



Silky smooth for a memorable wine

A bottle of wine is often a great pressie to give, so make the gift more memorable with one of these silk-painted grapes cards.

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1 Stretch the silk over the wooden frame and pin so that it is flat and taut.

2 Turn the frame over and place it onto the designs so that you can trace over them onto the underside with soft pencil. Make sure you can see the pencilled designs through the silk when you turn the frame back over.

3 Apply gold gutta (outliner) to the 'front' of the silk by tracing over the pencil lines. Squeeze two lines around the outer frame of each design so as to make a wider gold line. Leave to dry for about an hour or speed up the process with a hairdryer.

4 Pour a small amount of each colour into your ice cube tray palette. The deep compartments of an ice cube tray ensure the paint won't dry too

quickly and it can easily be covered with cling film if you have to stop painting for a while.

Silk paints mix brilliantly and you can greatly extend the range from the four colours listed, prepared in the spare ice cube tray compartments. For these designs, mix a good selection of greens by varying the amounts of blue you add to yellow and by adding a small amount of red into a green to make it more of a 'mossy' colour. You will also need some purple and deep blue colours, so experiment with different combinations of blue, pink and red. Try them out on a scrap of silk or even kitchen towel.

5 Load your brush with paint, but not so full that it will flood or drip onto the silk. Then just touch the silk surface with the tip of the brush and watch the colour spread as you gently move the brush around. Paint is held back in each area by the gutta lines.

Try not to let the edge of spread out paint dry before applying more paint next to it, as the join may be noticeable. You can paint an area in one solid colour or get some lovely effects by merging two colours together - this has to be done while the paint is wet. Give your brush a really good swish in the jar of water and dry it on kitchen towel before going on to another colour.

6 When dry, take the silk off the frame and remove each design by cutting down the middle of the double gutta line around the edge.

7 Take a sheet of white card and use the glue stick to spread a thin and even layer over an area slightly larger than one of your painted silk pieces (make sure there are no lumps). Place the silk picture onto the glued card, smooth and press down. Stick any other silk pictures onto white card in the same way. When the glue has dried carefully cut out each picture along the edge of the gold outline.

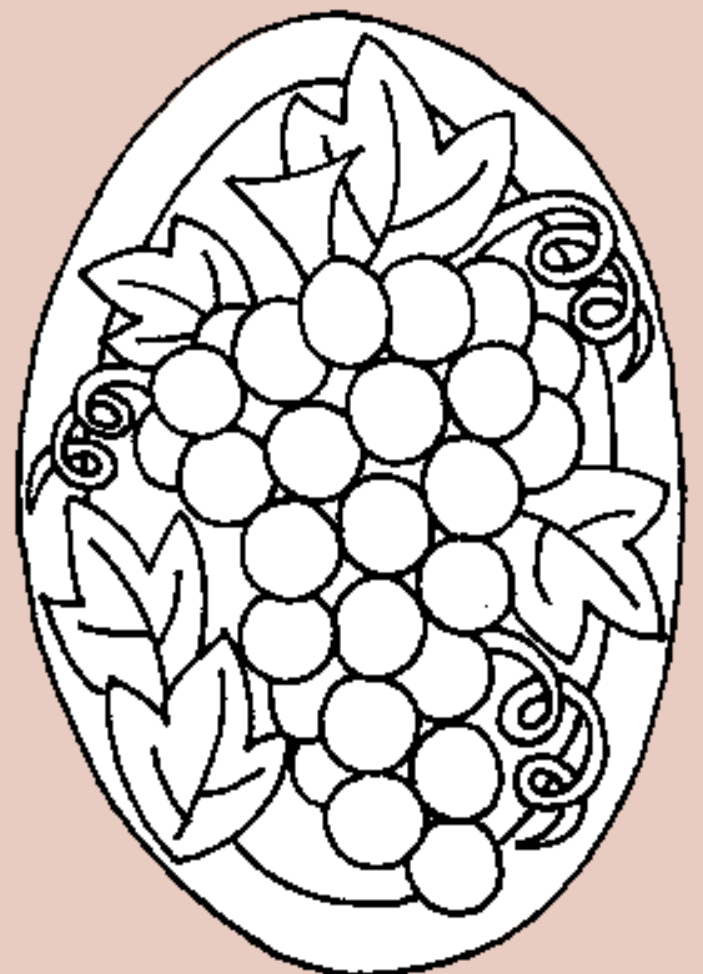
8 If you would like to add 'Happy Birthday', place the printed greeting over the bottom of the card blank and trace over it with a ball-point pen so as to indent the card. Trace over the marks with gold gutta and leave to dry.

9 To make up the card cut the sticky pads in half and stick them on the back of each of your silk panels at the top, bottom, left, right and middle. Peel the backing from the sticky pads and position each panel onto the front of a burgundy card blank.

TECHNIQUE

Applying gutta from a tube

Hold the tube as you would a pen and at an angle. Rest the nozzle of the tube lightly against the stretched silk surface and gently squeeze the tube as you slowly move the nozzle over the design lines. You should be leaving a trail of gutta behind. It is important that the gutta line goes all the way through the silk and has no breaks, so be extra careful when joining two lines together. It's a good idea to practice on a sheet of paper first.



TECHNIQUE:
Silk painting

CREATED BY
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GET READY...

- ✓ **Wooden silk painting frame and silk pins**
(an old wooden picture frame can be used)
- ✓ **Silk**
- ✓ **Silk paints**
(I used Lefranc & Bourgeois Silk Fix in Oriental Red, Cyan, Lemon Yellow and Fuchsia)
- ✓ **Lefranc & Bourgeois gold gutta**
- ✓ **Size 4 paintbrush**
- ✓ **Soft pencil**
- ✓ **Scissors**
- ✓ **Glue stick and sticky fixer pads**
- ✓ **White card**
- ✓ **Burgundy card blanks**
- ✓ **Cheap ice cube tray to use as a palette**
- ✓ **Jar of water**
- ✓ **Kitchen roll**



SOURCE
Silk painting supplies can be bought at most art and craft stores. For stockists of Lefranc & Bourgeois Silk Fix paints and guttas call Oasis Art & Crafts (Tel: 01562 744522).