

1. Writing on the object

Barrier coat

Paraloid (acrylic polymers)

B72 poly (ethyl methacrylate/methylacrylate)

B72 20% in acetone is used as a barrier coat on the object. B72 has the best ageing characteristics of any barrier coating, it doesn't change colour and stays soluble in solvents. It doesn't dissolve in white spirit. Acetone is quick drying. It may damage some types of objects

Top coat

Paraloid (acrylic polymers)

B67 poly isobutyl methacrylate

B67 20% in white spirit is used as a top coat. B67 also has good ageing characteristics but yellows a little in time. It is used dissolved in white spirit to reduce the risk of the barrier coat of B72 being dissolved.

Materials

Paraloid B72 20% solution in acetone

Paraloid B67 20% solution in white spirit

permanent black markers or Rotring pens and permanent black ink

permanent white markers

acetone

artists brushes or brush in cap containers

paper towels

cotton wool swabs

Tools pros and cons

Tools	Pros	Cons
Metal pen, e.g. Mapping pen or Rotring pen or Rotring and Indian ink	Traditional and excellent in experienced hands	May scratch and blob
Brush	Kindest to most surfaces	Hardest to control
Felt tip or roller ball pen with pigment ink	Easiest to control	Ink may not be acid free or permanent

Method

- 1) Read the Health and Safety data sheets and check that you are working in a well ventilated area
- 2) Select a clean area on the object's surface.
- 3) Support the object if necessary so that you will be able to leave it to dry after marking.
- 4) Fill the cap brush or an artists brush with the Paraloid B72 solution but do not overload it to avoid drips
- 5) For non-porous surfaces: with one steady movement first move the brush in one direction to make a mark only slightly larger than the size of the number to be applied. Then stroke again in the opposite direction to use the solution on the other side of the brush. Then leave it to dry. Some people find it easier to apply single brush strokes.
- 6) For porous surfaces it is important to build up enough lacquer to prevent the ink penetrating the surface. Apply at least three coats of B72, allowing it to dry before applying the next coat. Enough lacquer has been applied when it dries to a fairly consistent smooth dull sheen. *Hint: try this out on a similar trial surface or even paper first then see if you can remove the number or if the ink has penetrated the surface.*
- 7) The ink should be applied in quite thick strokes with a pen appropriate to the size of the number you want to write. Leave it to set for a minute before applying a top layer of the Paraloid B67. If the ink is applied too thinly it may be damaged by the top layer of B67.
- 8) Only one layer of B67 should be necessary, spread lightly over the surface to avoid smudging of the ink below. You can add additional layers after the first is dry to give added protection against the number being worn away.
- 9) If you make a mistake wipe it off with a swab soaked in acetone.