



# Compatibility: Formats That Work Together

## Surely all paints can be mixed together?

Compatibility is the key word; all parts of the formulation need to work together. This can be done relatively easily within similar types of acrylic paint, when the values are roughly the same, however when you're crossing formats, consistencies, and delivery systems, 100% compatibility is not easy to achieve.

## Surely other acrylic brands offer the same level of compatibility?

The difference is the width and scope of the Liquitex collection - no one else makes such a diverse range of acrylic formats and consistencies. We're always looking at new ways to work with acrylics. Imagine how easy it would be to make two fluid paints that work together. But then imagine the complexities of ensuring that an ink and a spray paint work together. Each of our ranges delivers 100% compatibility across formulation chemistry - from the ultra-fluidity of Acrylic Ink to the deftness of Spray Paint.

## What do you mean by 100% compatible?

It's about guaranteeing a stable mix when you're painting with any Liquitex acrylics. And achieving an archival result so that your work remains as you intended it for now and in the future under normal gallery conditions, no matter which of our paints you used.

## How do you make something compatible?

When developing a new Liquitex formula, our chemists have a lot to think about... pigment, consistency, delivery system, finish, and stability. But if it doesn't work with all of our mediums or paints, then we won't consider it. Every element of the formula is chosen with extreme care, with an inherent knowledge of acrylic chemistry. Each of the raw materials - from wetting agent to pigment - will affect compatibility. The elements are chosen, mixed and tested at each stage in the lab, and combined with each of the other products in the range - both Professional and Basics - to ensure they don't fight each other. Successful formulas have binder systems that are compatible but not necessarily the same.

## What happens if I use acrylic paints from different sources?

The results can be unpredictable. Problems you might see include incompatibility of the acrylic emulsion or flocculation of the pigments. In non-scientific terms, this means your paint might not have the usual flexibility you'd expect from acrylics, and it might stay tacky, even when dry. It also might not adhere to your supports like it should, so you may find your colour flakes or peels over time. Also, different qualities of pigments used from other sources may mean that you have unpredictable or poor lightfastness, so the colour will change over time.