Corel® Painter™ 8
Liquid Ink Visual Guide

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Welcome to Corel Painter 8

Corel® Painter™ 8 is the leading Natural-Media® painting application. Corel Painter lets you simulate a wide range of art tools, from felt pens, charcoal, and colored pencils to water color and oils.

Corel Painter lets you experiment with the widest range of Natural-Media tools. You can expand your digital drawing and painting techniques with a portfolio of new features.

The application features a redesigned user interface, including a new toolbox, Brush selector bar, property bar, Info palette, and new palette design and behavior. Corel Painter also includes a Mixer palette that realistically mimics the traditional paint mixing experience. Digital water color, a new Sketch effect, and more than 400 new brushes all expand your creative potential.

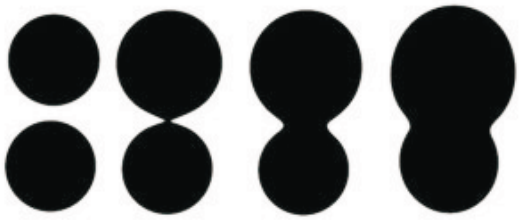
You can create custom brush variants using the new Brush Creator, which includes the Randomizer, Transposer, and Stroke Designer. Corel Painter also includes redesigned layer masks and channels that provide a smoother workflow and greater compatibility with Adobe® Photoshop®.

Liquid Ink in Corel Painter 8

Liquid Ink is a layer type in Corel Painter 8 that extends the capabilities of existing ink media. Liquid Ink lets artists simulate graphics technologies that use ink as a primary medium and are intended for some form of print production. Whether ink is transferred from an image carrier, such as a woodblock or linoleum, or applied directly with a stylus-based instrument, such as a pen or brush, the unique properties of ink and the methods used to apply it imbue artwork with a distinct visual character.

Liquid Ink technology in Corel Painter simulates a number of the properties associated with traditional ink-based media. Some of these properties include:

Adhesion — Viscous media like ink and enamel tend to self-adhere, which means that they merge when they come into proximity with each other. For example, two drops of ink placed side-by-side will generally congeal together until they form one large drop. This quality of adhesion lets artists give images a rounded, slightly melted appearance.

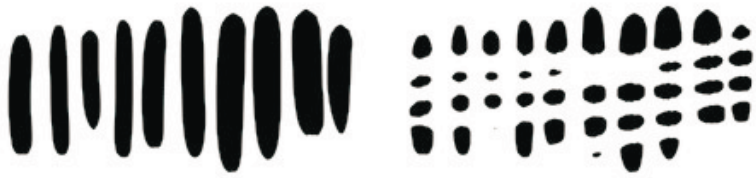


Self-adhering Liquid Ink drops

Surface depth — Thick, viscous media often have a three-dimensional appearance. In some media, like enamel, this 3D appearance is desirable. Other media, like pen and ink, look better with a flat, 2D appearance. By default, Liquid Ink layers appear flat, but they can be adjusted to look three-dimensional.

Liquid Ink strokes with surface depth (right)

Resistive media — Liquid Ink lets artists simulate the effect produced by using ink- or oil-based media with a medium that repels ink or oil, such as water or wax. This resistive property of Liquid Ink can add visual interest to artists' images.



Liquid Ink strokes with resist applied (right)

Softening — Liquid Ink includes a Softening tool, which lets artists treat their Liquid Ink images to soften and blend them. Applying the Softening tool to Liquid Ink strokes results in an effect similar to applying heat to wax or ice.

Liquid Ink strokes with Softening tool applied (right)

Liquid Ink Controls in Corel Painter 8

Like the Water Color technology in Corel Painter, Liquid Ink effects occur on their own media layer, which means that only brushes specific to the layer can act upon it.

The following controls on the Stroke Designer page of the Brush Creator can be adjusted for Liquid Ink brush strokes:

- General
- Size
- Spacing
- Angle
- Well
- Random
- Mouse
- Cloning
- Impasto
- Liquid Ink

Expression controls are available in most of these sections. You can also adjust Liquid Ink attributes on the Layers palette and through the Surface Lighting dialog box (accessed through Canvas menu).

General Section: Liquid Ink Dab Types

Liquid Ink dab types are found on the Stroke Designer page of the Brush Creator. The dab is responsible for the shape and behavior of the tool used to create a stroke on the canvas or layer. Taking advantage of the Continuous Stroke feature introduced in earlier versions of the application, which provides a faithful simulation of a traditional brush stroke, Corel Painter includes a set of dab types specific to Liquid Ink:

- Liquid Ink Camel Hair

- Liquid Ink Flat
- Liquid Ink Palette Knife
- Liquid Ink Bristle Spray
- Liquid Ink Airbrush

Liquid Ink Camel Hair, Flat, Palette Knife, Bristle Spray, and Airbrush dabs

Size Section: Continuous Stroke Feature Control

The density of the bundle of hairs that compose a continuous stroke is controlled using the Feature slider on the property bar or on the Stroke Designer page of the Brush Creator. Moving the Feature slider to the left or right increases or decreases the number of hairs.

Increasing the brush hair density tends to decrease how quickly the brush applies strokes. Artists can offset this tendency by decreasing the brush hair density. The optimal setting that will balance brush hair density and

stroke speed will vary according to the processor speed of artists' computers.

The following example illustrates how different brush hair densities affect Liquid Ink strokes:

Different brush hair densities for Liquid Ink strokes

Liquid Ink Section: Primary Liquid Ink Controls

The Liquid Ink section on the Stroke Designer page of the Brush Creator contains the primary controls for adjusting the specific features of the Liquid Ink brushes.

Liquid Ink section on the Stroke Designer page

Ink Types

The Ink Type pop-up menu controls how ink is deposited on a layer by separating Liquid Ink into two basic components that can be manipulated: ink and color. The ink component is responsible for the plastic quality of Liquid Ink and its tendency toward simplified, rounded forms. The color component applies color to a Liquid Ink form.

The ink and color components can be used in conjunction with each other or separately. They can also be modified using the Softening tool. A special form of Liquid Ink, called Resist, repels normal Liquid Ink strokes. Erase is used to delete ink and color.

There are a number of Liquid Ink effects, including

- Ink Plus Color
- Ink Only
- Color Only
- Soften Ink Plus Color
- Soften Ink Only
- Soften Color Only
- Resist
- Erase
- Pre-softened Ink Plus Color

Ink Plus Color

Ink Plus Color is the Liquid Ink effect that artists use most often. The current color fills the form the Liquid Ink stroke assumes as it is applied. Overlaid Ink Plus Color strokes soften and spread into underlying strokes

Ink Plus Color strokes

Ink Only

Ink Only applies only the ink component of Liquid Ink. This Liquid Ink effect ignores the current color and always appears as black.

Ink Only strokes

Color Only

Color Only is particularly useful for editing the color of Liquid Ink strokes, as it applies only the color component of Liquid Ink to existing Liquid Ink strokes.

Color Only strokes

Soften Ink Plus Color

Soften Ink Plus Color acts on both Liquid Ink components, causing the ink component to blend with adjacent Liquid Ink strokes, and causing the color component to blend with other colors.

Soften Ink Plus Color strokes

Soften Ink Only

Applying the Soften Ink Only effect to a Liquid Ink image with both ink and color components blends and softens the image's ink component without affecting its color component.

Soften Ink Only strokes

Soften Color Only

Soften Color Only softens and blends the color component of Liquid Ink strokes without affecting the ink component. A large amount of Color Only softening adds black to Liquid Ink images.

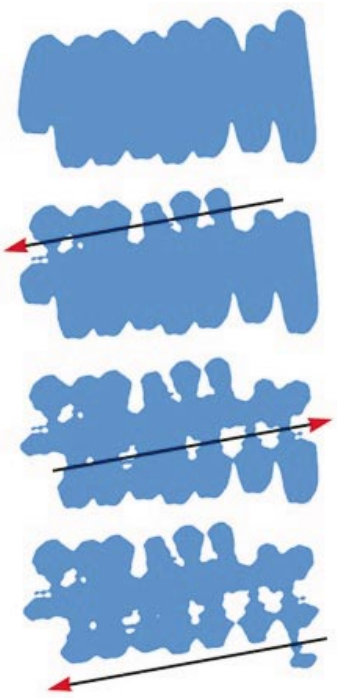
Soften Color Only strokes

Resist

Resist has the same properties as Liquid Ink, with the exception that it acts negatively and is invisible. If a Resist brush stroke is applied to a Liquid Ink layer, it will repel subsequent Liquid Ink strokes. Resist brush strokes also reduce existing Liquid Ink strokes.

An important concept regarding the ink component of Liquid Ink strokes is that it builds up density as strokes are overlaid. Liquid Ink images that have a number of overlaid strokes will therefore have areas of greater and lesser density. When a Resist brush is applied to a Liquid Ink image of this type, the areas of least density will be reduced first, while the areas of greatest density will require additional Resist brush strokes.

The following image illustrates the path of Resist strokes applied to a Liquid Ink image.



Resist strokes applied to a Liquid Ink image.

Erase

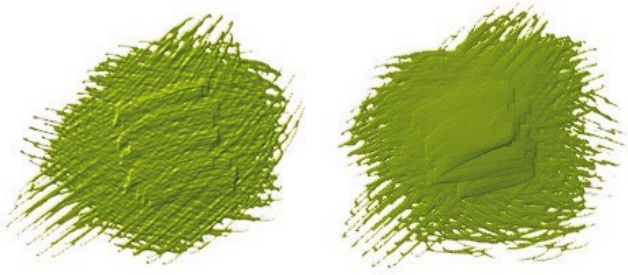
Erase removes Liquid Ink strokes. Erasure marks depend on the Liquid Ink dab type used. The following image was created using the Smooth Camel Hair dab.

The following image was made using the Smooth Camel Hair dab. It has been edited using the Erase effect, which behaves like other Liquid Ink effects in that it reduces and rounds the edges of Liquid Ink strokes.

Erasing Liquid Ink letters

Pre-softened Ink Plus Color

Pre-softened Ink Plus Color works in conjunction with surface depth to simulate a thick ink medium by covering other strokes and building up height.



Ink Plus Color and Pre-softened Ink Plus Color strokes

Smoothness Slider

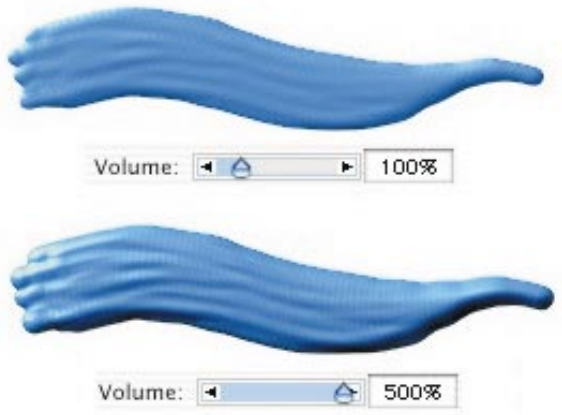
This slider controls the adhesion of Liquid Ink strokes. Low values result in brush strokes that are not attracted to each other, whereas high values

result in brush strokes that tend to congeal together. You can adjust the Smoothness values on the Stroke Designer page or on the property bar.

Smoothness slider

Volume Slider

This slider controls the height and edges of brush strokes and controls how quickly strokes appear. Because it has little effect on flat images, the Volume slider works best on images that have some surface depth. You can adjust the Smoothness values on the Stroke Designer page or on the property bar.



Volume slider

Minimum Volume Slider

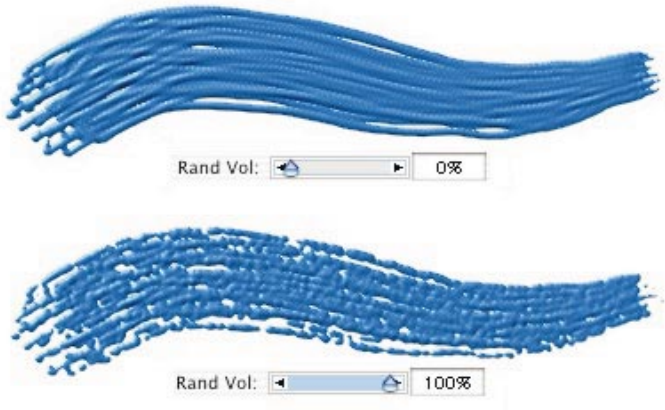
The Minimum Volume slider is a companion to the Volume slider. It is used in conjunction with the Volume slider on the Stroke Designer page of the Brush Creator. Clicking the Volume category displays a pop-up menu containing the controls Velocity, Direction, Pressure, Wheel, Tilt, Bearing, Source, and Random. Combined with the Volume and Minimum Volume sliders, these commands give artists subtle control over the lower and upper limits of the thickness of Liquid Ink strokes with surface depth.

The first image below illustrates how a low Minimum Volume setting produces a thin application of Liquid Ink. The second image illustrates how a high Minimum Volume setting produces a thick application of Liquid Ink.

Minimum Volume slider

Random Volume Slider

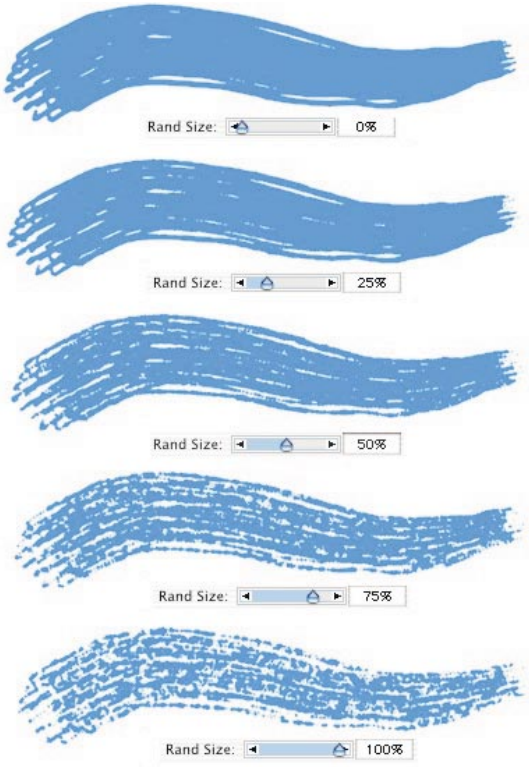
This slider controls the randomness in volume of brush strokes. A value of 0 gives a smooth brush stroke.



Random Volume slider

Random Size Slider

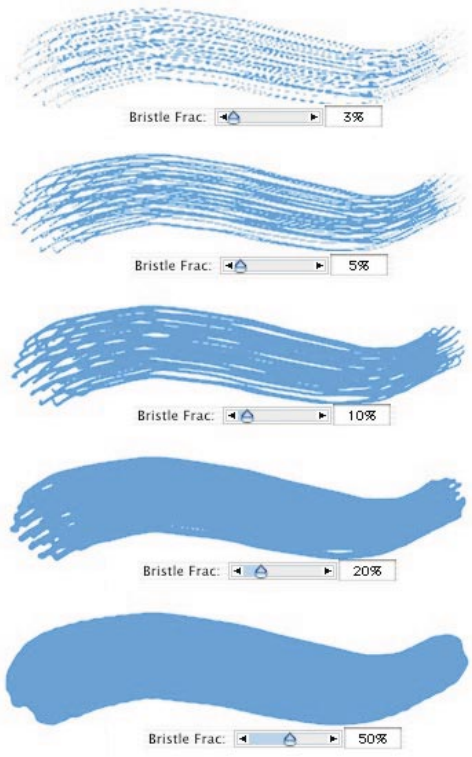
This slider controls the randomness in bristle size of brush strokes. A value of 0 gives a smooth brush stroke.



Random Size slider

Bristle Fraction Slider

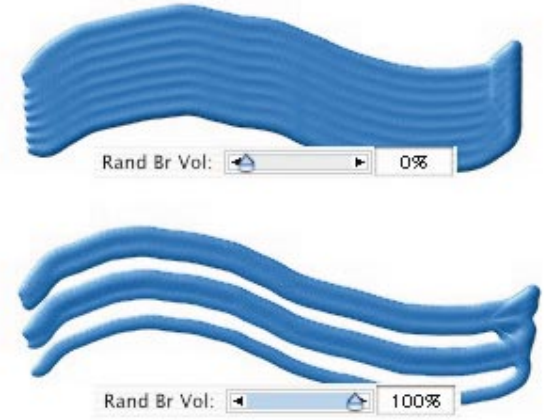
This slider controls the amount of space between individual brush bristles. Low values make the bristles visible individually, and high values make the bristles stick together.



Bristle Fraction slider

Random Bristle Volume Slider

This slider controls the variation in bristle heights. A value of 0 makes the bristles the same height.



Random Bristle Volume slider

Random Bristle Size Slider

This slider controls the variation in bristle widths. A value of 0 makes the bristles the same width.

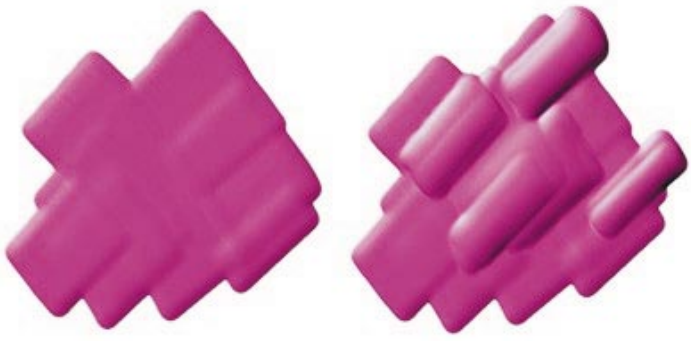
Random Bristle Size slider

Expression Settings

The Expression settings are available in the General, Size, Angle, Well, Random, Impasto, and Liquid Ink sections on the Stroke Designer page. They contain a number of controls that dictate the volume of Liquid Ink strokes. These controls include Velocity, Direction, Pressure, Wheel, Tilt, Bearing, Source, and Random. The Pressure control is especially useful, as it facilitates the layering of Liquid Ink strokes.

Expression controls in the Liquid Ink section

The following image illustrates how pressure modulates the volume of Liquid Ink strokes. On the left, light pressure has been used to apply overlapping strokes with minimal layering. On the right, the pressure has been increased to produce a heavier layering of Liquid Ink strokes.

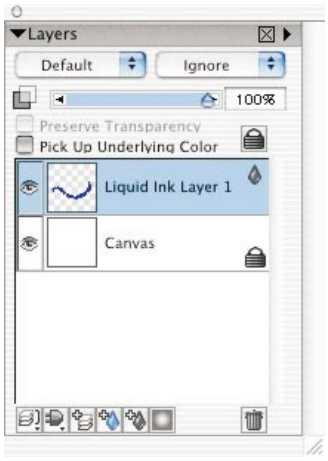


Light and heavy pressure Liquid Ink strokes

Layers Palette

Liquid Ink layers are displayed on the Layers palette and are identified by an ink drop icon at the right of a layer entry. When a Liquid Ink brush is applied to an image that either has no Liquid Ink layer or does not have a Liquid Ink layer currently selected, a new Liquid Ink layer is automatically created.

Artists can create a new Liquid Ink layer by clicking the New Liquid Ink Layer button on the bottom of the Layers palette.

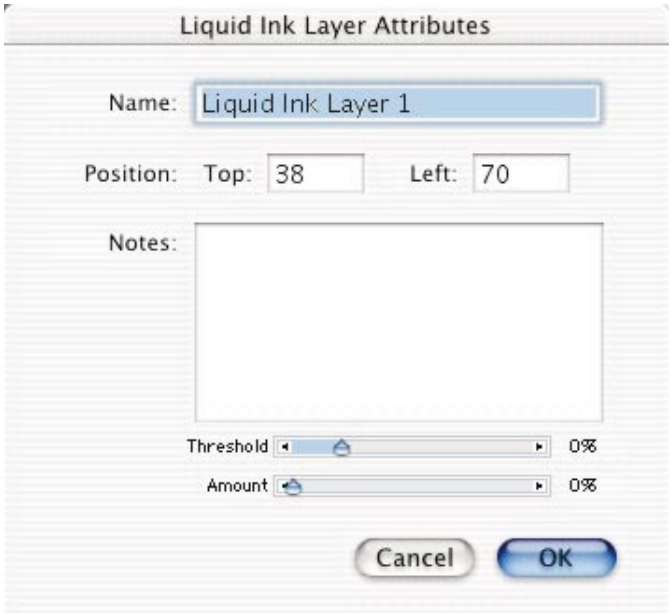


Layers palette

Layers Palette: Liquid Ink Layer Attributes Dialog Box

The Liquid Ink Layer Attributes dialog box contains the primary controls for the appearance of depth in a Liquid Ink layer and the edge thresholds of Liquid Ink images. It can be accessed by double-clicking a Liquid Ink

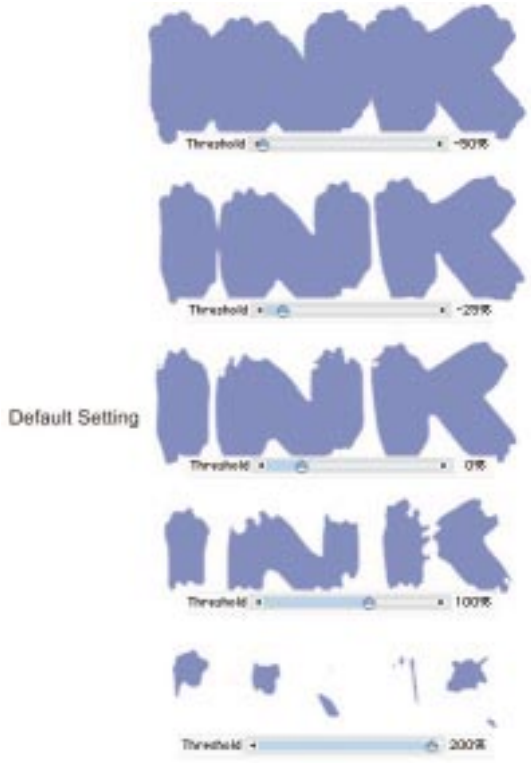
layer in the Layers palette, or by pressing Return (Mac OS) or Enter (Windows) when a Liquid Ink layer is selected.



Liquid Ink Layer Attributes dialog box

Threshold Slider

This slider controls the overall threshold value used in calculating the edges of Liquid Ink images. The value 0 is the default. Increasing the threshold value erodes the edges of Liquid Ink strokes; decreasing the value fills the edges in.



Threshold slider

Amount Slider

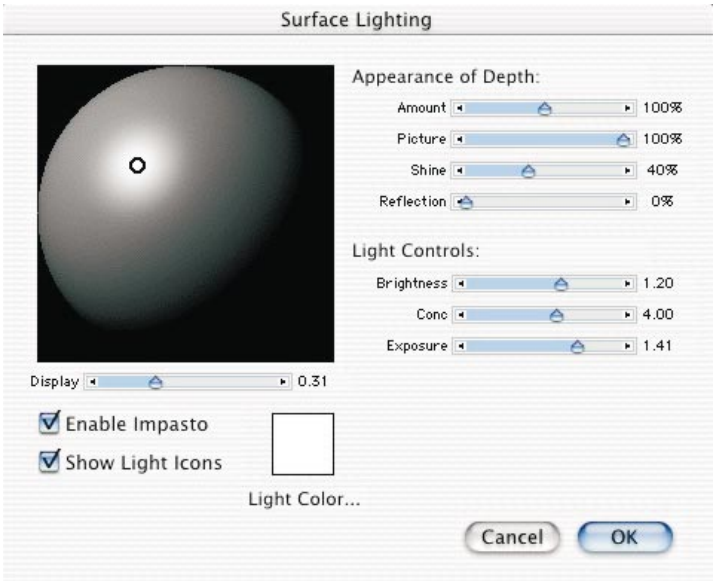
This slider controls the appearance of depth in Liquid Ink strokes. A value

of 0 simulates a flat, matte surface. Higher values simulate textured paint surfaces.

Amount slider

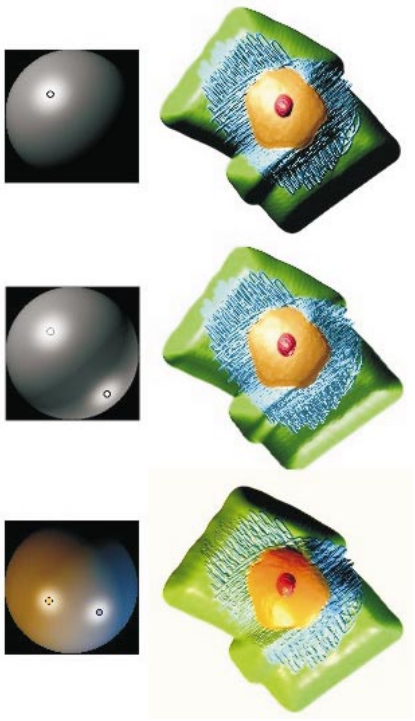
Canvas Menu: Surface Lighting Dialog Box

The Surface Lighting dialog box, in the Canvas Menu on the menu bar, controls lighting effects on Liquid Ink layers that have been adjusted using the Amount slider. This lets artists add elements such as shine and reflection to their Liquid Ink images to more realistically simulate the appearance of depth.



Surface Lighting dialog box

The following images illustrate how changing the light angles and adding multiple light sources affect the appearance of Liquid Ink images that have been adjusted to simulate the appearance of height.



The effect of light angles and multiple light sources on height-adjusted Liquid Ink images

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