

A free project, compliments of...

# Sue Bleiweiss

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## Painted Lace Surfaces

It's easy to create rich beautiful surfaces using Venice Lace. Also known as guipure lace, this type of lace is created without a mesh net-work ground. Instead the sections of the design are connected by bridges or bars which holds the design together. Available in cotton or rayon, each are easy to color using paint, inks and even dye and I'm going to show you several different ways to create interesting surfaces with it.

NOTE: 100% Rayon Venice Lace was used for the examples in this project.

For this first surface start by fusing a layer of neutral colored fabric (white or cream) to one side of a piece of Timtex. Use whatever fabric you have on hand—cotton, linen, muslin, silk or even canvas will work just fine. You can use one single piece of fabric or use torn strips for additional texture and interest.

For my surface I am using torn strips of some scrap pieces of silk from my stash.

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If you don't have any Venice Lace, use whatever you have in your stash. Your results may differ from mine but that's okay!

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For a softer surface instead of using Timtex as the base for your lace surface, use a piece of fabric. This will give you a resulting surface with more flexibility that you could use for wearables, handbags or other projects.



You can see from the photo that I've placed my strips randomly across the surface, overlapping them to cover the entire piece of Timtex. Don't worry about pieces that hang over the edges, you can trim them off later.

Once you have all the Timtex covered, fuse another layer of Mistyfuse on top of the fabric layer. Now it's time to add some lace.

Rather than working with one large piece of lace I like to cut my lace pieces up and collage them on top of the surface. Place them right onto the Mistyfuse without overlapping them too much.



Again don't worry about the pieces that hang over the edge.

When you've covered the surface with pieces of lace, place parchment paper or a Goddess Sheet over the entire area and press with your iron to fuse them in place. If some of the lace pieces you have used are a bit thick you may have to spend extra time pressing to get enough heat through to the Mistyfuse. A few blasts of steam from your iron will help too. I like to flip the piece over and iron it from the back side as well.

To insure that the lace pieces don't lift up from the surface, add some free motion machine stitching all over the top of the surface to secure them in place. If you're not comfortable doing free motion stitching then you can just use a straight or even a zigzag stitch over the surface. No need to cover the entire surface, you just need enough stitching to insure that the lace pieces won't get pulled off.

Now it's time to paint the surface. You can use any paint you have to add color to your lace surface. I like to mist the surface lightly with water before I paint it, but experiment and see what works for you.

For this first surface I used Jacquard Dye-Na-Flow paints.

You can water the paint down a bit if you want a watercolor look or instead of brushing the paint on, try adding it to a spray bottle and misting the surface with color.



This next surface was sprayed with Tsukineko Walnut Ink.

These inks are wonderful to work with but the colors are very strong right out of the bottle, so test spray them on a piece of scrap fabric or paper first. If the color is too strong just add water to dilute it a bit.



Here's another way to create an interesting lace surface. You can buy textile foils in a variety of different colors. I prefer to work with the ones from Laura Murray (see resources).

Fuse a layer of Mistyfuse to the top of your lace surface. Then place your foil on top.



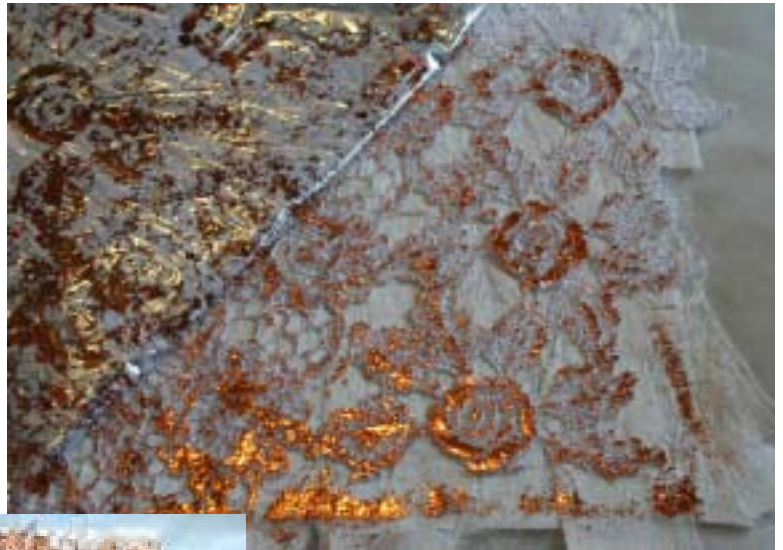
Cover it with a piece of parchment paper and then run a hot iron across the surface quickly while pressing down to make sure that the foil comes in contact with the Mistyfuse on the surface.



Peel back the foil to reveal the foiled surface.

If you didn't get enough foil transfer the first time, just repeat the ironing process until you get a surface that you're happy with.

Now you can add paint to the surface. I painted this one with some Lumiere paint in Metallic Rust. When that was dry it was dabbed with some Lumiere turquoise paint and then with some Lumiere metallic bronze paint.



I used a paper towel to dab the paint onto the surface and then I use the towel to smear the paint across the surface. When it was dry I used it to create a cuff.



For this next one, I added a layer of silver foil and then painted the surface using some metallic blue Lumiere paint.

I also used the blue surface to create another cuff:



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You can also use rubber stamp ink pads to add highlights of color to your surfaces. Just rub the ink pad across the surface or dab it on for a more controlled effect.

Once your lace surfaces are dry you can turn them into postcards, ATCs, journals, boxes or anything you want!

## Resources

Textile foils:  
<http://www.lauramurraydesigns.com/>

Lace: For these techniques I used Venice Lace that I purchased online, but check with your local fabric store to see what they have. Otherwise, search the Internet for "Venice Lace" and you'll find several online sources to purchase from.

