

## RUST EFFECTS:

### You will need:

- 500g Bronze Powertex (0059)
- Powercolour: Moss Green, Red Oxide, Light Blue, Mars Orange, Yellow Ochre
- Easy Varnish 100ml (0012)
- Colourtrix Bronze Gold or Rich Gold
- Board or canvas
- Latex Gloves
- Kebab sticks or skewers
- Scissors, Paper Towel & Alfoil
- Cutting mat & Plastic Bowl
- #12 round synthetic brush

### Optional:

- Stone Art Clay
- Powercotton (0048)
- Paper Deco (natural or white)
- Corrugated Cardboard
- Nuts, Bolts, Screws to add
- Wood or metal cutouts e.g. cogs
- Powercolour: Raisin, Mocha & Turquoise



## SETUP:

Powertex is an extremely versatile art medium that can be used experimentally in your artwork. As a textile hardener Powertex will adhere to anything that is NOT plastic e.g. metal, ceramic, wood, fabrics, etc... and it does its job extremely well!!! When you're setting up your studio to work with Powertex you need to establish some good work habits. Things to consider:

1. Cover your floor with a tarp or wipe up drips immediately
2. Cover your table with plastic
3. Wear an apron and remove any loose jewellery.
4. Set up a wet area for wash up: Fill a bucket with warm soapy water (place it in the sink if you wish) & have an empty bucket (for dirty water). Once water is dirty tip it on the garden to avoid drainage issues.
5. Ensure you have all the materials for your project close at hand and set yourself up to work. Plastic salad bowls from the \$2 shop are perfect for working with Powertex. You can cover them with a plastic shopping bag and tie a knot at the base of the bowl - this saves you a lot of cleanup time!!! Disposable shower caps from the supermarket also fit perfectly over the top of the bowl, which allows you to have a break without the Powertex drying out!! FANTASTIC!!!
6. Use latex gloves when you're dipping fabric into the Powertex to keep you hands clean... Wash up is done with warm soapy water, which makes Powertex extremely easy to use... it's also non toxic so you don't have to worry about ventilation or getting it on you skin!!!
7. **STIR Powertex well before use** & then shake. Stir until it is an even consistency....
8. After opening Powertex cover the bottle with plastic wrap so that it's easy to get the lid off when you go to use it next time.

## ADDING TEXTURE:

Before you begin working with Powertex lay out all the pieces you'd like to use in your artwork... pre-cut them & play with the arrangement of shapes & textures on your canvas or board. Once you're happy with your ideas place all materials to the side and paint the surface of your artwork with Bronze Powertex. Add textures by painting the underside (like using glue) and then paint the top surface so its totally coated with Powertex. **TIP:** *if the surface is really wet & shiny you have used too much... if it looks dry you haven't used enough.* When beginning with Powertex the tendency is to squash everything down so that it sticks... you don't need to do this... simply ensure the texture has good contact with the surface in key areas... the best way to do this is by using a kebab stick (instead of your fingers) to press the materials down... the kebab stick can also be used to raise areas making your textures more 3D. Trust that the Powertex will harden the textures! Build the textures up in layers beginning with the largest surfaces and finishing with the finer details. Powertex works most effectively with natural fibres e.g. T-shirt material, cotton, etc...

## CREATING TEXTURE with FABRIC:



You may wish to use some fabric to create your rust effects... in this instance it may be easier to dip the fabric into the Powertex rather than painting it on. Simply pour some Powertex into a bowl, dip the fabric and rub it in, ensuring it penetrates the fibres... DO NOT saturate the fabric - if it looks really shiny then you've used too much Powertex... To remove any excess take your next piece of fabric and rub it with the saturated strip... this will transfer any excess Powertex onto the next strip. Drape desired fabrics onto your artwork to achieve texture... allow the fabric to fall naturally and adjust gently...

**TIP:** *ensure the Powertex on the surface is still wet where you are draping the fabric so that you're joining wet to wet.* Experiment with some other materials such as Powercotton & other natural fibres to create different textures... or add some stone art clay to your piece...

## STONE ART CLAY:

Stone Art is essentially a refined paper pulp, when mixed with Powertex it makes an air dried clay. To mix Stone Art you use 1 part Powertex with 1 part Stone Art and mix it like a bread dough. If its too sticky add a bit more Stone Art. If it's too dry add a bit more Powertex. To avoid over-using your Powertex keep you hands damp while kneading the clay. Once mixed Stone Art clay will keep for 3 months or more - simply wrap it in a damp chux wipe and place in an airtight container. Stone Art can be rolled, coiled, stamped and texturised in the same way as you would use clay! You can also use it to attach heavier items such as nuts, screws & bolts to your artwork...

## CREATING "RUST EFFECTS":

Once you're happy with the texture & composition of your artwork you're ready to add Powercolour (matt) Pigments to achieve the "Rust Effect". They can be added in several ways...

1. Powercolour can be sprinkled or rubbed into wet Powertex
2. Powercolour can be applied using a dry-brush technique with some pigment & Easy Varnish. To do this, measure a small amount of pigment using the end of a pallet knife and place a range of colours onto some Alfoil (see some of the recommended colours on the materials list), put out some Easy Varnish (the size of 10c piece). Pick up a small amount of Easy Varnish on a dry brush then mix it with the pigment and apply to your artwork highlighting the top of the textures, allowing the bronze base to come through from underneath.

**TIP:** *For best result begin with blues & greens, then reds & yellows. Use the Powercolour sparingly on your artwork... a little goes a long way... it's easier to add more than it is to take it off!!!*

To finish use Colourtrix (metallic) Pigments (Bronze Gold or Rich Gold) with a dry brush technique (as above) to highlight key areas... various effects can be achieved e.g. a corroded bronze effect.

## CONGRATULATIONS

**You have successfully completed your "Rust Effects" artwork!**

**NB. Allow Powertex to dry and harden for at least 2 weeks before varnishing or exposing to the weather. To see practical demonstrations go to the Powertex Australia Channel on YOU TUBE & watch some of our project videos!**