

Raphael's Miracle Muck™ Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Is Muck a “conservation” adhesive?** We do not represent Muck as a conservation adhesive. In its liquid state it has a ph of just below 6 but when it has dried it is essentially inert. It does not have the out gassing problems of many spray adhesives; it dries clear with a slight elasticity, and is a close cousin to the adhesives commonly used for bookbinding. Chemically speaking it is a PVA type adhesive with an ethylene additive. The ethylene is what makes it different from most other “white glues” on the market. While many adhesives may make claims which have yet to stand the test of time, we have numerous pieces that show no evidence of deterioration, yellowing, or failure after more than 30 years. The items I refer to include: several instances of canvas bonded to hardboard using Muck, numerous framed canvasses where the liner was covered and the corners of the stretcher bar were glued using Muck.

2. **How is Miracle Muck™ re-activated and when should this be done?** Although Miracle Muck™ is typically used cold and wet, just as it comes out of its container, there are several situations where you will appreciate the fact that it can be re-activated using an iron, a heat press, or even through the heat generated by an aggressive burnishing of the fabric above an area previously coated with Muck. For example, one of the most reliable methods we know for covering mats with fabric is to roller Muck over the surface of your mat with a foam roller, allow the adhesive to dry (wait about 10 minutes) then lay your fabric onto the surface of the mat, insert the drop-out center back into place on top of the fabric and then put the mat in your heat press, at about 150 degrees, for a couple of minutes. While this method works for most fabrics it is especially useful in cases where you are working with fabrics which are sheer or prone to bleed through. While the adhesive may bleed through if used wet, re-activating seems to significantly reduce this possibility. The main thing to remember about re-activating Miracle Muck™ is that you cannot re-activate what is not there. When applying Muck to the surface of a mat or liner it is better to put on a little too much rather than not enough. If you put too much down, just wait a little longer before laying your fabric down and use light pressure initially to smooth the fabric down. If necessary you can use a heat gun or an iron to reactivate the glue and secure the bond, but in most cases if you simply burnish the fabric with a folded up piece of smooth fabric this will generate enough heat to create a good bond. Burnishing the fabric is especially important when working with fabrics that have slubs in their weave such as Duoppioni Silks. Even the pressure of a vacuum press does not seem to do as well as a brief bit of burnishing over the top of the fabric to secure the bond and avoid the occasional bubbles which can form around these slubs. If you are using an iron to re-activate Muck, you can use a medium setting (ie. delicate fabrics) and be sure to always cover your fabric with either a piece of craft paper or another fabric (something smooth like a fine linen or cotton is best) because an iron can sometimes scald fabrics it touches leaving a shiny mark that can't be removed.

3. **Can I use Miracle Muck™ to bond leather or other hide-type materials to mats or to liner stock?** We got involved in the development of Muck initially because we were having difficulty adhering Ultrasuede to our Liner stock using other adhesives. Since that time

we have found it to be an excellent all around adhesive for bonding all of the following things: almost any fabric to wood or to mat board, leather to wood or mat board, fabric to plexiglass, ceramics (a broken tea cup), cork to cork, cork to “gator” board, cork to Coroplast, wood to wood, Velcro fabric to plywood, linen to linen (to patch and repair a canvas), Coroplast to Coroplast, and sheepskin to wood or mat board. We’d love to hear from you if you find new uses for Miracle Muck and offer a free liter if you take the time to describe your new use for us.

[How long should I wait after covering a liner with Muck before cutting this liner on my saw or chopper?](#) Muck dries to the touch within 10 minutes and will form a pretty good bond within a few hours. However, if you are going to use your saw to cut this fabric-covered liner, the longer it is allowed to “cure” the more resistant it will become to fraying at the edge of the cut. We have found that allowing at least 48-72 hours curing time yields the cleanest cuts. There are many other factors involved in getting the best cuts, whether on your saw or your chopper, of fabric-covered liners. We have covered this topic in detail in another publication we call “Best Practices.” This article is well worth reading and is provided to PPFA members or Raphael’s customers free of charge via e-mail. To get a copy of this information please send an e-mail to help@raphaels.net and request “Best Practices.”

5. [Is Raphael’s Miracle Muck™ the same as “Mighty Muk”?](#) We do not know the composition of Mighty Muk but presume that it is so named in an attempt to trade on the reputation of Miracle Muck™. Raphael’s developed Miracle Muck™ nearly 30 years ago and has trade marked the name Miracle Muck™ with the federal government. We have sold this adhesive to literally thousands of framers and artists across the nation, who believe our adhesive is not only the best value, but also the best quality, multi-purpose framing glue on the market. Our offer of a free sample should tell you how confident we are in the quality and usefulness of our product.

6. [Can I use Miracle Muck™ to adhere fabric to sheets of mat board and then cut these fabric-covered boards the way I would cut a sheet of Crescent or Bainbridge fabric-covered mat board?](#) If you look at the fabrics offered by Crescent and Bainbridge, you will notice that with rare exceptions these fabrics have extremely fine weaves with little or no “grain”. By limiting themselves to such goods, the mat board companies are attempting to reduce problems they might experience as the result of misalignment or other grain related issues. These finer grained or no-grain fabrics also will tend to cut cleaner than other fabrics with more texture. While we offer quite a few very fine weave fabrics, and also many non-woven goods such as Crescent’s Moorman Suede, which will cut just fine if adhered to mat board using Muck, we believe the general public and most of our customers appreciate the more custom look of a “wrapped mat.” It seems to us that if you are taking the time to mount fabric onto mat board, it would be more cost effective and require less time if you would cut your mat to its final size first and simply wrap the fabric around the inner edge of your mat. The idea of taking the extra time, fabric and mat board to replicate the look of a “cut” mat doesn’t really make sense to us. This is not to say that wrapped mats are the only way to go. We understand that both types of fabric-covered mats have their uses in most Frame Shops

7. I left the top off my Muck container and it now seems kind of thick. Can I dilute or thin Miracle Muck™ using water? Muck is water soluble but in most cases we recommend against “thinning it” with water. If you have a crusty “skin” on the top of your jug this can usually just be peeled off and discarded. You will find that almost any Muck that remains liquid is perfectly usable even if it is somewhat thicker. We actually keep a few Muck jugs around which we never cap, because we find this somewhat thicker version is less likely to bleed through when working with some of our finer silks. Other than this special sort of circumstance, the Miracle Muck you receive is the same as the Muck we use ourselves. For the vast majority of uses, it is best to use it exactly as it comes out of its container.

8. Are there any special precautions I need to be aware of when working with Miracle Muck™? The only “special precaution” Muck users need to be aware of is that Muck needs to be stored where it cannot freeze. Freezing will ruin this adhesive, causing it to separate. If Muck is kept in an environment where the temperature is between 45 and 75 degrees we guarantee it will be good for at least a year and in most cases multiple years. When exposed to temperatures either below 40 degrees or above 75 degrees on a consistent basis its shelf life is likely to be reduced significantly. If you open your jug and get a strong whiff of rotten eggs your Muck is likely to be spoiled and should be disposed of. When working with Muck, remember that while it is still wet it can be easily washed from brushes and rollers using just warm water. If you get Muck on your clothing be sure to wash it off immediately because once it dries on clothing it is almost impossible to remove. One final tip to help save some time when working with Muck: If you need to take a break and don't want to take the time to wash out your rollers or brushes, you can place them in either a Tupperware container or even a baggie, where they are not exposed to air, and they will remain moist for up to a day or two. If left exposed to the air Muck will harden in a matter of minutes. Soaking in hot water may break down hardened Muck but don't count on it. Miracle Muck™ should be used just as it comes from its container for best results.

We appreciate your taking the time to try our Miracle Muck™ and hope that you find it to be useful in your particular application. If you have any additional questions about using our adhesive please feel free to call us at 800-872-5191. To help us to provide the best possible information to our customers we would appreciate your taking a moment to complete the evaluation which follows once you have had the chance to work with this adhesive. If you complete and return this form to us via the toll free fax number provided on the form, we will give you a \$5.00 credit toward any future purchase of Raphael's Miracle Muck™. Thanks.

RAPHAELS INC

Shop Name: _____ Raphael's Customer # (if known): _____

Please answer the following questions by giving us your answer in terms of a 1-5 rating where 1 is the lowest or least effective and 5 is the highest or most effective. If you have no experience with regard to a particular usage please feel free to select the answer "not applicable" (N/A).

1. How would you say that Muck compared to other adhesives you have tried when it comes to joining moulding or liner corners?

1	2	3	4	5	N/A
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2. Is there another adhesive you've tried which seems to be more effective for joining corners? If yes, which one? _____

3. If you used Muck to cover a liner with fabric, how would you rate its usefulness for this purpose?

1	2	3	4	5	N/A
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4. If you had an opportunity to try Muck in a situation where it was heat re-activated, how would you rate its effectiveness in this type of usage?

1	2	3	4	5	N/A
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5. Which of the following characteristics of Miracle Muck™ do you find the most valuable?

High Quality Bond Relatively Low Cost Heat Re-activatable Versatility

6. If you have found another adhesive to be more effective for any particular application within your shop, would you mind telling us the name of this adhesive and what you like to use it for?

It may take you some time before you can really answer these questions based on your own experience. If at any time in the future you would be willing to share your opinions with us by completing and faxing this form to us at (888) 229-5191 we would be happy to offer you a \$5.00 credit toward the purchase of a gallon of Raphael's Miracle Muck™. Muck is sold in gallons @ \$21.95 ea. and liters @ \$7.95 ea. We also sell a set of foam rollers (2", 3" and 4" plus handles) and a 6 oz bottle of Muck as what we call a "Starter Set" for \$7.90 plus UPS s/h.