

79350 Mastic Varnish

Silky, hardly yellowing natural resin varnish for oil paintings made of extra light Chios mastic. Slightly harder than Dammar. Diluted with turpentine oil also suitable as a retouching varnish. Not soluble in turpentine oil substitute (Shellsol T).

Viscosity, dynamic (mPa.s, 20°C, Höppler)	46,955
Viscosity, kinematic (cSt, 20°C)	50,708

Recipe for mastic solution

100 g mastic tears (60050), dissolved in
200 ml turpentine oil (70010) cold dissolved.

Dissolve mastic by placing the lumps in a bottle with the appropriate amount of double rectified turpentine. The bottle is placed at an angle to create a larger dissolving surface. Shake frequently during the day.

When the solution is ready, it is strained, removing the impurities.

The bottle in which the resin solution is filled must be protected from light with a black sleeve, if you do not want to use the brown glass or polyethylene bottles designed for this purpose.

Recipe for mastic solution 1:3 (mastic stain)

100 g mastic resin, in
300 ml turpentine oil

The dissolving process, as described above, is completed after a short time with this 1:3 ratio. The duration depends on both the age of the resin and the dissolving power of the turpentine oil.

Recipe for alcoholic mastic varnish

8.0 parts by weight ethyl alcohol
2.0 parts by weight mastic resin

The resin is dissolved as described earlier and then filtered. Alcohol varnishes, which can also be made from alcohol-soluble synthetic resins suitable for artistic work, were more commonly used in the past as intermediate varnishes or as retouching varnishes, e.g. to bring out chipped areas.

When working with alcohol varnishes, it must be remembered that alcohols are, as it were, stripping agents for dried oil paint films. Working with an alcohol varnish on an oil painting requires skill; the best way is to apply it very thinly several times with a spray gun..

Recipe for mastic and venetian turpentine

4 parts mastic varnish by volume (1:2 dissolved in turpentine oil)
1 volume part of venetian turpentine or larch turpentine

The resin is slightly heated together with the venetian turpentine (about 60°C in a water bath).

This painting medium is often used as an additive to finished oil paints to achieve glaze-like color applications.

Due to the high mastic content, the colors dry quickly. See also Dammarfirnis.

Source: "Malmaterial und seine Verwendung im Bilde" (19. Auflage, 2001) von Max Doerner