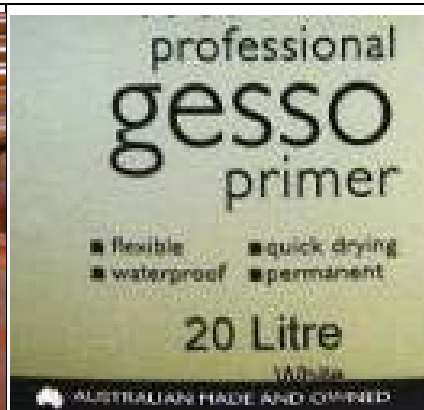


Canvas: Prepare the canvas. Make the canvas to ready for paint.

EQUIPMENT: What you will need



Large Paint Brush



Gesso or undercoat



Fine Sandpaper

SAFETY: How to stay safe

Don't breathe paint fumes and fine dust.
Work outside in a breezy area or wear a mask.
NEVER smoke near art materials.

GLOSSARY: Words you need to understand

Gesso
first.

The acrylic undercoat layer painted onto the canvas or linen

Prepare the Canvas to Paint Onto

Select the right Gesso

Always use undercoat made for your canvas and the paints you want to use.

Select your gesso: The colour and the right sort for your paints. Most GESSO is white.



Stir Gesso

Stir the gesso until it is even and creamy. **You must stir the whole pot up even if you only use a little bit.**

- You can pour a small amount of gesso into a pot to use. If you do, put the lid back on the big container now.



Right thickness

Make sure your gesso is not too thick or if it is very thick, add a little water.

- Two thin coats are better than one thick coat of gesso.



Paint Gesso on

Use a large brush to paint the canvas, same all over.



Paint whole canvas

Paint all the edges of the canvas on the sides of the stretcher.



Dry and sand

Dry canvas off completely.

- When dry, lightly wipe all over with fine sandpaper.

Now you are ready for a second coat of gesso.



Paint across the other way

This time make your paint brush go across ways to the first coat.

- Keep the paint even all over.
- Dry the canvas.

Lightly wipe all over with sandpaper.
Make it as smooth or rough as you want.



Clean up

Clean up all the tools, especially your gesso brush.



Tighten canvas

Lightly spray the back of the canvas with water from a fine spray bottle.

- As it dries, this will make the canvas 'fit' on both sides and should help to keep it tight.



TIPS: Gesso

Gesso is very important to make a painting last for a long time. Gesso is important to make a good surface for the paint. The canvas sucks up paint, so the Gesso is put on first. After Gesso, the paint can be built up in layers and it will not become dry, or flake off.

White gesso adds brightness behind the colours. Black gesso makes the colours a bit darker to look at.

If the gesso is too thick to spread over the canvas and sink into it, you can stir in some water to make it thinner. If the gesso is too thin, it will not seal up the surface of the canvas properly. You can paint two or three coats of gesso onto the canvas if the gesso is not too thick.

Keep your gesso paint brushes separate from your acrylic paint brushes.

Don't ever use gesso instead of white paint – it does not give the same surface to the paint.
