

Gum-water solution

PURPOSE: Water soluble gums constitute a major ingredient in the manufacture of paint, for they are easily formulated, non-toxic, and quick drying. Gum arabic is one of the most commonly employed.

INGREDIENTS	PARTS
<i>Gum arabic</i>	1
<i>Water</i>	2

DIRECTIONS FOR MANUFACTURE: In a double boiler, heat the water and stir in the gum arabic. Powdered gum takes less time to dissolve than lumps, but complete dissolution still requires about two days. After the solution cools, cover and leave it until the solution is clear and complete. Strain the gum-water through cheesecloth into a clean jar. Keep refrigerated when not using, for this material spoils easily. Never heat this solution over direct flame, for it will scorch.

DIRECTIONS FOR USE: Mix your dry pigments with the gum-water into a thick paste, and use on paper or cardboard. For on opaque gouache technique, use a large proportion of pigment to gum solution. For a transparent watercolor technique, dilute the solution with water. When the painting has dried, it may be varnished or sprayed with fixative for protection.