

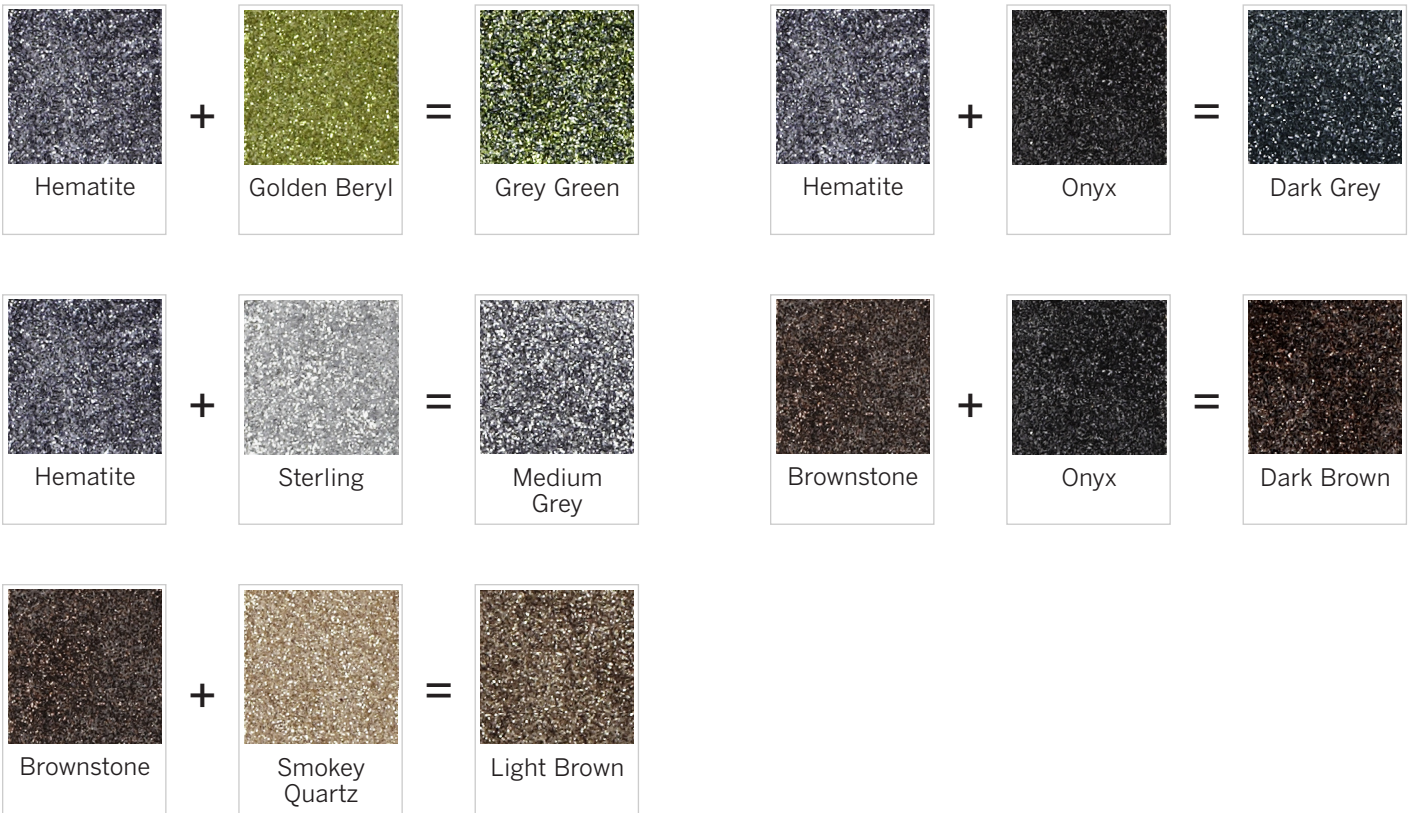


Tips for Working with Glitter and Mixing Colors

Before you begin glitter-painting, select the colors for the largest areas first. Then match lighter and darker shades of glitter to the surrounding color fields.

You can also expand your palette by mixing glitter colors. Start by blending equal amounts of two glitters, using very small amounts to make sure you like the result; baking cups make great containers for mixing. These subtle shade variations let you match the photo's color fields more accurately, adding nuance and dimension. The yarn ball in [Vivaldi's portrait](#), for example, uses gold, orange, red, and brown, as well as gold-orange and red-brown.

Here are examples of some mixes that we found helpful in many of our glitter paintings, particularly for the shaded areas. The colors used to create mixes can be found in the 24-piece Essential Glitter Set from Martha Stewart Crafts.



* Actual glitter colors may vary slightly from this palette due to your printer settings.

Very pale colors in the converted image may not have a corresponding glitter color, so it's helpful to mix a clear glitter (CRYSTAL) with a colored one. This tinted glitter lets the printed color show through and acts as a highlight. For pure white, there are two options: CARRARA MARBLE glitter, which has a matte look, or clear CRYSTAL glitter applied over the white paper, creating a shimmery finish.

You can also glitter-paint just your subject, covering the other areas in a layer of clear glitter (or clear glitter mixed with a colored glitter). This way, the background details show in the finished painting, without a meticulous application of glitter. In our [glittered shadow box](#), for example, the sky and trees of the back layer were covered with a mixture of CRYSTAL and BLUE SAPPHIRE.

Applying the Glue

Craft glue in a fine-tipped squeeze bottle is essential in glitter-painting. With the bottle, you can apply glue directly to the mounted paper, controlling the flow to create thin or thick lines and using the tip like a brush. For large color fields, outline the area first, and then use the tip to fill in the space; you can work in sections, too.

Make sure to apply enough glue, and don't wait too long to sprinkle the glitter. Otherwise, it may not adhere thoroughly and will be blown off when the painting is sprayed with the air duster. The puffy look of the wet glue is only temporary; once the moisture evaporates, the glue will dry flat. At that point, after a layer of glue and glitter has dried, you can add more glue and glitter directly on top to alter colors and touch up any areas where the glitter application is thin.