

## Using Your Fiber Blenders

Fiber Blenders (C369) or (C371) are what I call “the magic sticks”. Because of the fibrous material that the blenders are made of, they grab the paint and move it easily. This is all you are trying to do when you blend colors together to make shadows and highlights.

Blending = smearing. Now I know that doesn't sound terribly artistic, but that is basically what you are doing. You're putting multiple colors down on your design and you're smearing those colors together so they mix up and form other colors. If you put down 125-Blue – then 124-Light Blue – smear them together – you have Blue that turns into medium blue – then goes to Light Blue. This is blending in a nutshell – and this is what the Fiber Blenders do so well – pick up the colors and move them around where you want them so they mix together. (Always remember – if you want to blend colors together – you have to have enough paint down that you can actually smear it together. If you don't have enough paint down – nothing you do will blend the colors together.) With the Fiber Blenders, you don't have to push down really hard. It works best with a medium to soft touch.

Generally when you blend colors together, you don't want to see the line where they come together. That line is what you want to blend away so that the colors just go from one color, to the next color, to the next color, without you seeing exactly where they turn from one color to the next.

The next thing – how do you clean them? That's pretty easy. You can put them in water and rinse them out. Just keep blotting them off until they come clear. Or you can just let them dry – then scratch the old color off by rubbing it on your Sandpaper Blotter.

For the Blenders to work well – they need to be comparatively soft. If they get hard, and don't blend, rub them on your Sandpaper Blotter to get everything working right again. Be sure that you rub them so you keep the shape that they come with. Rub the chisel-shape in a flat motion so you keep that flat area. Rub the bullet-shape and the cone-shape in a twisting motion so that you keep those shapes intact.

These shapes are great for pushing the paint into the material (chisel-shape). If you're not blending, you still have to make sure the paint goes fully into the material so it's nice and washable. This shape gives you a nice flat side to do that with. If you need to get up into a small corner the cone-shape is good for that. The bullet-shape is just an all around shape to use on just about any part of your design.

I have always liked to have one for each color. (Not each individual paint.) So I have one for blues, one for reds, one for black and grays, one for oranges, yellows, purples, and, of course, white. This way if I don't want to be cleaning them all the time, I'm still not going to get a color where I don't want it.

They last a long time, even with rubbing them on the Sandpaper Blotters to keep them soft and in shape. Making an investment in good equipment makes sure that your finished design is the best it can be.

I hope that you all like these as much as I do. I think that they are the best thing that ever happened to fabric painting. Anyone can blend, put in nice looking shadows and great highlights with these. They are easy to use and do the job so well that even beginners can use them to make their paintings look great!!