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Standard Specification for Gouache Paints¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This specification establishes requirements for composition, physical properties, performance, and labeling of gouache paints.

1.2 This specification covers pigments, vehicles, and additives. Requirements are included for pigment identification, lightfastness, and consistency.

1.3 **Table 1** lists some pigments meeting the lightfastness requirements in this specification. In order to identify other pigments that meet these requirements, instructions are given for test specimen preparation. Test methods for determining relative lightfastness are referenced.

1.4 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

1.5 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

- [D185 Test Methods for Coarse Particles in Pigments](#)
- [D279 Test Methods for Bleeding of Pigments](#)
- [D476 Classification for Dry Pigmentary Titanium Dioxide Products](#)
- [D823 Practices for Producing Films of Uniform Thickness of Paint, Coatings and Related Products on Test Panels](#)
- [D1210 Test Method for Fineness of Dispersion of Pigment-Vehicle Systems by Hegman-Type Gage](#)
- [D1535 Practice for Specifying Color by the Munsell System](#)

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D01 on Paint and Related Coatings, Materials, and Applications and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D01.57 on Artist Paints and Related Materials.

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

- [D4236 Practice for Labeling Art Materials for Chronic Health Hazards](#)
- [D4303 Test Methods for Lightfastness of Colorants Used in Artists' Materials](#)
- [E284 Terminology of Appearance](#)
- 2.2 *Other Documents:*
 - [Colour Index³](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *colour index name, n*—consists of the category (type of dye or pigment), general hue, and an assigned number given to a colorant in the Colour Index³ as an international identification system.

3.1.1.1 *Discussion*—For example, the Colour Index Name of one phthalocyanine blue pigment is Pigment Blue 15 (PB 15).

3.1.2 *colour index number, n*—a five-digit number given in the Colour Index that describes the chemical constitution of a colorant.

3.1.2.1 *Discussion*—For example, the Colour Index Number of one phthalocyanine blue pigment is 74160.

3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.2.1 *gouache paint, n*—a pigment dispersion in a water soluble gum/resin vehicle that dries water soluble and is formulated primarily for relatively opaque and matte applications.

3.3 Appearance terms used in this standard are defined in Terminology [E284](#).

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This specification establishes quality requirements and provides a basis for common understanding among producers, distributors, and users.

4.2 It is not intended that all paints meeting the requirements be identical nor of uniform excellence in all respects. Variations in manufacture, not covered by this specification, may cause some artists to prefer one brand over another, either of which may be acceptable under this specification.

³ The Society of Dyers and Colourists, *Colour Index*, 3rd ed., 5 volumes and revisions, Available from the American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists, P.O. Box 12215, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709.

TABLE 1 Suitable Pigments List

NOTE 1—Underlined information in the table and lightfastness category shall be included on every label.

Color Index Name	Lightfastness Category	Common Name and Chemical Class	Color Index Number
KEY			
<i>Lightfastness Category:</i>			
	I	Excellent Lightfastness	
	II	Very Good Lightfastness	
<i>Abbreviations used in Colour Index Names:</i>			
PB		Pigment Blue	
PBk		Pigment Black	
PBr		Pigment Brown	
PG		Pigment Green	
PO		Pigment Orange	
PR		Pigment Red	
PV		Pigment Violet	
PW		Pigment White	
PY		Pigment Yellow	
AR		Acid Red	
BR		Basic Red	
<i>Pigment Notations in Parenthesis:</i>			
(CC)		Concentrated cadmium pigments may contain up to 15 % barium sulfate for color control. Cadmium-barium pigments contain a much higher content amount of barium sulfate.	
(DL)		May darken in strong light	
(LF)		Lightfast type	
(NA)		Colour index name or number not assigned	
(RS)		Red shade	
(BS)		Blue shade	
(SM)		Sensitive to moisture	
(SS)		Sensitive to hydrogen sulfide	
(OP)		Opaque type	
YELLOWS			
<u>PY 3</u>	I	<u>Arylide Yellow I0G</u> , with option of adding the name Hansa Yellow Light, arylide yellow	11710
<u>PY 6</u>	I	<u>Arylide Yellow</u> , arylide yellow	11670
<u>PY 35</u>	I	<u>Cadmium (hue designation)</u> , concentrated cadmium zinc sulfide (CC), (SM)	77205
<u>PY 37</u>	I	<u>Cadmium (hue designation)</u> , concentrated cadmium sulfide (CC), (SM)	77199
<u>PY 42</u>	I	<u>Mars Yellow</u> or <u>Iron Oxide Yellow</u> , synthetic hydrated iron oxide	77492
<u>PY 43</u>	I	<u>Yellow Ochre</u> , natural hydrated iron oxide	77492
<u>PY 53</u>	I	<u>Nickel Titanate Yellow</u> , oxides of nickel, antimony and titanium	77788
<u>PY 65</u>	II	<u>Arylide Yellow RN</u> , with option of adding Hanas Yellow RN, arylide yellow	11740
<u>PY 74 2GX70</u>	II	<u>Arylide Yellow 2GX70</u> , Hansa Yellow 2GX70, arylide yellow (OP)	11741
<u>PY 109</u>	I	<u>Isoindolinone Yellow G</u> , tetrachroloisindolinone	NA
<u>PY 110</u>	I	<u>Isoindolinone Yellow R</u> , tetrachroloisindolinone	56280
<u>PY 139</u>	I	<u>Isoindoline Yellow</u> , isoindoline	NA
<u>PY 170</u>	II	<u>Diarylide Yellow</u> , diarylide yellow	21104
ORANGES			
<u>PO 5</u>	I	<u>Dinitraniline Orange</u> , dinitraniline (SM)	12075
<u>PO 20</u>	I	<u>Cadmium (hue designation)</u> , concentrated cadmium sulfo-selenide	77202
<u>PO 36</u>	I	<u>Benzimidazolone (hue designation) HL</u> , benzimidazolane	11780
<u>PO 43</u>	I	<u>Perinone Orange</u> , perinone (DL)	71105
<u>PO 73</u>	II	<u>Pyrrcle Orange</u> , Pyrrolopyrrol	NA
REDS			
<u>PR 5</u>	II	<u>Naphthol ITR</u> , naphthol ITR	12490
<u>PR 9</u>	II	<u>Naphthol AS-OL</u> , naphthol AS-OL	12460
<u>PR 14'</u>	II	<u>Naphthol AS-D</u> , naphthol AS-D	12380
<u>PR 101</u>	I	<u>Mars Red</u> or <u>Iron Oxide Red</u> , synthetic iron oxide	77491
<u>PR 108</u>	I	<u>Cadmium (hue designation)</u> , concentrated cadmium-seleno sulfide (CC)	77202
<u>PR 113</u>	I	<u>Cadmium Vermilion Red Light</u> , <u>Medium</u> or <u>Deep</u> , cadmium mercury sulfide (CC)	77201
<u>PR 122</u>	II	<u>Quinacridone (hue designation)</u> , γ quinacridone	73915
<u>PR 170 F3RK-70</u>	II	<u>Naphthol Red</u> , naphthol carbamide (DL)	12475
<u>PR 188</u>	I	<u>Naphthol AS</u> , naphthol AS	12467
<u>PV 19</u>	I	<u>Quinacridone (hue designation)</u> , γ quinacridone red	73900
VIOLETS			
<u>PV 14</u>	I	<u>Cobalt Violet</u> , cobalt phosphate	77360
<u>PV 19</u>	I	<u>Quinacridone (hue designation)</u> , quinacridone violet b	73900
<u>PV 23</u>	II	<u>Dioxadine (hue designation)</u> , carbazole dioxazine	51319
BLUES			
<u>PB 15</u>	I	<u>Phthalocyanine Blue</u> , or <u>Pthalo Blue</u> , copper phthalocyanine	74160
<u>PB 17:1</u>	II	<u>Phthalocyanine Blue Lake</u> , or <u>Pthalo Blue Lake</u> , trisulfonated copper phthalocyanine	74200:1
<u>PB 27</u>	I	<u>Prussian Blue</u> , Milori Blue, alkali ferric ferrocyanide	77510
<u>PB 28</u>	I	<u>Cobalt Blue</u> , oxides of cobalt and aluminum or cobalt aluminate	77346
<u>PB 29</u>	I	<u>Ultramarine Blue</u> , complex silicate of sodium and aluminum with sulfur, or sodium aluminosulphosilicate	77007
<u>PB 33</u>	I	<u>Manganese Blue</u> , barium manganate with barium sulfate	77112
<u>PB 35</u>	I	<u>Cerulean Blue</u> , oxides of cobalt and tin or cobalt stannate	77368

GREENS

PG 7		Phthalocyanine Green, or Phthalo Green, chlorinated copper phthalocyanine	74260
PG 17		Chromium Oxide Green, anhydrous chromium sesquioxide	77288
PG 18		Viridian, hydrous chromium sesquioxide	77289
PG 19		Cobalt Green, oxides of cobalt and zinc, or cobalt zincate	77335
PG 23		Green Earth, or Terre Verte, natural ferrous silicate containing magnesium and aluminum potassium silicates	77009

PG 36		Phthalocyanine Green or Phthalo Green, chlorinated and brominated copper phthalocyanine	74265
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BROWNS^A

PBr 7		Burnt Sienna, calcined natural iron oxide	77492
PBr 7		Burnt Umber, calcined natural iron oxide containing manganese	77492
PBr 7		Raw Sienna, natural iron oxide	77492
PBr 7		Raw Umber, natural iron oxide containing manganese	77492
PBr 11		Magnesium Ferrite, synthetic iron oxide containing magnesium oxide	77495
PBr 24		Chrome Titanate Yellow, oxides of chrome, antimony and titanium	77310
PBr 25		Benzimidazolone Brown, monoazo benzimidazolone	12510

BLACKS

PBk 1		Jet Black, aniline black	50440
PBk 6		Lamp Black, nearly pure amorphous carbon	77266
PBk 7		Carbon Black, nearly pure amorphous carbon	77266
PBk 9		Ivory Black or Bone Black, amorphous carbon produced by charring animal bones	77267

WHITES^B

PW 4		Zinc White, zinc oxide with option of adding the name Chinese White	77947
PW 5		Lithopone, zinc sulfide coprecipitated with barium sulfate	77115
PW 6		Titanium White, titanium dioxide (rutile or anatase) with option of including some barium sulfate or zinc oxide	77891
PW 7		Zinc Sulfide, zinc sulfide	77975

^A Color Index Number 77491 can be used as an alternate to 77492 for PBr 7.

^B Information on white pigments is given in [Appendix X3](#).

5. Labeling Requirements

5.1 Pigment(s) Identification:

5.1.1 Every label shall include for each pigment contained in the paint the information underlined in [Table 1](#), which includes the Common Name, Colour Index Name, and any additional terms necessary to identify the form of the pigment.

5.1.2 The complete pigment identification given in [Table 1](#), which also includes the Colour Index Number and a simple chemical description, shall be given by the producer in an appropriate electronic version or printed publication. Manufacturers are encouraged to put this complete identification on the container label when label size permits.

5.1.3 The common name shall be placed on the front of the label and shall be the name of the paint except as described in [5.1.5](#) and [5.1.6](#). Other identification may be placed elsewhere on the container.

5.1.4 The colour index name may be spelled out in full or abbreviated depending on the size of the label. Example: Pigment Blue 15, or Pig. Blue 15 or PB 15.

5.1.5 *Substituted Pigments*—In the case of substituted pigments, except for those pigments listed in [Table X5.1](#), the word “Hue” in equal size letters shall follow in the title, on the front of the tube, and immediately after the name of the pigment that has been simulated.

5.1.6 Proprietary names or optional names may be used provided the common name(s) given in [Table 1](#) is listed with their Colour Index Names and the Lightfastness Category of the mixture somewhere on the label.

5.1.7 *Mixed Pigments*—Artists’ paints containing more than one pigment comply with this specification if all colored pigments included in the mixture are on the suitable pigment list ([Table 1](#)) and provided the mixture itself has passed all other test requirements in this specification. The lightfastness category shall be that of the least lightfast pigment. This

lightfastness category may be changed if the mixture is tested in accordance with Test Methods [D4303](#) and the results indicating a different category are submitted to ASTM Subcommittee D01.57 for evaluation.

5.1.8 *Historical and Discontinued Pigments*—Pigments that are either (1) primarily of a historical nature, or (2) have not been commercially manufactured for a minimum of 10 years or more, may be submitted to Subcommittee D01.57 for inclusion in [Table X5.1](#).

5.1.8.1 The Common Name(s) of pigments in [Table X5.1](#) may be used by substituted pigments without the designation of “Hue” in the title.

5.1.8.2 Paints using pigments listed in [Table X5.1](#) may use the word “Genuine” in front of the title to differentiate them from substituted pigments.

5.2 Provide on the Label:

5.2.1 Identification of gum/resin used.

5.3 *Lightfastness*—The label shall contain the word “Lightfastness” followed by the appropriate rating, I, or II, as given for each pigment in [Table 1](#), or else one of these corresponding icons ([Fig. 1](#)).

5.3.1 Lightfastness I pigments, when made into paint specimens as described in Section 7 and exposed, tested, and rated in accordance with Test Methods [D4303](#), shall have a color difference (ΔE^*ab) of 4 or less CIELAB units between the specimens measured before and after exposure.

5.3.2 Lightfastness II pigments, when made into paint specimens as described in Section 8 and exposed, tested, and rated in accordance with Test Methods [D4303](#), shall have a color difference (ΔE^*ab) of more than 4.0 but not more than 8.0 CIELAB units between the specimens measured before and after exposure.



FIG. 1 Lightfastness Rating

5.3.3 Pigments were placed in a lightfastness category on the basis of either known historical performance in art works or the ratings from four lightfastness tests conducted as described in Test Methods **D4303**. Results from further tests on these, or other pigments, are solicited by Subcommittee D01.57.

5.3.3.1 The lightfastness category of a pigment shall be changed if results from several further tests conducted in accordance with Test Methods **D4303** and approved by ASTM Subcommittee D01.57, establish a different lightfastness category than the one given in **Table 1**.

5.3.3.2 Additional pigments shall be placed in **Table 1** after they have been tested for lightfastness in accordance with Test Methods **D4303** and the test results submitted to ASTM Subcommittee D01.57 for evaluation, provided the results demonstrate that the pigments have the lightfastness ratings required for Lightfastness I or Lightfastness II, as just described.

5.3.4 For information and to establish nomenclature, pigments in Lightfastness III, IV and V categories are given in **Table X1.1** in **Appendix X1**, but are not to be used in paint conforming to this specification.

5.3.4.1 Lightfastness III pigments have a color difference of more than 8.0 but not more than 16.0 CIELAB units.

5.3.4.2 Lightfastness IV pigments have a color difference of more than 16.0 but not more than 24.0 CIELAB units.

5.3.4.3 Lightfastness V pigments have a color difference of more than 24.0 CIELAB units.

5.4 *Toxicity*—All products and labeling must conform to the Federal Hazardous Substances Act and to Practice **D4236**.

5.5 *Statement of Conformance*—“Conforms to ASTM Specification D5724.” or “Conforms to ASTM D5724” or “Conforms to the quality requirements of ASTM D5724.” This statement may be combined with other conformance statements, such as, “Conforms to the quality and health requirements of ASTM Specification D5724 and Practice **D4236**.”

5.6 *Address*—Include on the label (1) the name and address of the manufacturer or importer, and (2) the country of manufacture.

6. Quality Assurance for Gouache Paints

6.1 *Conditions Not Covered in This Specification that Affect Gouache Paints:*

6.1.1 *Substrate*—The effective pH of the paper used will affect the long-term color of the applied gouache paints.

6.1.2 *Environmental Conditions*—Factors such as temperature, humidity, air flow, and light conditions affect application properties, drying time, and adhesion.

6.1.3 *Storage*—With aging and elevated temperatures there may be a change in consistency and a discernible separation of vehicle.

6.2 *Vehicles*—Only water soluble gums/resins shall be used.

6.3 *Pigments*—Pigments used in gouache paints shall be limited to those in **Table 1**. Their lightfastness rating shall be the numeral given in the same row.

6.4 *Additives*—Thickeners, preservatives, surfactants, and humectants may be used to achieve consistency, prevent microbe deterioration, and control application results.

6.5 *Inerts*—Inerts shall only be used to produce desirable working qualities.

6.6 *Preparation of Sample*—For paste and fluid paints, empty the contents of the previously unopened container onto a glass slab and mix thoroughly with a spatula to a homogeneous sample. For cake paints, take a piece of the cake on a glass slab and add water and mix until a homogeneous paint is formed.

6.7 *Coarse Particles*—Paints shall be free of oversized particles and shall form a uniform film. The maximum content of coarse particles shall be 1 % by weight, as determined by Test Methods **D185**.

6.8 *Fineness of Dispersion*—Determine the fineness of dispersion by Test Method **D1210**. For paste paint: on a glass plate, using a spatula, mix the paint with an equal volume of water until homogeneous. The maximum allowable grind reading is 1.5 mils (40 μm).

6.9 *Consistency*—Paints shall be smooth and easily solubilized with water to a homogeneous color.

6.10 *Freeze-Thaw Stability*—Using a freezer that has a temperature of -7°C (20°F) or lower, subject the paint to five freeze-thaw cycles. A freeze-thaw cycle shall consist of freezing the paint to a solid state (minimum of 18 h) and then thawing the paint to room temperature (minimum of 5 h). The paint shall then meet the requirements of **6.7**, **6.8**, and **6.9**.

6.11 *Opacity (Hiding Power)*—Opacity rating requirements will be included in this specification as appropriate standards for opacity of paints are established. Test method described in **Appendix X2** may be used to rate the opacity of a paint.

6.12 *Bleeding*—Bleeding rating requirements will be included in this specification as appropriate standards for bleeding of paints are established. Test Methods B of **D279** may be used to determine the rate of bleeding of paints.

6.13 *Color Specification*—Color specification of each color by Munsell notation by Test Method **D1535** may be given in an appropriate producer publication. Manufacturers are encouraged to put this specification on the container label when label size permits.

7. Lightfastness Determination

7.1 If a pigment is not listed in **Table 1**, test specimens of a gouache paint containing the pigment shall be prepared. These test specimens shall be tested in conformance with the requirements for exposure and evaluation given in Test Methods **D4303**.

NOTE 1—A report of the results of these tests may be submitted to Subcommittee D01.57 for inclusion of the pigments in **Table 1**. The report shall include information on test conditions instruments used, and be accompanied by the test specimens (which will be returned).

7.2 Materials:

7.2.1 *Substrates*—White unlaquered paper.

7.2.2 *Chalk Resistant Titanium Dioxide Gouache Paint*.

7.2.3 *Drawdown Bar*, with 100- μm (4-mil) aperture.

7.3 Mixing Whites for Dilution of Colors:

7.3.1 Use a white containing the same gum/resin and additives as the formulation in which the pigment is incorporated if possible. The following basic composition has been found satisfactory:

	Weight, %
Gum arabic nonvolatile	6.4
Glycerine	4.6
Chalk resistant rutile titanium dioxide (conforming to Type IV in Classification D476)	66.7

7.4 Preparation of Test Paints:

7.4.1 The pigment to be tested may be milled in a soft paste consistency. If a prepared paint of known composition is available, it may be used for this test instead of preparing a standard.

7.4.2 Dilute the pigment paste or paint with the mixing white and draw-down on unlaquered paper until the spectrophotometric measurement of the dry paint shows from 35 to 45 % reflectance at the wavelength of maximum absorption for that pigment. The wavelength of maximum absorption is located at the point of lowest reflectance on the spectral curve between 420 and 620 nm. If using a tristimulus filter colorimeter, the lowest of the three filter readings is the region of maximum-absorption and the dilution should be adjusted so that a reading of 35 to 45 % reflectance is obtained with this filter. The diffuse white reference standard for all measurements should have an absolute reflectance between 97 and 100 %.

7.4.2.1 To obtain this reflectance, use the Kubelka-Munk Single Constant Method described in **Appendix X4** or use a trial and error method.

7.4.2.2 For gouache paints, 80 g of white paint is needed since paint used in the drawdown is lost.

7.4.2.3 For the initial weight of white stated in **7.4.2.1** and **7.4.2.2**, the weighing must be accurate to 0.05 g.

7.5 Preparation of Test Panels:

7.5.1 Use an applicator with a 100- μm (4-mil)⁴ aperture to make a drawdown at least 40 by 40 mm (1.5 by 1.5 in.), or other minimum size appropriate for the viewing area of the instrument used. Follow Method C in Practices **D823**, if a motor-driven applicator is available. Pressure of about 500 g on the applicator is recommended. For manual drawdowns follow Method E in Practices **D823** when an auxiliary flattening bar is available. Return all recoverable paint to the batch to allow for repeat mixes and measurements.

7.5.2 When a motor-driven applicator or an auxiliary flattening bar is not available, tape the unlaquered paper on a smooth surface such as a piece of glass. Position the applicator just above the upper edge of the paper and place a pool of the diluted paint in front of it. Grasp the sides of the applicator with the fingers and pull it down the paper with a smooth uniform motion.

7.5.3 Prepare four specimen panels for each pigment under test. Two are used in the first lightfastness tests and two are retained in a dark place, one for visual comparisons with the exposed panels, and one in case a third test is needed to supplement results from the first two tests, as described in Test Method **D4303**.

7.5.4 Apply the test paints to the unlaquered paper as described in **7.5.1** or **7.5.2**. The panels should be air dried for overnight.

7.5.5 Cut the test panel from a section of the drawdown that is uniformly colored. If a backing is needed to support the test panels, adhere the panels to an appropriate substrate, such as light weight posterboard.

8. Exposure

8.1 Conduct exposure tests, calculate mean color difference, and assign pigments to lightfastness categories as described in Test Method **D4303**.⁵

9. Keywords

9.1 gouache paints; lightfastness; quality requirements; test specimens

⁴ A 100- μm (4-mil) applicator was found satisfactory to obtain complete hiding for the mixing white in **7.3.1**. Deeper aperture shall be used if complete hiding is not obtained, however, too thick drawdowns may cause cracking of films during exposure.

⁵ Lightfastness categories in **Table 1** and **Table X1.1** were determined by Test Methods B and C in Test Methods **D4303**. In Test Method B using fluorescent lamps, irradiance was monitored continuously during tests by a pyranometer to a total irradiation of 1260 MJ/m². In Test Method C using an xenon arc exposure system, irradiance was monitored by a narrow bandpass radiometer at 340 nm. Calibration to a total radiation of 1260 MJ/m² was based on the solar radiation measurement in southern Florida by South Florida Test Service. The Florida data show that total spectral irradiation at 340 nm was 550.87 kJ/m² when the total irradiation reached 1260 MJ/m² in the outdoor underglass exposure rack. Accordingly, a xenon arc exposure test was carried out until the spectral irradiation at 340 nm reached 550.9 kJ/m².