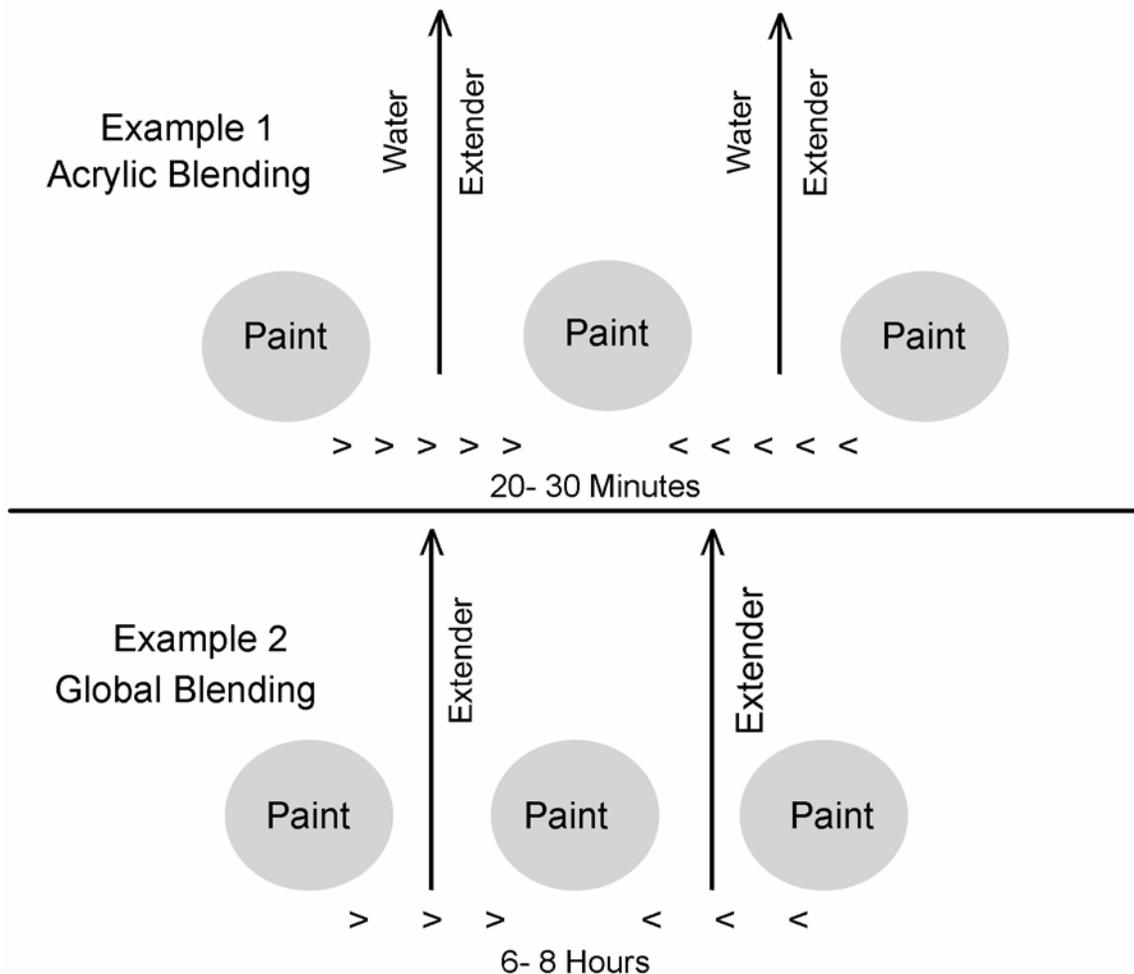


**Global Blending
Extended Acrylic Blending
By**

David Jansen MDA, Heritage Artist

The new Traditions Global Blending Technique gives the acrylic artist further control over the blending and drying time of their Traditions paints. With this new method, the Traditions artist can now slow down the drying time to that of oil, and actually give the Traditions paint a longer and better control over blending than what is found with oils. Why Global Blending? We decided to call this Global Blending because for the first time acrylic artists can use old world oil techniques and paint or glaze all objects in a painting at the same time. They can use all the old world techniques that require the painting to stay wet and blend able. Below in Example 1 we show how Traditions paints normally dry. Acrylic artists for years have put the acrylic paints out on wet paper towels and misted the paints with water to keep them fresh and workable.



Example 1 shows how the paints dry when used as an acrylic. The Traditions acrylic paints contain both water and Extender Medium in each bottle. The relative amount of Extender however is low compared to water. As the water dries, the paint particles move together and

dry or cure. Water and Extender both leave during this drying process. Since the amount of Extender is relatively low, the paints typically dry in 20 to 30 minutes. Artist desiring a longer working time will add Extender to the paints and increase the open time. This however is still shorter due to the water that is in the paint and the water that is continually added by the wet paper towel and misting.

Example 2 shows how the Global Blending Technique will increase the drying time. In the Global Blending technique, there is no water in the paint. All water has been replaced by Extender Medium which has a very long drying time of several days. In the Global Blending Technique, the paints are not misted; they are not placed on a paper towel. The paints are put in a hard plastic container which traps the Extender in the paint and increases the working time. Paints mixed using the Global Blending Method can be placed on your palette and used for 6 to 8 hours before they begin to dry. There is no hurry when mixing these colors. They will not dry nor spoil. They will not mold or become unusable. To mix the colors for the Global Blending Technique you need to follow the steps listed below.

Global Blending Steps

1. Into a hard plastic container mix about 3 parts paint to 1 part Extender. They paint will be a little thin, however as the paint dries, the water will leave and the colors will begin to thicken. The time it takes to thicken is dependent on how much paint you are mixing. Larger amounts will take longer. A tablespoon of paint may take 2 days depending on the humidity.



Adding Extender Medium



Mixing Extender Medium

2. Leave the colors uncovered for 6 to 8 hours. As they begin to thicken, stir occasionally and add a few drops of Extender Medium to keep them liquid. You can paint right away with these colors however they will still contain water which will shorten the drying time.
3. The colors will take 2 to 3 days to thicken and become like oils. At that time, all of the slow drying water has left and the colors only contain Extender. Do not mist or add water at any time. Adding water will shorten the drying time.

4. For large amounts of color, we suggest a large container that can be covered when not in use. For example a 3 oz. Tupperware container for each color works great. You can leave this uncovered for several days allowing the water to dry out. Stir occasionally and add Extender when needed to keep it liquid.
5. Once the water is gone, the paint can be used on the multimedia palette without fear of drying. If at any time the paint starts to thicken, just add a few drops of Extender. The paints will keep for many months in this condition. After several weeks, the paints will stay open longer and may require a hairdryer to assist in drying.

Possibilities

In my studio I have several containers of paint that have been mixed for Global Blending.



Above I am showing a container of paint that was mixed 5 months ago. It was mixed with an equal amount of Extender Medium. The paint has never been covered (over 5 months) nor had additional Extender added to it. This paint lost about 20% of its volume as the water evaporated. Once the water had left the paint has a very long drying time. During our test the paint did not dry for 18 hours. Drying time depends on the thickness of paint you apply. Thicker layers of paint will require many hours to tack and dry. Because of the volume of paint in this container the paint will keep itself workable. We have stirred this paint about once a week for the past 5 months however nothing has been added to it.

When the Traditions paint was first developed we had several options due to the new type of resin that is being used in the paint. The drying time of the paint can truly be controlled. We decided to adjust the drying time of the paint to that found in older acrylics. By creating this method we felt future acrylic artists would have greater control over the paint and thus techniques used to create their art. Artist today using these mixing steps can paint exactly like oils, and even surpass the blending time found with oils.

The true test of these mixes is time. It takes time for water to evaporate from the paint. Once the water has evaporated the palette maintenance is very low. As the water is evaporating, you may need to stir is occasionally and add small amounts of Extender.



Photo of Global Blending Mixes that have been on a Multi- Media Palette for over 12 hours. They have not been misted nor have any Extender added to them. Colors continue to stay fresh and workable. This colors were mixed one week ago.

Photo from Sue Pruett MDA DVD.



Global Blending Palette used to create this painting.

Painting by David Jansen MDA

Notice the color variations and soft blends, especially in the center rose and white flowers. The true look and technique of oils can be achieved by the acrylic artist.



This Global Painting Palette is 5 weeks old and was used to create the painting above
This palette has also painted over 6 paintings and is still fresh and usable. This palette will be usable for several months. It has not had Extender added to it for the past 2 weeks.

Global Blending and the mixing of the Traditions for Global Blending will revolutionize acrylic paints and painting technique as a whole. It is safe, non-toxic and has working times that exceed oils. Oil techniques can be used with non toxic paints. The new Global Blending technique was used in my latest DVD seminar and is also featured in Sue Pruett's new DVD. The Heritage Team will soon be releasing several teaching aids for this new technique. Look for more information very soon.

Thanks,
Dave Jansen MDA
Heritage Teacher