

Manetti 3-Hour and 12-Hour Oil Size



Bishop Selwyn Chapel, Photo by Samuel Hartnett



MGM Hotel and Casino

By Lauren Sepp

It's been some time since we've had any major news about oil size. Over the past decade or so, the significant changes for gilding adhesives include the re-formulation of LeFranc & Bourgeois 12-hour oil size, and the introduction of [Dux quick and oil-based sizes](#), which function like the old Rolco sizes.

So it's with excitement that we announce a gilding size we are now bringing to the U.S. market. This size is produced in Italy for Giusto Manetti Battiloro of Florence. [Manetti's oil size](#) was formulated in 2001 to match the strict quality standards Manetti applies to its gold leaf. Manetti oil size is available in [3-hour](#) and [12-hour](#) formulas. These are made from a combination of high quality resins and turpentine that flows out well and levels nicely. [Manetti's 12-hour](#) size has been used in a number of noteworthy outdoor projects. In 2016 the [12 hour size](#) was used by Carolina Izzo on the multi-karat ceiling of the Bishop Selwyn Chapel of the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Auckland, New Zealand. In 2017 master gilder Michael Kramer of The Gilders' Studio Inc. used the [12-hour size](#) on several large exterior fiberglass lions for the MGM Hotel and Casino in Cotai, China. Kramer had accelerated testing conducted on the

[Manetti 12-hour size](#) to make sure it would last over time and meet his stringent requirements. Kramer said that the [Manetti 12-hour size](#) held up extremely well during testing. In his opinion, performance-wise “it’s like the old LeFranc 12-hour size.” When properly applied, both produce a radiant gilded finish.



Here’s how to use the new Manetti sizes:

When opening the container, you’ll find a screen under the cap. Use an X-acto Blade or Excel Blade to cut out the screen so you can insert a stick to stir the size. Both sizes should be stirred to combine all components and ensure consistent results. Never shake the size, and do not mix too vigorously as this may cause air bubbles to form, affecting the finished surface. The [3-hour](#) and [12-hour sizes](#) can be combined to achieve intermediate tack times and open gilding times, which are when the size comes to tack and how long it can receive leaf respectively. Both sizes can be used for interior and exterior projects.

The surface to be gilded should be clean, oil-free and free of dust. You should apply the size over a primed (semi-gloss or higher sheen) non-porous surface. The size works well over shellac, oil primers, zinc chromate primer, and epoxy paint. [Manetti oil size](#) can be thinned up to 20-30% by volume with turpentine before using on interior projects. For exterior projects use the size at package consistency. The oil size should be applied as thinly as possible. You can apply the size by brush, roller or spray with HVLP spray gun. Ideal condition for application is 65 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit and 40% to 60% relative humidity. Do not apply size under 60 degrees Fahrenheit. A 500ml can of size will cover approximately 50 sq/ft.



Manetti 3-Hour Size reaches tack in 2-3 hours and will remain open for 2-3 hours depending on dilution, temperature and humidity. For exterior gilding the size can come to tack in less than 1 hour on warm sunny days. Allow the gilded surface to cure for a minimum of 3-5 days depending on how much you thin the size before top coating. Do not top coat exterior gilding.

Manetti 12-Hour Size reaches tack in 12-18 hours and will remain open for about 8-12 hours, depending on dilution, temperature and humidity. For exterior gilding projects the size can come to tack in as little as 2-3 hours on warm, sunny days. Allow the surface to cure for a minimum of 5-8 days depending on how much you thin the size before top coating. Do not top coat exterior gilding.



Store size in a cool dry place, in tightly sealed original packaging. The percentage of dilution and method of application can significantly affect the working time. Always test substrates, primers and topcoats to be used with the size prior to beginning the gilding project.

We are pleased to bring Manetti's superlative gilding size to the gilder's repertoire.

This SeppLeaf Technical Guide and others may be found online at

http://seppleaf.com/technical_help

If you have questions or need clarification, please contact our knowledgeable staff via that link.

Products used in this Technical Guide

Manetti Oil based Size

<http://seppleaf.com/search?q=manetti+size>

Manetti 3-hour Oil based Size

<http://seppleaf.com/search?q=manetti+3+hour+size>

Manetti 12-hour Oil based Size

<http://seppleaf.com/search?q=manetti+12+hour+size>

Dux Quick and Oil based Size

<http://seppleaf.com/search?q=dux+size>