

**Clear Painting Medium** – The Zest-it Clear Painting Medium is a combination of Zest-it and Linseed Stand Oil. It is designed to facilitate the flow of oil paint and level out the brush strokes. It can also be used as a glaze and decreases the drying time of the paint. It is useful to both the traditional oil painter and the wet-on-wet artist. For the traditional oil painter, the Zest-it Clear Painting Medium is useful for applying glazes to the painting. It dries clearly and quickly and will also lift any dull parts of a painting giving an overall balance to the surface finish. It does not contain any varnish and keeps the dried glaze as a flexible film. Zest-it Clear Painting Medium is usually touch-dry after 24 – 36 hours.

When working wet-on-wet, the Zest-it Clear Painting Medium provides an ideal base for the start of a canvas painting. It allows the artist to mix and blend colours on the canvas and can be used throughout the painting. The Clear Painting Medium can be coloured with oil colour if desired. Just add a small amount of oil paint to the medium and mix together before using to wet the background. Only a very thin coat is needed. The medium will stay workable for about 12 hours.

**Damar Retouching Varnish** – Zest-it Damar Retouching Varnish is made from Zest-it and gum damar crystals. The gum damar crystals are dissolved naturally in Zest-it over a period of 3 days. The mixture is then filtered to produce a bright, crystal clear varnish. Zest-it Damar Retouching Varnish is primarily used on dull or 'sunken' paintings to give back the wet look. It also gives excellent protection for oil paintings that are in progress until they are dry enough to receive the final coat. Before applying the Damar Retouching Varnish use a soft brush to remove any dust from the painting. Load the brush with varnish and start to apply the varnish just outside the dull or sunken area using small even strokes. Continue in this way until all the dull areas have been covered. Discard unused varnish.

**Damar Gloss Picture Varnish** – Zest-it Damar Gloss Picture Varnish is made in a similar way to the Damar Retouching Varnish. Gum Damar is dissolved naturally in Zest-it. Once dissolved, it is filtered to remove any particles that remain in the solution. This varnish dries to a gloss finish and is used to protect dried oil paintings from the ravages of the atmosphere. Picture varnish is best applied in multiple thin coats rather than one thick layer. Drying between coats is recommended for optimum protection and finish. Best done on a warm, dry day.





**Cold Pressed Linseed Oil** – Zest-it Cold Pressed Linseed Oil is extracted from the flax plant without the use of heat, chemicals or solvents. It is, as the name implies, simply pressed out of the plant. The unrefined Cold-Pressed Linseed oil is filtered to remove any suspended particles and is ideal for use with oil paint or for grinding your own pigments. It is the suspended particles that turn 'brown' over time, not the oil itself, so the extra filtering gives an oil that is less prone to yellowing. Cold pressed Linseed oil is very useful for anyone wishing to reduce the amounts of solvent they use in an oil painting. Your working practice may need a slight adjustment as a whole painting can be executed with just Cold-Pressed Linseed oil. Only a small amount needs to be added to the paint to alter its working properties. It enhances the flow of oil colours, giving them a loose, slippery quality and reduces brush marks. Compared to other mediums, it is relatively fast drying. Cold Pressed Linseed Oil is considered a "fat" medium so it is not advisable to place a solvent thinned layer over it as this would cause cracking. Zest-it Cold-Pressed Linseed oil can be thinned with Zest-it Brush Cleaner and Oil Paint Dilutant up to 25% to make a leaner medium. **Please note there is a possibility of spontaneous combustion if contaminated cloth and rags are left crumpled up. Dry the rags flat, place in a metal airtight tin or wash with soap and water.**

**Making Your Own Oil Colours with Zest it Cold Pressed Linseed Oil** – For those wanting to try their hand at making their own oil colours, Zest –it Cold Pressed Linseed Oil is an ideal starting point. Oil paint is made by mixing pure, cold-pressed linseed oil (not linseed oil that has been heated during a secondary extraction process) with Artists quality dry pigment such as Maimeri Pure Artists Pigments until a smooth buttery paint is produced. Zest –it Cold Pressed Linseed Oil has good wetting properties with dry pigments and is formed easily into a paste before grinding on a glass slab using a Muller. There are several reasons for an artist to make their own oil colours. It is more economical for a start. For a relatively small cost plus several hours of labour you can make amounts of oil paint that are much cheaper than buying tubes from the manufacturer. However, the most beneficial aspect of creating your own colours is the knowledge you will acquire through this process. By grinding pigment and mixing it with oil you will develop an intimate understanding of the materials and how they react under different conditions. Developing this knowledge allows the artist to modify and/or create paint to their requirements. Again, please note there is a possibility of spontaneous combustion if contaminated cloth and rags are left crumpled up. Dry the rags flat, place in a metal airtight tin or wash with soap and water.

## DRAWING WITH ZEST IT

**Zest-it Pencil Blend** – This can be used to blend coloured pencils, pastels and oil pastels or create under-paintings when beginning your work. Zest-it will not only blend colour, it will also allow you spread it further, leaving no residue. Add a tiny amount of Zest-it onto a tortillion, paper stump or cotton wool bud and use gentle strokes to start blending the colour. Use Zest-it with your pastels to stain and under-paint the subject. It makes the first layer of pastel to sink into the paper which in turn, allows more layers to be applied. The pastel will darken when first wetted with Zest-it on the paper and as the Zest-it evaporates, the normal colour will return. If you are using coloured pencils, Zest it works best with those that have a waxy strip (such as Derwent Drawing and Coloursoft pencils). When applying, try to keep the thickness of the colour even all over the area as this will give you a smoother finished result. Oil pastels can be used with Zest it in the same way as coloured pencils and pastels. It is particularly effective with oil pastels for blending and smoothing, however it can be hard to correct or remove as the colour sinks into the paper, making the background more permanent.

### Zest-it Parchment Blend

Zest it has become popular with Parchment Craft artists for its blending capability. When colouring parchment for embossed work, first apply the oil pastel or similar to the reverse side. Use a soft brush to blend the colour and allow to dry. When you emboss your design it will show white on the front against the applied colour.

