



## MASTER MEDIUMS

These Secret Recipes for Old Master Mediums have been updated a bit so that the ingredients used can be purchased easily; either online or at a local art supply store. Though all the materials can be further reduced to recipes used by the Old Masters, the time might be better utilized behind the brush.

There are many different Secret Recipes that the Old Masters used for painting., They are very specific in how they are used. Here are a few of them and simple guidelines you might use for their application. Even more, you might experiment with them and find out how they might serve you and your paintings.

**SUN THICKENED LINSEED OIL:** This recipe is touted to for it's ability to stretch out a line of paint without breaking. It allows for controlled application and speeds the drying time of oil paints.

Yes, you can purchase Sun Thickened Linseed Oil, but since it's easy, why not make your own? It does take a bit of time, it's easy:

Gather these supplies:

- \*Clean glass jar (I like wide mouth jars)
- \*Linseed oil
- \*A piece of glass larger than the jar
- \*Small spacers - popsicle sticks work great

The secret is to create an gap between the glass jar and the piece of glass. You might try a piece of cheese cloth, lightly wrapped around the jar, just wide enough

to be tacked around the gap between glass top and jar top (do not wrap the whole length of the jar) to keep bugs out.

Place about 2 inches of Linseed oil in the jar and place in a sunny window. Stir the Linseed oil every other day for a couple of minutes, then recover. In about 2 weeks you will find the oil beginning to thicken. Continue to stir for 2/4 MORE weeks.

\*\*\*Here is where you might experiment; if you use 2/3 jars, you might find that you prefer one thickness better than another.

**\*\*\*NOTE TO SELF, IF THIS LEFT TOO LONG IN THE SUN, THIS MIX WILL HARDEN AND BE UNUSABLE**

\*\*\*UNDERPAINTING MEDIUM:

This first recipe is for an underpainting. This is a very “lean” recipe.

1 Part Linseed oil

\*\*\*1 part Damar Varnish

5 Parts Solvent (I like Gamsol, by Gamblin or Mona Lisa Odorless Paint Thinner)

It is very important, in order to avoid cracking, to use less solvent in each layer. This next is great for a Middle Layer.

**\*\*\*MIDDLE LAYER MEDIUM:** This Recipe is “less” lean. In other words, it has a bit more fat

1 Part Linseed oil

\*\*\*1 Part Damar Varnish

4 Parts Solvent (Gamsol, by Gamblin or Mona Lisa Odorless Paint Thinner)

**\*\*\*ALLA PRIMA/TOP LAYER MEDIUM:** This Recipe is “less” lean. In other words, it has more fat than the 2 previous recipes.

1 Part Linseed Oil 1 Part Damar Varnish 3 Parts Solvent ( Gamsol, by Gamblin or  
Mona Lisa Odorless Paint Thinner)

**\*\*\*ALWAYS WORK IN A WELL VENTILATED AREA**