

## Helpful Hints from Mary and Friends!

This is a section in our website that will hopefully help you with little discoveries I have found regarding Inking and Rouging and some of the other techniques that we use. As I travel to the shows and teach, I hear about things that my students and Certified Teachers bring up in class and I have said over and over that I should start a section on the website with these discoveries listed so everyone can benefit from them! Well, I talked to Cindi and we are going to do a monthly addition right here with a finding from me as well as a suggestion you might like to share! I would love for you to share things that you have come across by emailing me with the information and if you would like me to list you as the contributor and post your email address it would be so much fun to share with other artists! We will add one addition monthly; beginning with the one I have listed below which is something I have discovered! I look forward to hearing from you, and I hope these additions help you as much as they have helped me!

### July's Helpful Hint!

Everyone is becoming energy conscious and we are all looking for ways to save money on our utility bills [my family included]! We have switched to those spiral light bulbs that are energy efficient and are slowly eliminating the standard light bulbs we have used for years and years. The only thing, though, is they are not very attractive! When we switched the bulbs in our coach lights out in our front yard, my husband and I had to admit the light was brilliant but the bulbs sticking up inside the clear decorative glass fixtures were pretty ugly! So.....this is what I did, and this also led to the other lights we had outside on our garage and out farther in our front yard transforming, also!

I had Ralph take all of the glass out of the wrought iron fixtures. I washed the glass, and at the same time I had a chance to remove cobwebs and dead bugs and leaves.

After the glass pieces were thoroughly dried, I got out my etching liquid. I cut the top off of a 2 liter pop bottle so I had a dipping container,

and placed the glass sections in 2 at a time so they would not lean up against each other in the container filled with **B&B etchall**. After 15-20 minutes I removed the glass pieces from the etching liquid; squeegeed as much of the liquid from the glass as possible so it would go back into the container, then rinsed the glass under water while at the same time rubbing with a nylon scrubber to remove all of the residue.

I dried off the glass pieces and Ralph placed them back into the wrought iron fixtures and you would not believe how beautiful they are when the lights go on! This was so easy to do, and the light reflects beautifully through the frosted glass!

If you have any questions about my helpful hint, please feel free to email me! I look forward to your questions or comments!

Mary