

Tapestry Painting Instructions

Horse: OTC & Equestrian

Thank you for volunteering to paint! I've tried to include all the information you may need for this project but feel free to contact me (Mistress Eleanor fitzPatrick) at any time with questions or suggestions. I can be reached at 603-318-1898, trish@joustinghill.org or on Facebook (Patricia Cross). The artist who converted the originals for this project is Baroness Cassandra Böll von Bayer, to whom I am much indebted.

Included in this kit:

- 1 pre-hemmed canvas with the design traced on with pencil
- 1 set of brushes
- 2 bottles of Versatex "No Heat" fixative
- 1 medium jar of red paint
- 1 medium jar of blue paint
- 1 medium jar of gold metallic paint
- 1 small jar of yellow paint
- 1 medium jar of light green paint
- 1 small jar of white paint
- 1 large jar of black paint
- 1 medium jar of green paint
- 1 tiny jar of silver metallic paint
- 1 set of instructions with painting order notes
- 1 full sheet color image
- 1 full sheet line drawing image that may not contain ALL the detail of the color image
- several scraps of canvas for practice/testing

Instructions:

Below you will see the original Manesse Codex page, the color "cartooned" version modified with East Kingdom features, and the line drawing version. For various reasons, the line drawings do not always contain the full detail of the color cartoon, so always refer to both images. Larger copies of these images will be found at the back of this packet. Please note that the gold leaf in the original has been represented as medium brown in the cartoons. This was done to distinguish between shiny gold and regular old yellow. The yellow background of the cartoon represents the natural color of the canvas. For this Horse, you'll be painting the background, the horse/rider, the waves and outlining the river demons.

Feel free to apply some artistic interpretation, but please stay within the color palette provided so that the paintings are a cohesive set.



This paint (Versatex Printing Ink) is a very thick paint, about the consistency of mayonnaise. It does not soak into the fabric much and it seldom bleeds through. It does cover very thoroughly, much more so than a cheap acrylic from the craft store. You'll want to brush it out thinly, not leave it thick or lumpy in any one spot. You won't need a second coat unless you're trying to cover a dark color with a light one.

Versatex CANNOT be allowed to freeze. It's the one big drawback to an otherwise fabulous paint. Do not leave it in out in your car!

All of the paint requires the addition of a fixative. In this kit is a couple of bottles of Versatex "No Heat" Fixative. This is used to make the paint colorfast INSTEAD of ironing or heat-setting it. I've used it on several pavilions, including my own, the Royal pavilion and the EK Gate pavilion at Pennsic. I promise it works if you follow the directions.

To use it, add a small amount (1-3%, or 1/2 - 1 1/2 tsp per 8 oz. of paint) of this fixative to your paint and mix well. It lasts for about 4-6 hours in the wet paint, then you have to add more. In practice what this means is that every time you sit down to paint, you probably need to add fixative. Don't get carried away adding it - you really do only need 1% to 3%. For the tiny jars, that's a few drops. For the medium jars, it's 1/2 tsp.

If you run out of a color, you can either order it from Dharma Trading Company (<http://www.dharmatrading.com/paints/versatex-printing-ink.html>) using the color information in the third column of the chart below or contact me for more. I made my best guess at amounts needed for the tapestry but I'm used to painting large pavilions not small detailed jobs. Do not substitute another brand of paint without talking to me first - it may not have the same colorfast properties or the same hand or sheen on the fabric.

The Horse uses the following colors:

Horse Color Chart

red	crest on helm, bridle accents, border	5 Red
medium blue	border	24 Ultra Blue
gold (medium brown)	helm, saddle, bit ring, border	31 Metallic Gold
yellow	shields, saddle trim, reins, stirrup, balls on horse fabric	11 Ochre
transparent light green	waves	29 White blended with 15 Yellow Green and 24 Ultra Blue, rendered transparent with Extender.
white	lining of horse fabric	46 Super Opaque White
black	horse, river demons, outlines	28 Black
medium green	horse fabric, rider's tunic	15 Yellow Green
silver grey	chainmail	30 Pearl Silver Lace

Painting Order:

The artist suggested the following painting order so that these overlap well, but feel free to work in whatever order makes the most sense to you.

Note that the original has the border all uneven and irregular - it's not that we're bad at lines!

1. paint horse
2. paint green barding (horse fabric) and tunic
3. paint white accents on horse fabric
4. paint chainmail
5. paint saddle and bridle
6. paint helm
7. paint crest
8. paint demons
9. paint waves over river demons
10. paint red of border
11. paint blue of border
12. paint gold centers of border

13: paint black outlines

Feel free to add detail to the chainmail on the rider. If you're feeling really nuts, you can paint the tygers combattant onto all the small shields too.

For the vast majority of the project you should be able to work in small sections (less than the size of a card table) without ending up with a "dry line" in the paint as you move from one section to the next..







