Cold Wax Techniques in Mixed Media  
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Cold Wax is a substitute for Encaustic Wax. It does not require heating and thus produces no odors or toxic fumes. Because there is no heating involved, it is an inexpensive, versatile and portable alternative. Cold Wax Medium is compatible with all varieties of paint as well as with dry pigments/powders. The wax can also be used with collage papers, fabric, texture tools, stamps and stencils. Although the wax sets up well overnight, as with all oil based products, the actual cure time can be lengthy.

**Supplies:**

**Medium:** Dorland’s Wax Medium OR Gamblin Cold Wax Medium

**Wet Media:**
- Oil Paints
- Heavy Body Acrylics
- Alcohol Inks
- Gesso
- Watercolors
- Fluid Acrylics
- Sumi-E Ink
- Walnut Ink
- Acrylic Inks
- India Inks

**Dry Media:**
- Soft Pastels
- Inkstense Pencils
- Pearl-Ex Powders
- Mica Flakes
- Glass Beads
- Oil Pastels
- Inkstense Blocks
- Perfect Pearls
- China Paint Pigments
- Pumice
- Watercolor Crayons
- Powdered Graphite
- Metal/Bronzing Powder
- Glitter

**Substrate:**
- Watercolor Paper
- Canvas Board
- Printing Paper
- Cradled Board
- Mixed Media Paper
- (an absorbent paper required for proper drying of wax medium)

**Supplies:**
- Wax Palette
- Collage Papers
- Fabrics (Silk)
- Old Credit Card
- Palette Knife
- Printing Stamps
- Baby Wipes
- Texture Tools
- Brush (use only for wax)
- Stencils
- Gloves

**Basic Technique:**

Place Wax Medium on the palette with the palette knife and mix the wet and/or dry media with the wax. Acrylic media, especially the inks, tend to bead up slightly when mixed. Dry media tend to granulate when mixed with the wax medium.
Apply to absorbent paper so that the oil based mediums will completely dry. However, for heavy applications of the wax medium, select a rigid surface such as canvas board or a cradled wooden board to prevent cracking. Use a palette knife for textural applications and a brush for smoother applications. Once the brush has been used with the wax medium, it cannot be used for anything else. Clean up equipment with baby wipes. The brush may be washed with Murphy’s Oil Soap.

Since the wax medium's primary use is with oils, it takes a long time to dry. The wax and any collage paper, embedded fabric, stamped or stenciled imagery will be fragile for several hours. Avoid disturbing the paper, fabric and textures until the wax has set up. The wax medium should cure in about 1 to 2 weeks (depending on heat and humidity).

The wax medium may be used as a substitute for acrylic medium and gel for embedding and texture. Any dry substance (such as glass beads or pumice) that can be mixed into acrylic medium/gel can be mixed into wax medium. Materials can also be embedded in the wax such as skeleton leaves and dried flowers. The wax requires a longer initial drying time with embedded materials.

Tint the wax medium with wet and/or dry pigments. To retain the translucency of the wax, use paints sparingly. Mix several colors with the wax on the palette and blend the mixes on the surface. Test a small amount of pigment and then add more as needed. Extend the borders of a tinted wax application with pure wax medium allowing the color to bleed out into the pure medium. Wax Medium can be used as a resist since water based media will be repelled when applied over dry wax medium. Only oil paint (or oil pastels) should be used to tint dry wax medium permanently. Use the palette knife (or gloved finger) to push materials into the wax to properly secure the material, paper or fabric.

Stamp into a thin layer of fresh wax medium. The stamp can be coated with Watercolor, Ayrlic or Inktense pencil prior to stamping. Use a stencil to create a raised pattern or design. Use various tools to create texture. Draw through the wax medium with a pencil, stylus or stick (wipe the tool frequently).

**Additional Use for Cold Wax:**

Use cold wax to coat pages in altered books to prevent the pages from sticking together when the book is closed. Place a small amount of wax on a soft cloth and rub over the pages. Allow the wax to set up and then buff with a clean cloth. Allow the wax to dry well before closing the book.