



**Kolcaustico™**

*Versatile | Distinctive | Refined*

**Venetian Plaster**

**Handbook**

A Guide to Venetian Plaster

# Kolcaustico™

*Versatile | Distinctive | Refined*

## Venetian Plaster

*Some see a wall, some see infinite possibilities.*

Kolcaustico Venetian Plaster is the elegant, tintable wall finishing material that is not only aesthetically pleasing, but also offers unlimited opportunities to create distinctly different and unique surfaces. It provides a wealth of creative possibilities for both traditional and contemporary settings and can be colorized to create an unlimited palette of pastels, earthy neutrals and vibrant, saturated colors.

Kolcaustico is easily applied and worked with a blade. When multiple layers are burnished and waxed, an elegant, super-smooth, high-gloss finish can be achieved. Adding mica powders to the wax can create a deep pearlescence or a rich semi-metallic luster. For a matte surface with texture, dry pigments or marble dust can be mixed with Kolcaustico.

From the highest sheen to the most earthy texture, nothing is as versatile or as workable as Kolcaustico. Each application is a truly unique creation. In the hands of a talented applicator, it can be a work of art. Is it any wonder that the most demanding and in demand designers, architects and contractors choose Kolcaustico for surfaces that are to be more than background?

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## Kolcaustico Handbook Guide

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*Some see a wall, some see infinite possibilities.*

**Kolcaustico™** is a high quality Venetian Plaster having infinite creative possibilities of layering, color tinting, and sheen levels. It is a versatile material that lends itself well to modern, traditional and antique settings. Kolcaustico can be colored, filled with texturing materials, and stained to simulate *Stucco Antico* and *Stucco Veneziano*.

Venetian Plaster has been used for centuries to create distinctive Mediterranean interiors. The technique took skilled artisans years to master. Today Kolcaustico, a pre-mixed high quality material, simplifies this age-old process, allowing artists and craftspeople to quickly create unique and dramatic surfaces. Imagine classic earth-toned stucco or pearlescent, glossy walls with a richness and texture unattainable with paint alone.

### **Kolcaustico Features and Characteristics**

- Easy to apply with a surface knife or trowel.
- Can be tinted to create soft pastels or vibrant, highly saturated colors.
- Multiple layers can be applied to achieve a marble-like effect.
- Translucent when spread thinly.
- Can be polished with a blade to achieve a marble-like sheen.
- A thin, even coat will dry within fifteen minutes.
- Kolcaustico walls are cool and smooth to the touch.
- Kolcaustico should be used on interior surfaces in dry environments only.
- Kolcaustico can be effectively cleaned by wiping with a damp cloth.
- Covers up to 200 square feet per gallon depending on application technique.
- Clean tools with soap and warm water.

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#### **One-Color Venetian Plaster Application**

One or more layers of a single color of Kolcaustico are applied over a base color of latex paint or primer. The base color is subtly visible through the translucent, lightly tinted Kolcaustico layer creating a surface depth with visible texture and pattern. This is the simplest application technique requiring only one color of Kolcaustico.

The primer or base color may be tinted to match the layer of Kolcaustico or may be a complimentary color to further enhance the layering effect. This method may be left matte or waxed to a soft sheen or a high gloss. Burnishing Kolcaustico before waxing will result in a smoother and glossier finish and may also be done between layers. Mica powders mixed with wax create glowing highlights with a metallic pearlescent appearance, or a wood tone wax may be used to create shaded highlights or an antique appearance.

#### **Multi-Color Venetian Plaster Application**

Two or more layers of two or more colors of Kolcaustico, applied over a base color of latex paint or primer, produces a finish of blended colors with exceptional depth. The primer or base color may be tinted to match the first layer of Kolcaustico or may be a complimentary color to further enhance the layering effect. It is important to pick two colors similar in hue and value, such as peach and ocher, or pale blue and light green.

Similar to the single color application, a multi-color Kolcaustico application may be burnished, left matte or waxed to a soft sheen or a high gloss. Mica powders may be mixed with wax to create glowing highlights with a metallic pearlescent appearance, or a wood tone wax may be used to create shaded highlights or an antique appearance.

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## Surface Knife Techniques

Every Kolcaustico application is a signature piece for the artisan, representing artistry of both color mixing and blading technique. The movements and pressure used with the blade create the unique qualities of a hand-applied finish. The patterns created with the blade will be your signature and will mature as you work on projects. Practice your technique before approaching the wall. Once you begin the project, view the wall as a large canvas and work across the entire surface. Avoid concentrating in one section. Your technique will change with experience and the artistry of your technique should be displayed across the entire surface.

Place a thin strip of Kolcaustico on the edge of the blade. The first pull of the blade should transfer all the material to the wall. Another light pass over the same area will move excess material and redeposit it further along the wall, thereby leaving only a thin smooth coat of plaster. Repeat until Kolcaustico thinly coats the wall. It is best to work from a corner out and from top to bottom. Allow each layer to dry to the touch, about 15 minutes, before applying the next layer. Do not overwork each layer once material begins to dry, as small scratches can form. If the material is applied too rapidly, the top layer will mix with the layer below. This can remove rather than build up material and may create a muddy appearance.

The Multi-Color Application Technique can be applied as individual colors, or by combining two colors during an intermediate pass. For this more complex presentation, place a strip of the first color on the blade, then place a second strip of the second color directly behind. Apply over the base color using your own signature style. The two colors of Kolcaustico will mingle as they transfer to the surface with traces of each tint bridging each layer. Once dry, apply a third layer using the second color. The translucent quality of Kolcaustico and this blending technique create a lustrous multi-layered surface.

## Surface Priming

Good surface preparation is the base for beautiful Kolcaustico walls. Remove any surface imperfections. Seal new sheetrock or joint compound skim coat with a flat latex primer. Previously painted surfaces should be prepared in the same manner required by a high quality paint finish. The sealed surface should be clean, dry and free of dust and wax.

The primer or base coat may be tinted to establish a base color for the project. Using a tinted base coat is a cost-effective way to begin the project as it may reduce the number of Kolcaustico layers. Base coats or primers should be fully cured before applying Kolcaustico. Follow the instructions provided by the primer or paint manufacturer.

## Tinting and Additives

Kolcaustico can be easily tinted using universal tints, such as Mixol, up to 10% by volume. Do not use tints containing oil, or acrylic dryers. Other materials, such as dry pigments and marble dust, can be used for special effects and should be limited to 5% by volume.

Mixol Universal Tinting Paste is the recommended colorant for tinting Kolcaustico, due to its exceptional tinting power and wide range of colors. Add Mixol up to 10% by volume to Kolcaustico. Wet Venetian Plaster will dry lighter in color. For large quantities, use a helical mixing rod attached to a heavy duty electric drill. Once tinted, Kolcaustico can be stored, tightly sealed with plastic wrap directly on the surface of the mix. Record your recipes for later duplication.

## Burnishing

Burnishing Kolcaustico will result in a smoother and glossier final appearance and is generally done 4-6 hours after the final application. Burnish the surface with a clean blade by lightly rubbing the surface with the lower third of the blade. Plastic blades work well on light color applications and will not leave dark streaks on the surface. Burnishing between coats will result in a highly polished finish. The best results are obtained when the surface is burnished soon after it is dry.

## Waxing

The last step in a traditional Venetian Plaster application is the application of wax. Wax enhances color, blade patterns and sheen of Kolcaustico, and is a surface sealer that can be buffed to a soft sheen or a high gloss. After the last coat of Kolcaustico is thoroughly dry and possibly burnished, apply wax using a clean blade or cotton cloth. A heavier coat of wax is applied when working with a blade and this will enhance blade patterns. A thinner coat of wax can be applied with cotton material, since it can be dabbed and feathered as it is applied, and is softer and more subtle. Wax darkens the surface and the test sample should always be taken to the final step to determine the end results. 500ml of Liberon Black Bison Paste Wax will cover approximately 200 square feet.

Liberon Black Bison Fine Paste Wax is recommended for finishing a Kolcaustico application and is available in Neutral (water clear) as well as tinted in several wood shades. These tinted waxes may be used to produce shaded highlights or a special antique wax sheen surface. Since Kolcaustico is slightly porous until sealed, the coloring in the wax will alter the final appearance and can create soft shadows or a dramatic surface. Tinted wax can be applied with a blade or cloth, as discussed above, over untinted Kolcaustico, direct from the bucket, or over a base color of tinted Kolcaustico. Wax colors can be intermixed and Neutral can be added to reduce the intensity. Only one application is required, since the coloring in the wax will not penetrate Kolcaustico once a wax layer is applied.

## Waxing with Mica Powders

Mica powders produce a luminous metallic surfaces when mixed with Liberon Neutral Black Bison Paste Wax and applied over a harmonizing base color of Kolcaustico. Color combinations might include: Magna Pearl over light gray; Mayan, Inca or Majestic Gold over yellow ochre; Sunset or Nu-Antique Gold over olive green. Use a separate container and add one part mica powder to three parts of wax. Apply one layer of the wax/mica powder mixture, thinly and evenly, using a blade or cotton material. Buff after the wax dries completely (about two hours) with a soft cotton

cloth. Small amounts of mica powder can be added to any wax application to create subtle light-catching metallic or pearlescent highlights. **Mica powders should not be mixed into Kolcaustico as they will disappear in opaque material.**

## Final Appearance and Surface Sealing

Good surface preparation and attention to detail when applying materials will produce a high quality Venetian Plaster surface. Avoid forming bumps or ridges when applying material. Sanding with 400-600 grit sandpaper between coats produces a silky surface. The final effect should be smooth and even whether or not you burnish or wax. Several thin layers should be used to build up the surface. Special effects can be created by a heavy application. Record your color recipes, so you can make fresh, accurate touch-up material when needed.

Kolcaustico is durable and water-resistant but not waterproof. Traditional Venetian Plaster applications are waxed to add gloss and to seal the surface, but wax is not water, oil or solvent resistant. A high quality oil or water based sealer may be used to protect the surface from prolonged exposure to moisture, abrasion, rough treatment and cleaners that contain ammonia. For heavy traffic areas like kitchens, baths or commercial space, an oil or water based sealer may be substituted for wax as the finishing step. Sealers will deepen the color and can add gloss. A test of all procedures on a similar surface will help determine the end results.

## Textured Surface

An adobe-like finish can be produced in a palette of earth colors by adding earth pigments to Kolcaustico. Dry pigments, marble dust and other materials may be added to create a variety of soft natural looking textures. Only one layer of Kolcaustico over a base color is required for a solid looking surface. This method is left without waxing and may be sealed with a flat water based sealer. One gallon of Kolcaustico will cover about 150 square feet when working with this technique.

Prepare a batch of Kolcaustico tinted to the desired final color. In a separate container, mix earth pigment or other dry additive with water to make a paste. The paste should contain sufficient water to avoid over-thickening the tinted batch of Kolcaustico. Slowly add the dry pigment slurry to tinted Kolcaustico, mixing well. For this application technique, Kolcaustico is thicker and a single heavy layer is applied over a base color. Large amounts of additives will reduce the pigment to binder ratio and the mix may not adhere well. Limit the amount of additives to 5% by volume and always test the durability of the material and mixture before applying.

### Stenciling and Dye Color Wash

Dyes can be used to produce an all over veil of color or to add stenciled or free hand details on unwaxed Kolcaustico. High quality acrylic, water-base dyes, such as Liberon Palette Wood Dyes, produce even, saturated color and may be used straight from the can or thinned with water. The final surface can be left matte or burnished and waxed to a high gloss.

### Painting with Kolcaustico

Kolcaustico may be tinted and thinned with water to form a paintable solution. Kolcaustico thinned to a brushable consistency should only be applied on a surface covered with Kolcaustico.

### Wax Removal

Wipe in one direction with a rag soaked in mineral spirits. Follow with a rag soaked with denatured alcohol. A light pass with fine sandpaper will ensure a pristine surface.

### Storing Unused Material

Store at normal room temperature and protect from freezing. To extend the shelf life of unused material remaining in the bucket, place a layer of clear plastic wrap directly on the surface and then cover the plastic with a moist cloth or disposable diaper.

### Surface Knife Conditioning

Stainless steel blades are preferable. Blades straight from the package are too sharp. The application edge and corners should be rounded by using 400-600 grit sandpaper. During use, material build up on the blade should be periodically removed by scraping with another blade.

### Helpful Hints

- Don't return excess or dried material to the bucket.
- Don't use Kolcaustico outdoors or in areas exposed to excessive moisture.
- Don't use on fiberglass, Formica, plastic surfaces, foam, metal, industrial or enamel finishes.
- Don't use acrylic, latex or oil paint to tint Kolcaustico.

### Specifying

Kolcaustico is a specialty paint finish for interior commercial and residential projects. Sample boards with complete lists of procedures, techniques and materials used are necessary to establish the intended final appearance, and to write accurate, detailed specifications.



Mixol Universal Tinting Paste and Liberon Black Bison Paste Wax are recommended for use with Kolcaustico.

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## Kolcaustico Technical Information

### Physical Data

Boiling Point: 212 deg. F  
 Specific Gravity: 1.70  
 Volatile organic compound #/GAL.: 0.03  
 Vapor Pressure (mm Hg @ Temp): 24 @ 20 deg .C or 68 deg. F  
 Appearance and odor: White liquid. Mild odor of ammonia.

Vapor Density: 1.2  
 Weight/Gal: 14.15 pounds  
 Volatile organic compound KG/Liter: 0.003

### Reactivity Data

Stability: Stable  
 Incompatibility (Materials to Avoid): Water reactive materials such as metallic sodium and potassium and strong oxidizing agents.  
 Conditions to Avoid: Keep away from oxidizing agents. Coagulates when frozen, acidified, or boiled.  
 Hazardous Decomposition Products: Oxides of carbon.  
 Hazardous Polymerization: Will not occur.

### National Fire Protection Association Rating:

Kolcaustico was tested using the standard ASTM E 84-98, Standard Method of Test for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials, by the Commercial Testing Company, Test # 3030-5984.

Class A NFPA 101 Life Safety Code  
 Type I SBCCI, BOCA and ICBO

**Test Results:**

Time to Ignition = 1.55 minutes  
 Maximum Flamespread Distance = 1.93 feet  
 Time to Maximum Spread = 6.27 minutes  
 Flame Spread Index = 5  
 Smoke developed index = 0

### Hazardous Materials Classification

Health 1 Flammability 0  
 Reactivity 0 Personal Protection A

### Top Five and /or Hazardous Ingredients

Water CAS 7732-18-5  
 TSR# 1397250002-5259P TSR# 1397250002-5260P

**Warning:** Causes eye irritation, harmful if swallowed, may cause allergic skin reaction. Refer to Material Safety Data Sheet for further safety and handling information. Use with adequate ventilation and wear a NIOSH/MSHA approved respirator when sanding or spraying.

### Emergency and First Aid Procedures:

Skin: Wash with soap and water. Refer to physician if irritation persists.  
 Eyes: Flush eyes abundantly with clean water and refer to physician.  
 Ingestion: Treat symptomatically and refer to physician.

Manufactured in USA for Kolner Coatings, L.L.C. by Clifton Adhesive, Inc., Wayne , NJ. 07470.

In case of spill or leak involving this material call Chemtrec 24 hours a day at 800-424-9300.

Emergency Number 973-694-0845



One or more layers of tinted Kolcaustico, applied with a blade over a base of latex paint or primer, creates a depth of surface that cannot be achieved by paint alone.



Several layers of tinted Kolcaustico produce a finish of blended colors with exceptional depth over a base color of latex paint or primer.



Wax enhances blade patterns, seals the surface and can be buffed to a soft sheen or high gloss. Mica powders added to wax create luminous, metallic or pearlescent highlights.



Earth pigments and marble dust added to Kolcaustico create highly textured or soft natural surfaces. An adobe-like finish can be produced in a palette of earthy colors.



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Available through distributors nationwide. | [www.kolcaustico.com](http://www.kolcaustico.com)

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