



**Hello,**

Here are your recipe sheets, for applying the tips for oil painting materials that you found on my website <http://www.painting-ideas-and-techniques.com>.

Hopping back and forth between my website and these recipe sheets, you'll be able to figure it out. However, if you need more info or a more ordered format, I should recommend my ebook on oil painting materials and recipes. You'll find it at

<http://www.painting-ideas-and-techniques.com/oil-painting-guide.html>

In this ebook there's more details and information on products, and on the *why* of using them (good to know if you want to develop your own layering system).

On the bottom of each page, you'll find a link to a list of selected products of Blick art materials (to whom I'm affiliated), and to Paintmill de Kat (non-affiliated links). I've selected the products on getting the right quality for the best price.

**product links:**

<http://www.painting-ideas-and-techniques.com/oil-painting-product-list.html>

**Blick art materials:**

<http://www.dpbolvw.net/click-3921210-805536>

# Oil painting primer and underpainting recipes

sometimes having quality is just necessary, but in other cases you might as well take the house brand and save money. To every recipe, you'll find the best products (mostly from Blick Art Materials, they can offer the best prices)

## Short tips:

“universally” prepared canvases need priming over with gesso-and-caseine

Raw canvases and painting boards need a sizing of either

- hot rabbit skin glue
- acrylic-caseine binder (for priming with acrylic-caseine gesso or mended gesso)

Over the rabbit skin glue, it's best to apply the halfoil-ground (canvases and boards), or the chalky rabbit-skin glue ground (stiff boards only).

Over the acrylic-caseine binder, it's best to prime with acrylic-caseine gesso.

## About caseine:

the best caseine emulsion is one without preservatives, or with only borax as a preservative. Schmincke's caseine is good, home-made caseine too (ingredients can be ordered at paintmill De Kat). Borax is OK – other preservatives may cause some problems later on.

Blick's offers Shiva caseine, alas I'm not sure exactly what preservatives are in it. If you want to be sure, turn to Schmincke's or de Kat.

Caseine has two advantages: the oil paint adheres to it very firmly (making a chemical union). On acrylic gesso, oil paint only adheres mechanically. According to a specialist, it's bound to come loose in time, even if it's after 40 to 50 years.

Another advantage of Caseine: its strength. It makes the gesso more elastic. If you size a pre-stretched canvas with caseine-acrylic gesso, it will be stretched extra – even little dents will go away.

## Product links:

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## Blick art materials:

<http://www.dpbolvw.net/click-3921210-805536>

**Sizing for raw canvases (for painting over with acrylic gesso)**

**1 volume of acrylic binder**

**1 volume of caseine emulsion**

<p><b>Acrylic binder (Blick Gloss medium).</b> In the jar, it looks white – but it dries up clear and transparent.</p>	<p><b>caseine emulsion</b> For the highest grade of durability: get <b>Schmincke</b> caseine (not at Blicks), or make your own (using borax as a preservative) - check the product-list below for info <b>Available at Blicks: Shiva caseine emulsion (unknown preservatives)</b> If you plan to use it for canvas preps, choose the metal canister.</p>
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Caseine is the strongest glue and makes a canvas shrink. If you need extra stretching, use a little more caseine (up to 60% - at least use 40% of acrylic binder).

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**Blick art materials:**

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**Recipe for mending read-made gesso:**

**add 1 volume of caseine binder to 2 volumes of acrylic gesso**

The gesso will become a little thicker because it reacts with the caseine. Try not to add water, unless you really can't paint it

It can be painted over after 24 hours.

**caseine emulsion**

For the highest grade of durability: get **Schmincke** caseine (not at Blicks), or make your own (using borax as a preservative) - check the product-list below for info

**Available at Blicks: Shiva caseine emulsion (unknown preservatives)**

If you plan to use it for canvas preps, choose the metal canister.

**Economy gesso brushes:** These are the cheapest big bristles, only for gessoing. Before using the brushes: wash them and rub them well, to get rid of the loose hairs before they end up in your work.

**Blicks Studio Gesso**

The cheaper 'study' quality – best suitable for priming over universally prepared canvases that are white already. Blicks studio gesso hides in two coats, and the caseine will make the paint thinner as well.

**Blicks Master Gesso**

A better hiding gesso, also suitable for gessoing raw canvases that were sized with acrylic binder and caseine.

**When you prime new canvases or painting boards, use Blick Master gesso (with caseine) – it has a better hiding power.**

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### **Homemade Acrylic-caseine gesso (colored, if you like!)**

1 volume of caseine binder

1 volume of acrylic binder

1 volume of marble powder

1 volume of pigment powder (titanium white, an earth pigment, or iron oxyde black)

First, mix the caseine and the acrylic binder.

Use a kitchen sieve, to add the powders: first the marble, then the pigment powder. Stir well, eventually with a kitchen blender, untill you have a yoghurt-like substance. If the substance gets too thick for stirring, add a little water (but only if you have to! Less water is better). It can be painted over after 24 hours.

This gesso is very flexible, it dries relatively fast (a few days) and it's great for oils as well as the oil-and-egg-tempera technique.

For new canvases, first size with acrylic-caseine binder (previous page)

<p><b>Gamblin dry pigments.</b> Suitable ones for gesso are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- titanium white, mars black, yellow ochre, raw umber, burnt umber, burnt siena, chromium oxyde green</li></ul>	<p><b>Fredrix Marble powder</b></p>
<p><b>Acrylic binder (Blick gloss medium).</b></p> <p>In the jar, it looks white – but it dries up clear and transparant.</p>	<p>For the highest grade of durability: get <b>Schmincke</b> caseine, or make your own (using borax as a preservative) - check the product-list below</p> <p><b>For ordering at Blicks: use Shiva caseine emulsion</b></p> <p>If you plan to use it for canvas preps, choose the metal canister.</p>

### **product links:**

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### **Blick art materials:**

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## **Cooking rabbit skin glue – for sizing or making primers**

First soak the granules or rabbit skin glue in water- **10 grams of glue-bits in 100 grams of water**. Put them together in a tin can, and let it soak overnight. The next day, you can put the can au bain marie on the stove. That means: take another cooking pan, fill it with hot water, and place the tin with the glue in that pan of water, and cook it on your furnace. In this way, the glue will be hot, but it will be prevented from boiling.

This glue will stay good for about two weeks in the fridge– but at some point, it'll start to rot. Then the jelly becomes liquid (and the smell really bad). It's strength can't be trusted then.

Furthermore, it's important that the glue is not too strong. Too strong rabbitskin-glue causes circular cracks in your canvas later.

More on Rabbit skin glue: <http://www.painting-ideas-and-techniques.com/rabbit-skin-glue.html>

### **After preparing, you can test your glue like this:**

Let it cool down. You can place it in the freezer for 15 minutes, or leave it until the next day. After cooling down, it should be like a soft jelly. Break the jelly with your finger. If the breaking line is straight, like a shell or in a straight curve, your glue is too strong – add more water.

The glue can be kept in the refrigerator for a few days – when the jelly goes liquid, it's turning bad.

**Gamblin rabbit skin glue (dry granules).**

### **Product links:**

<http://www.painting-ideas-and-techniques.com/oil-painting-product-list.html>

### **Blick art materials:**

<http://www.dpbolvw.net/click-3921210-805536>

**Recipe: half-oil ground (for oil paint, or an oily egg tempera underpainting).**

Take **1 volume of hot rabbit skin glue**

Add **1 volume of calcium carbonate** (marble powder). Add the powder through a sieve (yes, painting is just like cooking)

And **1 volume of dry pigment**. (white, a mixture of white and earth colors, or black). Also through a sieve.

Then mix in **2 volumes of stand oil**. Mix it hard, then it will blend. Eventually, use a kitchen mixer or blender.

This primer has a more traditional feel to it than acrylic gesso. It needs to be put on a raw canvas (or painting board) that was sized with hot rabbit skin glue. Prime 2 or 3 layers, and let it dry for 2 weeks – then you can paint on it.

<b>Gamblin rabbit skin glue</b> – dry granules that still need to be cooked. Scroll down for instructions.	<b>Fredrix Marble powder</b>
<b>Gamblin dry pigments</b> . Suitable ones for gesso are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– titanium white, mars black, yellow ochre, raw umber, burnt umber, burnt siena, chromium oxyde green</li></ul>	<b>Gamblin Stand oil</b> 8 oz

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**Absorbent (chalky) rabbit-skin glue primer, for tempera and/or oils (quick drying)**

This primer is brittle and **only good for stiff, non-flexible painting boards.**

Add 1 part of dry marble powder to 1 part of dry pigment. Then mix in 2 parts of hot rabbit skin glue, until it's as thick as yoghurt. Can be painted over after 24 hours.

<p><b>Gamblin dry pigments.</b> Suitable ones for gesso are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- titanium white, mars black, yellow ochre, raw umber, burnt umber, burnt siena, chromium oxyde green.</li><li>- For real green earth, choose Sennelier pigments</li></ul>	<p><b>Fredrix Marble powder</b></p>	<p><b>Gamblin rabbit skin glue</b></p> <p>These are granules that still need to be cooked. Scroll down for instructions.</p>
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As panel material, you can use MDF or multiplex. The bigger size you take, the thicker material you'll need. Don't go over sizes larger than 30 inches square.

To keep your panels stable: treat the back the same as you did the front. - sizing and gluing material on. On the back you can use paper instead of canvas.

**Product links:**

<http://www.painting-ideas-and-techniques.com/oil-painting-product-list.html>

**Blick art materials:**

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## Recipe for pure egg tempera

You need:

pigment paste (grind pigments in water, with a muller on a glass- or marble plate, until it's as thick as toothpaste).

1 volume of egg yolk (only the content of it)

1 volume of water

Mix them to an egg-yolk fluid. It will be very fluid.

Then:

Mix 1 volume of egg-yolk fluid with 1 volume of pigment paste (grind pigments in water, with a muller on a glass- or marble plate, until it's as thick as toothpaste).

Test your paint, by painting it on glass. After a few minutes, the paint is dry (it does need UV light!). Scrape off the paint with a razorblade, or a palette knife - if it comes off as a film, the paint is good.

*For underpainting, pure egg tempera can be used on acrylic gesso on canvas – not on a half-oil ground. For painting pure tempera paintings, use painting boards.*

<p><b>Handmade glass mullers (brandless)</b></p> <p>For smaller quantities, the smallest one will do.</p>	<p><b>Gamblin dry pigments.</b></p> <p>For titanium white, earth colors, mars black</p> <p><b>Sennelier dry pigments.</b></p> <p>For historic green earth</p>
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Grinding the pigments with a muller is necessary – only a palette knife won't do. The water needs to go around every pigment particle, only then the binder will connect properly to it.

### product links:

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## Recipe for oily eggtempera

- 1 part of stand oil
- 1 part of dammar varnish
- 1 part of water
- 1 part of egg-yolk
- 4 parts of watery pigment paste

First mix the egg-yolk 1 on 1 with water.

Then mix the stand-oil with dammar varnish 1 on 1 (later on, you can use this mixture as an oil painting medium)

And then mix the egg-water and painting medium 1 on 1.

*Oily egg tempera can be used on a half-oil ground, or acrylic gesso.*

<b>Gamblin dry pigments.</b> For titanium white, earth colors, mars black  <b>Sennelier dry pigments.</b> For historic green earth and other finer pigments	<b>Winsor and newton Dammar varnish.</b> Also good for making painting mediums	<b>Gamblin Stand oil</b> 8 oz
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Oily egg tempera can also be used in WET oil paint, and speed up the drying process. It will become a stable chemical union.

### Product links:

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<http://www.dpbolvw.net/click-3921210-805536>

## List of products and ingredients:

Blick art materials is a huge online art supplier, who can make good prices and sales, on a stable standard of quality supplies.

### Casein binder:

With borax: Schmincke's, or homemade

Unknown preservatives: Shiva caseine emulsion

**Acrylic binder:** Blick gloss medium

**Rabbit skin glue:** Gamblin rabbit skin glue

**Acrylic gesso:** Blinks Studio Gesso, Blick master gesso

**Marble powder:** Fredrix Marble dust

**Real oil primer:** Winsor and newton oil painting primer (dries in 24 hours,

**Stand oil:** Gamblin Stand oil

**Dammar varnish:** Winsor and newton Dammar varnish.

### Dry pigments

#### Sennelier dry pigments.

For historic green earth and finer pigments

#### Gamblin artist dry pigments (cheaper, more sturdy)

Suitable for making gesso:

- titanium white
- mars black
- raw umber (cool brown)
- burnt umber (dark warm brown)
- burnt siena (reddish warm brown)
- yellow ochre (warm yellow earthtone)

### For direct product links, go to this webpage:

<http://www.painting-ideas-and-techniques.com/oil-painting-product-list.html>

**If you need to know more** about the how-and-why of these products, and the features of each primer: check my ebook on oil painting materials. You'll find it here:

<http://www.painting-ideas-and-techniques.com/oil-painting-guide.html>

I also recommend this book if you want to develop your own layering systems.

### product links:

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## Rembrandt's resources

For the real DIY classical paint lovers who want to make their own oil paint, dammar, shellac and caseine: here's where you can buy the raw materials you need. This mill grinds pigments since the time Rembrandt was alive. Since he lived in Amsterdam, one might assume he used their products already, in his own time...

### Paintmill De Kat

Paintmill De Kat lies near Amsterdam (Netherlands). The mill is a kind of museum, but also still in function. Here you can buy raw ingredients for all painting techniques: pigments, oils, real turpentine, shellac flakes, dry caseine powder and more. They sell all the necessary ingredients for making your own paint and dry pastels.



They have:

- dry caseine (powder), for making your own caseine – fresh, without preservatives
- cans of ammonium carbonate powder, for making caseine (also known as hartshorn salz or baking soda).
- borax, spikenard oil, safflower oil, linseed and stand oils
- dry flakes of shellac, to be dissolved in denatured alcohol
- dry pigments.
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These products are sent all over the world – but only the dry products. Products containing VOC (turps and such) can't be shipped overseas. About the dry pigments from De Kat: the more new and chemical ones often contain a lot of chalk (it's even in the pigment names: chalk blue, chalk yellow etc). The chalk does keep them very stable, but also makes them look rather matte. But the ultramarines, earth pigments, cadmiums and permanent reds of De Kat are very good.

This mill was already grinding pigments at the time that Rembrandt was alive. Today, workshops about paint making are given in that little shed you see next to the big one. Here I learned a lot about oil paint.

### Product links:

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## **Paint making classes**

The classes and workshops you get here are outstanding. Pieter Keune, the teacher, is an international authority in his expertise (art materials). In his workshops, he shares his knowledge without withholding. In small groups, you can learn to make oil paint, and other kinds of paints and pastels, ask all the questions you want, and that for a very reasonable price. If you ever visit the Netherlands, this is the place to go.

Products can be ordered via their website: [www.verfmolendekat.com](http://www.verfmolendekat.com) They have only raw ingredients for classical painting materials, for painters who want to make all their paints and mediums themselves. The more ready-made products can be found the product list above (at Blick art supplies ).

If you want to learn more about these products, check my e-book on oil painting materials: <http://www.painting-ideas-and-techniques.com/oil-painting-guide.html>

Here you can also find how to make shellac, dammar varnish out of dammar lumps, and fresh caseine without preservatives.

Thanks for visiting and hope to welcome you back!  
With best regards,Evelien

<http://www.painting-ideas-and-techniques.com>

<http://www.painting-ideas-and-techniques.com/oil-painting-basics.html>

<http://www.painting-ideas-and-techniques.com/oil-painting-supplies.html>

## **product links:**

<http://www.painting-ideas-and-techniques.com/oil-painting-product-list.html>

## **Blick art materials:**

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