

VSN

Vamp Stamp News

Issue Tidbits

The January VSN should be arriving in mailboxes and stores in mid to late December (depending on the holiday mails.) This issue has a large feature article focusing on alcohol ink markers, including Copic's four types of markers, Prismacolor Premier markers and Tria markers. As you are digesting the alcohol ink markers article in this issue, I thought I'd add a few extra tidbits not included in the article itself.

Storage: We stampers have gotten used to needing to store some of our art mediums in specific ways – vertically, horizontally, right side up, right side down, etc. Alcohol ink markers are less finicky. You can store them vertically or horizontally; it won't matter to the marker. Just be sure to store them with their caps on so that they don't dry out.



The Slow Fade: As explained in the article, alcohol ink markers are dye-based inks. That means that while they are permanent on many surfaces, they can still fade, especially when exposed to sunlight. Keep that in mind when choosing places to display your art. Permanent doesn't mean an ink will look exactly the same over a long period of time. It just means that it will stick to the surface and not wipe off easily.

Other Markers: Sometimes *Chartpak Ad Markers* will come up in alcohol ink marker discussions, but they don't actually contain alcohol-based ink. They are actually xylene-based. Xylene is listed as a hazardous component, so that might be a consideration in choosing them if you are cautious about the toxicity of the supplies you use in your art.

Sharpie markers are, however, alcohol-based. I've never heard them described as "art quality", and they only have the one nib, but they can of course be used for art and many stampers have some in their supplies. (I do!)

Blick Art Materials sells their own brand of art markers, *Blick Studio Markers*, that look like the same design as Prismacolor Premier markers and are slightly lower in price than the Prismacolors on Blick's site. I haven't tried these.

<http://www.dickblick.com/>

Coming soon are *Pantone Universe Twin Markers*. Blick's site shows that they will be in stock there on 12/25. Pantone's own site doesn't list them yet (as of 12/17/08).

It used to be that Tria markers were based on the Pantone color system that commercial printers use for spot colors. As described in the Jan VSN article, Tria markers now use a different color system. The Pantone folks are coming out with their own dual-tip markers based on their Pantone system. These have a brush nib on one end and a fine point nib on the other. It doesn't look like they can be refilled. Again, I haven't tried these yet.

<http://www.pantone.com/>

Art Credit Correction: While I have your ear, please take a peek at the black/white art on page 28 of the current issue. It is credited to Bobbey Sakoman, but Bobbey has alerted me that we had a miscommunication on the crediting for this one. Bobbey had sent in a packet of cards, some made herself and others made by stamping friends. I didn't realize that there were multiple artists and so credited the card to Bobbey. The artist for this particular card is actually Fareeda Mater. I will print a correction in the next issue.

Black/White Art: By the way, some readers may be under the impression that black/white art in VSN is really color art like the art on VSN's color pages and are simply printed in

black and white. Actually, no. The black/white art you see is actually black, white or shades of grey and looks very close to what you see on the page. (The exceptions are the little black/white thumbnails near the card descriptions. Those are just there to help you find the color art card description you are looking for more quickly.)

That's enough rambling from me today. I hope you enjoy the Jan VSN and I hope that you have a wonderful holiday season, no matter what holiday(s) you celebrate. I'll be taking some time off over the next few weeks, but you can still reach me by email (vampstampnews@prodigy.net) if you need anything, have comments about the new issue or suggestions for future issues. I'll also be watching the online shopping cart and the mail for orders daily and will process them promptly, so no worries.

Good wishes,
Nancie, VSN

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

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