

11200 Ivory Black

Chemical composition: charred ivory, calcium phosphate containing carbon

Pure Ivory Black is a very dark pigment, bluish when mixed with white. Beside lamp black (flame soot) ivory-black is the strongest and deepest carbon-black.

Genuine Ivory Black has not been produced since end of the Second World War, except from Kremer Pigmente in Aichstetten. Nowadays Ivory Black often is plain bone char! Genuine Ivory-Black however was won exclusively from ivory wastes. These were put into iron pots, locked hermetically and then heated to approx. 800°C. The residue was a pure animal charcoal with small impurities of phosphate and sometimes different salts. Superior sorts were obtained with washing to remove the soluble salts. With mistakes due to wrong temperature or burning duration the coal exhibited a more or less clear brown tone. After the grinding of the pigment it was pressed in 8 mm big caps. Genuine ivory-black could thus be recognized by its characteristic form. With microscopic investigation it can be differentiated from bone black by the typical carbon matrix.

Main reason for the drastic decrease in the use of ivory-black was the increasing use of plastic products. Finally the regulations for the protection of species made the procurement of genuine ivory wastes more difficult.

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