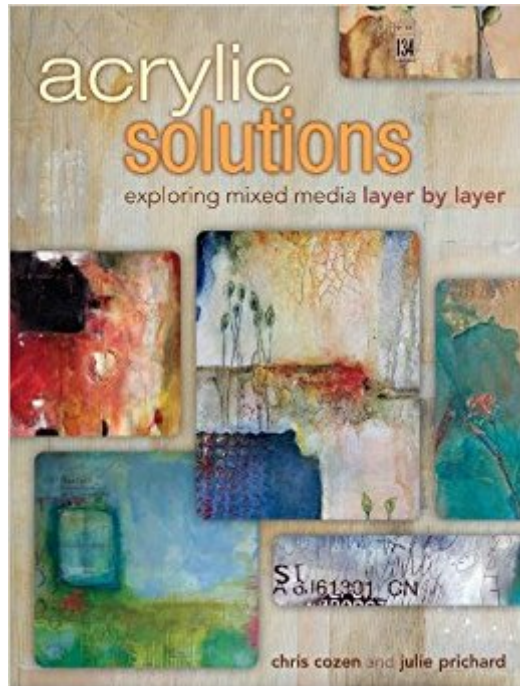




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# Acrylic Solutions: Exploring Mixed Media Layer By Layer



## Synopsis

Fresh new ways to create fabulous paintings with mixed media techniques! *Acrylic Solutions* provides the "hows" behind a multitude of effects you've admired in other artists' works--and then some! Based on the popular online teaching collaboration of Chris Cozen and Julie Prichard, this book illustrates a wealth of layering methods and techniques. Mix and match to achieve countless variations, building layer upon layer to create unique and wonderfully complex abstract art. Learn more than 30 step-by-step techniques for developing texture and visual interest, including collage, monoprinting, carving, color blocking, paint skins, raised stencils, glazing and so much more. Chapters explore the phases of a multi-layered painting, from surface preparation through adding structure, developing complexity and adding finishing touches. Follow the development of two paintings as each layer adds to the finished result, with tons of additional artwork throughout. Gain insight on how to make paints, mediums and grounds work for you. Embracing a spirit of freedom and spontaneity, *Acrylic Solutions* is a stimulating guide for contemporary artists of any skill level. Beginners will learn how to make visually compelling paintings from start to finish, while more experienced artists will find the tools and inspiration to take their work to the next level.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Chris Cozen is a member of the Working Artist Program for Golden Artist Colors, Inc. She lectures and teaches throughout Southern California. She is the author of three books on acrylic techniques. Visit Chris at [chriscozenartist.typepad.com/my-blog/](http://chriscozenartist.typepad.com/my-blog/). Julie Prichard is the author of several successful online teaching workshops. Visit Julie at [www.TheLandofLostLuggage.com](http://www.TheLandofLostLuggage.com).

I only recently discovered Julie Prichard and serendipitously it was at the same time as she was releasing this book with Chris Cozen. (Who I had yet to discover.) At the time the book on was £16.99 and I will admit I thought that was expensive. I searched everywhere to try and get it cheaper. (I'd like to inject here that I'm not a Scrooge just really skint.) About the same time I won £10.00 online with one of those free birthday lotteries - it seemed the Fates wanted me to buy this book. So I did.

First impressions - the book is a nice size. Hardbacked and roughly 11x9" and 127 pages (incl index etc.) The pages are spiral bound and I have found this format excellent for working through the book. It either lays flat or, if I'm short of space I can stand it on end without fear of losing my place or it falling over. The authors both very openly admit that they purely use only GOLDEN products. They also say that's just their preference and to experiment and see what works best for you. I have seen some reviews slamming them for this and I'm not sure why. I don't own a single GOLDEN product - never tried that brand, just haven't found any where I shop. I worked through this book with what I had on hand - this was Liquitex and the Winsor & Newton Galleria mediums, Kaiser Colour, Eco and Liquitex Basics paints plus my big old tub of white gesso. (I think that might be W&N too.) The techniques worked very well for me - so if you are put off the book because of the GOLDEN references and can't be bothered to see what is actually available to you - the book won't be for you. And it will be your loss.

The main body of the book comes in 5 chapters:

- 1 - The Basics: design, colour, materials and more
- 2 - Laying a Good Foundation
- 3 - Adding Structure
- 4 - Developing Complexity
- 5 - Finessing the Details

Every page of the book is scattered with beautiful examples from both Julie and Chris and there are various step by step exercises with clear pictures throughout the chapters for you to complete. Again - I didn't have all the colours they used and sometimes not all the different textured mediums. I just used what I have.

Hands up - I am still only two thirds through this book but I got to page 24 and realised this was not a book you just read. This is a book you work through. To me it feels like a workshop in book form. So I went back to the beginning and started afresh. I still haven't finished the book because I keep stopping to try everything out. I have been 'messing about' with Acrylics for a couple of years but never got past feeling like I was just messing about. No matter how I researched I never did understand what all the mediums did. Or how to blend and get depth. The mediums are explained clearly over and over again. What they do, how they work with other mediums, water, paint etc. Never again will I stand in The Range looking at the shelves and just... not know. I have a shopping list pages long of things I want to try, different mediums and tools. It's not all new - I love my texture and drips but I've learnt new ways of incorporating them, layering them, blending them. Bringing it all together - knowing

when to stop. This book, hand on heart, has already become the most used and abused art book I own. The cover and pages splattered in paint. I no longer think the initial £16.99 was expensive - although, already it can be bought much cheaper than that. I actually think the amount of information packed in here, for me, they have been incredibly generous. Acrylic Solutions is a book I will refer back to again and again. It's been a game changer. (Adapted from a review on my blog where I also include pictures of things I've done while working through the book.)

A very well written book with clear instructions. I ordered two other books on acrylic techniques for beginners and will admit, had greater expectations from those other books. The reason being, the tag line for the book says exploring mixed media techniques.... I was pleasantly surprised. Out of all the books this one had the best and most detailed instructions on even the basic acrylic techniques. If you are an advanced beginner and are intrigued by various effects professional artists are able to achieve in their work then I would highly recommend buying this book. Keep an eye on the small sections on the corners of the pages they might not seem very significant to start with however as I found out after experimenting with acrylic washes, pouring techniques they are actually quiet important reference points.

I have a large collection of art books, since painting with acrylic is has been my hobby/passion for a few years now. This one is my favorite. Here's why: i love the featured artwork from two excellent yet very different artists. The techniques up to date and range from basics to more advanced, interesting applications and are organized in an easy to follow way. Most insightful and inspiring.

I ADORE this book. I will warn you that if you are looking for step-by-step "copy me" type instruction you WILL NOT get it here. Julie Prichard and Chris Cozen do not want you to learn how to make their art - they want you to acquire skills so you can make your OWN art! This is a MUST HAVE for anyone that works with acrylic paint, collage or mixed media. The book itself is spiral bound (genius) so it will lay flat while you work with it. The photography is STUNNING, the layout is clean and easy to navigate, the instructions are clear and concise and the examples of artwork are inspiration for your soul. I learned more with this book than I have in countless other books and online workshops combined. Speaking of online workshops, if you would like to practice these techniques with the authors, check out <http://thelandoflostluggage.ning.com/> - you will find the BEST online courses on the internet. All of the courses are created with high quality videos and projects that will stretch your imagination and your abilities. PLUS, even if the class is a self-paced course,

Julie Prichard and Chris Cozen are there to respond to your questions and help you with any trouble you may have with your artwork. **BUY THIS BOOK** - it will be the **BEST** investment in your creative life that you can make!

Excellent book with carefully crafted step by step instructions on how to add depth and interest to acrylic paintings. If you -- like me -- are interested in learning to paint more abstractly, you will appreciate the level of detail with which the authors have written the book. You have a very instructive book written by authors who really understand the acrylic materials and how to use them as well as how to develop your abstract painting.

It is great to see a book that explain how to use the **GOLDEN** Acrylic mediums. They have beautiful pictures of step by step process and list the **MATERIALS** at the beginning of each demonstration, so you know what you need and how they use them. Their abstract paintings are beautiful and outstanding. It makes me want to do some of those projects and finally develop some new projects of my own using their techniques and **GOLDEN** materials I have used the Fluid Acrylic and **OPEN** Acrylic and some of their different soft gel medium, etc. I am a visual person and their pictures are big and clear. Not only can I read their steps on how they applied the colors and different medium, but I can clearly see the detail and study their compositions and techniques.

A wealth of creative knowledge and inspiration in this book, well worth the price. I purchased one for my friend's birthday and one for myself... we paint together frequently. Use of a variety of techniques are discussed with instruction.

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