

Ink Pad Cheat Sheet Created by Lindsay Weirich <http://thefrugalcrafter.wordpress.com>

Please note: This chart reflects my personal opinions regarding products I have used. I am not sponsored or endorsed by any of the following companies. Feel free to print this and refer to it when you shop.

Type of ink	Brands I've used and like	Other brands	Pros	Cons	Bottom line
Dye based ink	Stampin Up!, Memento, Ancient Page, Whispers, Dauber Duo	Close to my Heart, Hero Arts, Ranger Archival Ink, Adirondack (and more)	Vibrant, transparent, quick drying, less expensive. Huge variety of colors available. Choose pads with a raised surface to ink any size stamp.	Does not always work well with clear silicone stamps (try a pad with a foam top if you use clear stamps.) Since it is dye based the ink may fade over time.	This ink is a workhorse, It is my favorite because it dries quick and is bright.
Pigment ink	Colorbox/Clear snap, Brilliance, Versacolor/ Versafine, Ink it Up ***Available in rich metallic colors too!	Most pads from major ink companies should be good.	Rich opaque color, dries slowly so it is great for heat embossing. Can be used on Fabric and ribbon. Should not fade over time, archival. This ink sticks well to all stamps.	Sometimes you need to heat set this ink to get it to dry properly. Make sure you clean stamps well when using this ink because the thick ink can settle into your stamp and dry and be hard to remove later.	This is the ink for stampers who want great coverage and an archival ink. It is great for mixed media arts since it can be used on fabric. Great for beginners and clear stamp users too.
Chalk ink	Colorbox Fluid Chalk ink available in cat's eye mini pads and full size pads.	Powder Puff	This ink is quick drying and opaque, kind of like a cross between Pigment and dye inks.	Not suitable for heat embossing.	This ink dries quickly to a subtle, muted matte finish. Great for inking the edges of paper and other direct to paper techniques, archival, great for scrapbookers!
Alcohol ink	Staz-On		Quick Drying & waterproof. Stamp on any	The pad needs to be re-inked often. The ink	This is great for stamping on glass, tiles and

			non-porous surface. Many stampers like this for stamping images to watercolor	will stain your stamps if not cleaned immediately and if left on clear stamps it could damage them.	metal. You can refresh a dried out ink pad with a few drops of denatured alcohol.
Specialty inks	Brands I've used and like	Other brands	Pros	Cons	Bottom Line
Clear Embossing ink	Ink it Up, Ranger, Top Boss, Veramark (most ink pad brands have a clear embossing ink)	Hey, it's really just vegetable glycerin, buy any clear pad and re-ink it yourself;)	You can use this with any color embossing powder or clear and color over it with any water based medium for a resist. Also you can stamp on colored paper for a watermark effect.		I use it every day for heat embossing, resists and you don't need to wash it of your stamps when you are done because it conditions them!
Clear Resist ink	Ranger		Stamp on glossy paper, let dry and brayer dye ink over for a subtle resist.	It's a one trick pony. Not much good for anything else.	If you want to have fun and have \$5 to burn try it!
Distress ink	Ranger		Very juicy, great for direct to paper techniques. Cool effects when you sprinkle water on an inked surface. You can get lovely watercolor effects with this ink.	True this is a dye based ink but is is lousy for stamping unless you want a splotchy impression.	This ink is fun to play with but not great to stamp with. You can get similar effects with other dye inks that are good to stamp with. The reinkers seem watery and not concentrated. I recommend you get a good set of stamping dye inks before

					buying these.
Glue pads	Palette, Martha Stewart, Essential Glue Pad by Tsukineko.		These are awful, I can't think of a good thing to say. I recommend you use Clear embossing ink and Heat & Stick embossing powder (Stampin' Up) for stamping with glitter, flock etc.	I have tried the 3 most popular glue pad, Palette is the best but none lived up to expectations. The Martha Stewart ink pad turned moldy after a month in a drawer. None of the pads held the glitter to the paper. I had more luck with the palette brand but I had to add a layer of clear embossing powder to it and re heat to get a hold.	OK, so you stamp with the glue (sometimes you heat set) sprinkle on glitter or flock and let dry (or heat set again, you have to read the directions) It looks great at first but the slightest touch will brush off any flock or glitter. Don't waste your money.

Ink buying Tips & Tricks!

- Buy a reinker when you buy an ink pad especially for colors you will use a lot like black and brown.
- Small sized (cat's eye, dew drop, stampin spots) are affordable alternatives to larger pads and they have a raised surface so you can ink any size stamp with them. Plus they take less space to store. They are a great way to have the best and pay less because you can reink them!
- Avoid office supply store ink pads. The ink pad is depressed so you can only ink stamps smaller than the pad plus the ink is not great.
- Learn when an ink pad needs to be reinked. Sometimes you just need a bit of solvent to revive it. If you have a dry pad that you have not used in a while, you left the cover off or you live in the desert you can try a bit of store bought ink refresher OR a homemade solution of distilled water (about 2 ounces) with 2 drops of glycerin in a spray bottle. Give a spritz or two to a dye based pad and let it sit for an hour or two and stamp away. If you look at the edge of the dye pad and it seems whitish then you need to reink it with dye based reinker. For pigment pads you can add pure glycerin to the ink pad (work it in with an old credit card or plastic spoon) to get it moist again, a couple drops of rubbing alcohol can also be added to loosen up old dried ink. If it still seems faded when you stamp add store bought reinker or you can make your own pigment ink using a pea sized dab of gouache (opaque watercolor from the art store, I used the Reeves brand, you can get a set of 18 colors for about \$10) and a drop or two of glycerin. For Staz-on Alcohol ink if the pad feels sticky and the ink is drying on your stamp before it gets to the paper you probably need more solvent. Just add a few drops of denatured alcohol to the pad and stamp away!