

Kölner Rapid for Stonemasons Application Instructions

Kölner Rapid for Stonemasons is a specially developed adhesive designed specifically for the needs of stonemasons and letter carvers. It allows for quick gilding of carved, blasted and chiselled lettering on monuments, headstones and household number plates. The result is a glossy, shiny gilt finish that has superior longevity outdoors. The lifetime of a gold finish prepared using Kölner Rapid for Stonemasons is as long, if not longer than using oil size while offering a superior finish.

Supplies Needed



- High-quality Synthetic Bristle Brush (We recommend the Kölner Broad Synthetic Tapered Brush for its versatile shape, including a tapering tip for getting into incised lettering.)



- Kölner Rapid for Stonemasons (Available in Clear and Yellow, we recommend using Yellow when using gold leaf as it is the perfect base colour.)

- Gold Leaf (When working outdoors we recommend the use of gold leaf of 23.5ct and above as this will not tarnish. We also highly recommend using Extra or Superior quality gold to ensure longevity of the finish.)

Preparation

Ensure that the lettering or surface of the stone is clean, dry and free from dust and grease. If the lettering was previously gilded then it must thoroughly be cleaned. All remnants of metal leaf and size must be completely removed.

Application

Using a synthetic brush apply a smooth layer of undiluted Kölner Rapid for Stonemasons to the surface you wish to gild.

Allow this layer to dry, this will take approximately 15 minutes but will vary depending on the thickness of the layer, temperature and humidity. Once this is dry you can apply a second layer of Kölner Rapid for Stonemasons if needed or proceed to gild, if the layer is completely dry. After the layer has dried you will have approximately 8 hours of open time to complete gilding.

Application of Leaf

Gilding can be done with both loose and transfer leaf. Apply the leaf to the surface and then immediately press it down with an Instacoll tissue. If gilding into small or awkward areas then an Instacoll tool can be used to press the leaf down properly onto the Kölner Rapid. Once the leaf is settled it can be 'burnished' by lightly polishing it in one direction using the Kölner Instacoll Tissue.

A Note on Weather Resistance

An object that has been gilded using Kölner Rapid for Stonemasons can be exposed to normal weather conditions after a few days. However, if the object is intended to be laid flat, it is better to allow the gilding to dry for longer as water can pool in the letters which can affect the Kölner Rapid and the adherence of the leaf. A longer drying time should also be allowed depending on weather conditions and seasons, as condensation can also affect the Kölner Rapid and the adherence of the leaf.

If in any doubt we advise extending the drying time up to several weeks.

Clean-up

Clean brushes thoroughly using soap and water.

