



Utrecht Art Supplies
Studio Craft: Toned Grounds



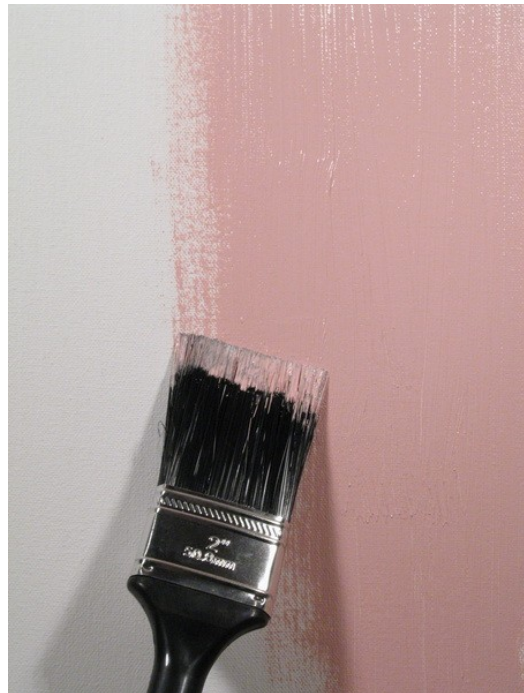
Not every painting has to start with a stark white ground. A toned ground helps unify color relationships while reducing value contrast, creating complexity and chromatic intensity with the first few strokes of paint.



Utrecht Acrylic Gesso can be tinted with acrylic colors for a practically unlimited range of hues.



To achieve a homogeneous mixture without streaks, when tinting with tube colors dilute paint to a fluid consistency before adding to gesso, or select Fluid Acrylics.



Tinted gesso can be used for normal priming or over pre-primed canvas.



Make sure to mix enough of the desired shade to achieve full coverage- it's almost impossible to exactly match the same shade twice.



Artists' oil colors can be applied over primed canvas to create a toned ground. Thin with Odorless Mineral Spirits to achieve a uniform, thin application. When using tube colors for toning canvas, use the smallest amount of paint necessary to cover- this helps support proper adhesion and curing of subsequent layers and reduces drying time

of the initial toned layer. For faster drying, include Alkyd Medium in the toning mixture.



Utrecht Oil Priming White can be tinted with tube oil colors for a wide range of shades. To support proper drying, select leaner (less oil-rich) colors. Apply over acrylic-primed or synthetic-sized canvas.



Oil-based toned canvas is a "faster" ground than acrylic priming- the initial oil layer reduces absorbency, allowing paint to move fluidly on the canvas.



Raw and Burnt Umber are traditional favorites for toning canvas. The Umbers are strong through-driers, promoting rapid curing of the paint film.

Mix with Odorless Mineral Spirits for a variegated, matte-finish toned layer, or mix with Alkyd Medium for a more uniform, transparent imprimatura.



Raw and Burnt Umber can be brushed on quickly for subtle background texture.



For subtler texture, continue brushing in the long dimension of the canvas until uniform coverage is achieved.

Questions? [Ask the Expert](#)

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