



TIPS FOR WEARABLE ARTS PROJECT

1. Always follow the directions that come with your supplies. If you don't understand the directions, get help so you won't make a mistake.
2. Prewash garments without any type of fabric softener. The softeners prevent the paint or adhesives from sticking to your garment. Press if wrinkled. Exception is any canvas article i.e. - canvas tote bag or tennis shoes. They wrinkle too badly when washed and dried. Use them as is.
3. A shirt board inserted inside of your shirt has two purposes. It keeps paints from bleeding through to back of shirt. It also gives a firm surface to transfer a pattern to the shirt. A piece of cardboard covered with wax paper also works well.
4. When using dimensional paints, shake paint down to tip. Practice on paper towel before trying on garment. Always start a small line on towel to get air bubbles out of the bottle. If changing colors while using dimensional paints, place cap on top and place bottle on its side. This helps keep air bubbles out of the tip.
5. Allow 6-8 hours for paints to dry to the touch. Let the garment dry 36 to 48 hours for paint to cure. Remember if directions call for it; heat set the paints. This keeps colors brighter longer.
6. If you are using fusible adhesives, be careful not to get it on the iron or ironing board. It makes a sticky mess for the next project. An old iron is best. If you are to let material cool before next step, do so because the adhesive might not stick as it should.
7. If machine finishing, always practice on scrap material to adjust your zig-zag stitch or tension on your sewing machine. You want to get even stitches all around. If using a t-shirt and stitches are puckering slightly, put a piece of tissue paper on the back side. This will give more stiffness to your shirt. Tear any excess paper off from the back side. Always check the manual for your machine for any special requirements for zig-zagging.
8. There are many types of glues made for fabric applications. Some are made just to use on jewels and stones. Some are washable. Carefully check the instructions that come with your glue, so you match your glue to your applications. Always let them cure 36-48 hours before wearing and washing.
9. In caring for your **Wearable Art garment**, wash in warm water on delicate cycle. (Suggestion - use IVORY FLAKES for washing.) Cold water wash will cause the paints to crack and pull away from your garment. Some now recommend using a fabric softener. For drying, use low temperature for a few minutes and finish drying flat.
10. Suggestion - plan ahead, start early, have ready several weeks/days before fair judging. Wearable Art shouldn't be done at the last minute.