

Two Decorating Techniques I like, Because.....

I'm not an artist and these techniques require no artistic talent to make stunning kites!

A NOTE ABOUT METALLIC POLY FILMS

If you don't already know both the silver and the color are applied to the same surface of the clear film base. When you look at the back and see silver, you are actually looking through the clear film base and seeing the layer of silver that was applied under the color. For example if you have a metallic blue poly film, the base film is clear, then the silver is applied and on top of the silver the blue is applied. So you can remove the color only leaving a silver to contrast or you can remove the color and the silver leaving a clear contrast....pretty cool stuff!

Method A. Acetone.

This method works on most poly-film gift and floral plastic wrap whether the wrap is translucent or metallic and opaque.

Acetone can be purchased at any paint store or paint department of a hardware store and it is inexpensive. It stinks, it's the base solvent used in finger nail polish remover.

By lightly rubbing a piece of paper towel or cotton ball soaked in acetone on the color side of a poly film, it will remove the color. If the poly film is a metallic color, it will remove the color showing the silver under. It takes very little practice to get the amount of acetone and the amount of pressure to use when rubbing to get results you want.

With metallic films, if you want a part of it to be clear, continue rubbing with acetone after the color has been removed. The silver is a little more stubborn to come off than the color. After the silver is removed, you will have a clear area that you can see through.

You can remove the color in a freehand style or you can use masking tape to create simple geometric patterns. I usually do the color and/or silver removal after the kite is completed, but it would be just as easy to create the skin you wanted and then make the kite.

Another method is to apply a few drops of acetone onto a light colored film such as gold. Cut another piece of film of different color and place the colored sided onto the acetone. Grab both pieces of film and wad them into a tight ball.....open and re-wad them then open and smooth out and separate the pieces of film. You will have a random marriage of colors....usually the darker color bonds to the lighter colored film. Use the parts of the film you like best.

You can do a similar thing by using a light colored film such as gold, apply lots of heavy red, blue or whatever color you want with a wide tipped marker. The more marker dye you can get into any one spot the better. Then sprinkle a few drops of acetone onto the film on or around the marker spots and either wad up the film and open and smooth it out, or apply another piece of film on top and press the two together, then separate.... All of these are fun and produce surprising results!

Method B. Bleach

Steve Childers was the first person I know who used bleach to remove the color from a poly film kite skin. I copied his idea.

Products containing concentrated bleach can remove the color and/or silver backing of most poly films. In addition, it can remove the black color from black Orcon film.

Toilet bowl cleaners and Clorox's 'Clean up gel' work best. They seem to have more concentration of chlorine or bleaching agent than standard household bleach does. They are inexpensive and available at almost any grocery store or Target or WalMart.

It takes very little practice to create a technique to produce results you'll like. Apply the bleach to the areas you want the color removed from, leave it on the film for a few seconds to a few minutes depending on the particular color you are using, then rinse it off with cold water. The longer you leave the bleach on the films the more color and/or silver it will remove. Timing is important with this method of color reduction. If you want mostly clear in areas you applied bleach, then leave the bleach on the film for about 2-4minutes, then rinse if you want silver mostly, rinse it after a 10 seconds or so.

You need to test the particular film you are using with the bleach agent you are using. Not all colors respond to bleach in the same way. I have found with the films I use, bleach will not affect the color red. However the brand of film you use may be different. Test it first!

Random splats of bleach work well for creating a unique and attractive pattern or you can mask off specific shapes and apply the bleach around the perimeter of the masked area or any combination. Or use a brush to apply it in various patterns and designs.



The photos on the left show bleach on poly film.

The kite with the stripes I folded the film like an accordion and swiped a brush with bleach along the folds.



The black kite with the swirls, I applied the bleach with a stiff paint brush.

The other two I dripped and dribbled the bleach. There is silver and clear patches where the bleach was. In the sky these kites are stunning!

Both of the techniques are similar but the solvents respond differently with the colors on the film. You'll probably discover that prefer the way one works better than the other, but try both before you decide. Neither acetone or bleach affect in any negative way the clear base film on any of the poly films I have tried.

Have fun with these!

Biggrins, bruce