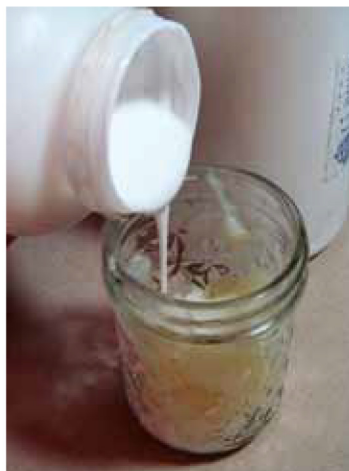


# crystal neubauer: collage gluing tips

After many years of trial and error I have settled on a couple of products that serve me well in the studio. Yes! Stickflat Glue by Gane is an acid free, all-purpose adhesive with the consistency of paste. Each time I open a new container I am taken back to my youth when paste was among the required school supplies. Unlike the gel and decoupage mediums preferred by some, this product has a low water content, which is precisely why I love it. Many of the old papers I work with are delicate or may change color if dampened, applying Yes! Stickflat Glue straight from the jar can give me the adhesion I need without worry that the glue will saturate the paper. As much as I love working with this Paste, I find that it doesn't always give me the working time I need in order to reposition papers easily when used on it's own. To solve this issue I combine it with Golden Acrylic Glazing Medium in Satin finish. The glazing medium acts to give me a longer working time and a smoother application when applied with a paint brush while still maintaining the adhesive properties of the paste.



1. I get the best results by mixing Yes! brand paste with Golden's Satin Acrylic Glazing Liquid. This combination allows tackiness from the paste and longer working time from the glazing liquid. Using a large spoon, scoop the paste into an empty jar about three-quarters of the way full, "loosely."



2. Pour the glazing liquid over and around the paste, starting with a small ratio – about 1 part glazing liquid to 8 parts paste. It doesn't take much to get the benefits, and more can be added later if need be. Stir thoroughly. At first the paste will ball up and resemble a tapioca pudding mixture, but keep at it and eventually the two will marry well and you'll find the texture more like banana baby food.



3. To glue your collage ephemera, use an old mail catalog or magazine to lay your items on. This allows you to apply the glue from edge to edge with a sturdy bristle brush, while protecting the surface of your table. Just turn a page of the catalog each time you need a clean surface to work on.



4. Adhere glued pieces to your collage, and use a baby wipe to clean up any excess glue the pressure of your fingertip to push away air bubbles.

Crystal Neubauer is an artist, workshop instructor and author of *The Art of Expressive Collage*. See more of Crystal's work at [www.crystalneubauer.com](http://www.crystalneubauer.com).