

Oils

Linseed Oil

A drying oil that dries to a semi-gloss to matte finish, depending on the pigment it contains. It dries relatively slow.

Walnut Oil

Also a drying oil that dries to semi-gloss to matte finish as well. It is usually used in oil-egg tempera emulsions.

Poppy Oil

A very slow drying oil, that is very clear and dries to a brittle film and therefore recommended to be used in combination with a more flexible oil such as linseed oil.

Sunflower Oil

A non-drying oil that is very clear.

Lavender Oil

A slow drying oil, which retards the drying time of other oils.

Clove Oil

Also a very slow drying oil, which can be added to other oils to retard their drying time. Use only drops.

Balsam

Larch, Venetian and Strasbourg Turpentine

Very viscous turpentine, which are left in their post extraction state or made more viscous by the addition of colophony resins. They make a beautiful thickener for oil painting mediums. Especially suited for mediums that are used in fine detail or glazing work. They must be used in combination with an oil to prevent cracking.

Canada & Copaiva Balsam

Also gained by extraction from trees, that contain a mixture of resins and oils. These two are hailed as the best because of their workability and the ability to use them as a sole medium.

Rectified Turpentine

The product of the distillation of the viscous pine tree sap. In the distillation process such resins as colophony are removed to create a clear liquid which makes a great thinner and drier for all oil painting mediums. Turpentine has no binding power on its own and can therefore not be used alone in combination with pigment.

Varnishes

Dammar Varnish

A combination of rectified turpentine and the crystalline Dammar Resin. As mentioned earlier it creates a glossy film that needs to be stabilized with an oil and can be thinned with turpentine for easier brushability. By the addition of beeswax the glossiness of the film can be reduced from a semi-gloss all the way to matte finish.

Mastic Varnish

Manufactured in a similar fashion as Dammar Varnish. It also dries to a glossy finish, but remains more flexible in film than the Dammar and is therefore preferred as a picture varnish.

Driers

Cobalt Drier

A very potent drier that should be used in very small (drops) quantities. Too much drier causes paint films to crack.

Turpentine

Also acts as drier and can be added generously as drier to oil paints.

All of the above mediums can be intermixed to create any sort of paint medium (slow drying, glossy, matte, viscous, etc.). However, it is important to consider whether the painting medium will **dry in a reasonable amount of time** and whether the dry paint film will be **flexible enough to keep from cracking**.