

Black light pigments

233-013A - 017A

233-018

Introduction

Black light pigments are microencapsulated materials that are specifically formulated to absorb UV radiation at the near-invisible end of the spectrum (hence 'black light') and re-emit the absorbed energy as visible light of various colours. These pigments have a number of applications including security marking of banknotes and a wide range of glow-in-the-dark products used in special displays, discos etc.

Mixing the pigments

The pigment powder can be mixed with acrylic and other suitable media in varying proportions, but a very small amount of pigment is needed. The best approach is to make up small trial batches on a petri dish using a syringe or pipette to measure out repeatable quantities of media and pigment powder. The mix can also be diluted with water as required.

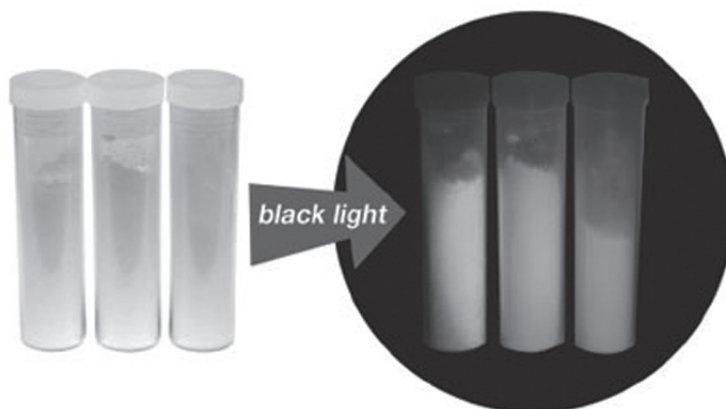
The mix samples should be examined under 'black light' UV light in a dark place. Some LEDs are suitable for this examination, but those that also emit visible purple light are not as effective since this tends to flood the pigment light emission. Suitable black light sources include: security marking checkers, bank note checkers, UV disco lighting sources.

Applications

The mixed paint can be applied to any surface receptive to acrylic media – including fabrics, paper, card and wood. It can be applied by brush, screen printed or, for example, printed from a relief surface created by lino-cut, laser-cut rubber/MDF or cast chromatic alginate (stock code:234-210).

Safety

The pigment should be handled using normal hygiene methods. Avoid skin and eye contact (e.g., wear disposable gloves and goggles), and wash after use.



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