**7 Ways to Re-Color Your Background Papers**

By Amy Kingsford

When I first started digi scrapping a little over a year ago the thing that really impressed me about it, was the ability to customize my digital supplies-- including re-coloring them --at the touch of a button. Wouldn't it be great if you could do this with your paper supplies!? Well, what's stopping you!? Re-coloring paper can be a great way to customize your supplies, update them or just to have a little bit of fun! Check out these 7 techniques, which offer different ways for re-coloring your paper.

(Insert Photo- 7waysoriginal)

**NOTE:** While it’s easiest to start with a predominantly white or light colored background, some of these techniques with higher opacity ratings can accent or even re-color darker backgrounds.

(Insert Photo- 7wayspaint)

**PAINT**
Saturation \* \* \* \*
Texture \* \* \* \*
Even Coverage \* \* \*
Permanence \* \* \* \*
Ease \* \* \*
Opacity \* \* \* \*
Dry Time \* \* \*

All you need is some acrylic paint and a paint brush to get this effect. The more coats you apply the less of the original background you will see and the more saturated the paper will become. This technique can work with lighter and darker backgrounds and is best suited for medium to heavyweight papers.

(Insert Photo- 7waysink)

**ALCOHOL INK**
Saturation \* \* \* \* \*
Texture \*
Even Coverage \* \* \* \*
Permanence \* \* \* \* \*
Ease \* \* \* \*
Opacity \* \* \*
Dry Time \*

In order to get this effect you will need alcohol inks, blending solution and an applicator. This method is highly saturating and creates rich even colors. It is suited for most paper colors and weights.

(Insert Photo- 7waysmist)

**GLIMMER MIST**
Saturation \* \* \*
Texture \* \*
Even Coverage \* \* to \* \* \* (depending on # of applications)
Permanence \* \* \* \*
Ease \* \* \* \*
Opacity \* \* \*
Dry Time \* \*

Using glimmer mists can bring rich colors, a fun texture and a little bit of sparkle to your papers. The more applications that are applied the more saturated the paper becomes, and the richer and more even the color will be. While the color is very permanent, the glittery finish does have a tendency to wear off with time.

(Insert Photo- 7wayschalk)

**CHALK**
Saturation \*
Texture \* \*
Even Coverage \* \* \*
Permanence \*
Ease \* \* \*
Opacity \*
Dry Time NA

To get this effect, use chalk and a dauber to blend the color into your paper. This will give a soft subtle color. This finish is typically not very permanent, but can be if you follow up with a clear coat or fixative after application.

(Insert Photo- 7waysglaze)

**GLAZE**
Saturation \* \*
Texture \* \* \* \* \*
Even Coverage \* to \* \* (depending on medium used)
Permanence \* \* \* \*
Ease \* \*
Opacity \* \* \*
Dry Time \* \* \* \* \*

Tinted glaze can be created a number of different ways, each one yielding slightly different results. The above glaze was made by mixing a small amount of acrylic paint with decoupage. For a glossier look and more even coverage you can add a small amount of paint to a glaze medium, or you can purchase a pre-colored glaze medium. Of all the techniques this one will take the longest to dry.

(Insert Photo- 7waysdye)

**DYE**
Saturation \* \* \* \*
Texture \*
Even Coverage \* \* \* \*
Permanence \* \* \* \* \*
Ease \* \* \*
Opacity \*
Dry Time \* \* \* \*

I have come across two techniques for applying dyes to paper, one of which is to brush the dye across the paper like watercolors, the second is to submerge it in a pan of dye. I personally prefer the latter, as there is less pilling of the paper and it provides for a more even color.

(Insert Photo- 7wayswhitewash)

**WHITEWASH**
Saturation \* \* \*
Texture \* \* \*
Even Coverage \* \*
Permanence \* \* \* \*
Ease \*
Opacity \* \* \* \*
Dry Time \* \* \*

Whitewashing can bring a hint of color, while adding a bit of distressing. You can get this look by adding a thin layer of gesso to the paper and letting it dry. Then apply a watered down acrylic over the top and then brushing it away with a paper towel. This effect will mute the background pattern and should be reserved for medium to heavyweight papers.