com/buying-guides/crafts/search/results.aspx?txtSearch=ranger%20alcohol%20ink), also called Ranger ink, is the main supplier of alcohol inks. Many Tim Holtz inks come in packs of [three different colors](https://www.createforless.com/buying-guides/crafts/search/results.aspx?txtSearch=ranger%20alcohol%20ink%20kit) that look good when used together. If it is your first-time using alcohol inks, the kits are a good option for starting out with inks. These can be purchased online, Hobby Lobby and Michaels. For online purchases I used Cheap Joe’s as they have good prices and selection. Three packs run about $12.00.

Another brand of Alcohol Inks are Pinata Color exciter pack by Jacquard, this comes in a package of nine assorted colors. I ordered this set-on Amazon and the price is around $25.00.

**Examples of Other Surfaces To Use Alcohol Inks**

* Glass
* Metal
* Leather
* Fabric
* Wood
* Canvas

Surfaces must be non-porous, clean and oil free.

## Other Tips

1. Use a slick surface for easier clean-up. To get ink both off this surface and your hands, you can use alcohol or the alcohol blending solution.

2. To push some of the ink and color around you can use a straw, blow dryer or canned air duster for some interesting effects.

3. If using a stamp on top of the alcohol ink and non-porous surface use [Archival Ink](https://www.createforless.com/buying-guides/crafts/Ranger-Archival-Ink--0-Pad-Jet-Black/pid197072.aspx) or [Staz On Ink](https://www.createforless.com/buying-guides/crafts/search/results.aspx?txtSearch=stazsOn%20ink%20pad" \o "StazOn Ink).

4. If unhappy with the colors on your metal pieces, use the blending solution to clean it off.

5. **Do not eat or drink off a surface you have colored with alcohol ink until it has been treated with clear finish.**