Acrylic Pouring 101 with Kyra Balentine of Plaid Crafts

Chapter 1 - Acrylic Pouring 101
Overview
(cheerful music) - Hey guys, it's Kira. I'm a Content Creator here at Plaid, and we're so excited to be partnering with Creativebug. One of the best parts of my job here in the Content Studio is getting to make fun, creative projects and show them to you. I'm gonna walk you through two different pours. We're gonna do a clean pour, a dirty pour, and show you something really fun and creative that you can do with the leftover paint. (cheerful music continues)

Acrylic pouring 101
- So now we're gonna get started. So here are the supplies you're gonna need: Folk Art Acrylic Paint, Titanium White, Bright Pink, Perfect Purple, Teal, and Patina. You will also need scissors, craft sticks, plastic cups, push pins, a pencil, Mod Podge Ultra, a silicone mat or baking sheet to protect your workspace and paper towel or baby wipes for cleanup. Let's get started. All right, so we're gonna get started pouring. So there are two basic types of pours. There is a clean pour and a dirty pour. And getting started is really the same way. I'm gonna show you guys how to mix your paint and your pouring medium, and then we're gonna make some beautiful, awesome pours. So we're gonna be using Folk Art Acrylic Paint. Folk Art Acrylic Paint comes in hundreds of beautiful colors. It is a great way to personalize your projects. You can pick such beautiful color palettes. It's a rich and creamy formula, and it's great for pouring. We've picked this awesome palette of whites, teals, aquas, pinks, and purples, but again, pick whatever color you want to decorate and personalize your space. This is where you can really add your personal touch. And when you do a pour, you need a pouring medium. You need something to mix with your paint. You can't just pour the paint on your canvas because it's gonna get muddy and all turn to like a mushy brown color. So we're gonna be using Mod Podge Ultra. So Mod Podge Ultra is a spray-on all-in-one glue and sealer, but it also works as a pouring medium. It comes in two different finishes. So there's a matte and a gloss. So matte means that it's really matte and it's not shiny. And gloss means it's shiny. So depending on the look that you want, you can pick matte or gloss. I'm gonna use gloss to pour with 'cause I like that shiny look on my canvases, but again, either one will work great. So I have that here and I'm gonna get started by mixing. So when you're using your Mod Podge ultra, it's a 2:1 ratio, which means you're gonna do two parts Folk Art paint, and one part Mod Podge Ultra. And it's like cooking or baking. So I'm gonna show you how you mix it up. All right, so I'm gonna start by laying out my cups. So again, you can use silicone cups, glass jars or plastic cups, and all of them can be reusable. So you're gonna need one cup per color that you're using to pour with. So I'm gonna lay out five cups to get started. (cups clanking) And then I'm gonna take my Folk Art acrylic paint, and I'm going to pour it into my cup. So now we've got all our Folk Art Acrylic Paint in our cups. So again, we need to add a pouring medium and we're using our Mod Podge Ultra. This is a great product because it is a spray. It is a pump spray, not an aerosol. Again, just a great product to have in your craft supplies. So we're going to, instead of using it as a spray today, we're gonna take the lid off, set it aside. And we're actually gonna pour into our cups, a 2:1 ratio. So two parts paint and one part Mod Podge Ultra, and I'm using the gloss so that means that it's gonna have a shine on it when it dries. So you can see here. I'm gonna go ahead and pour this in all of my cups. Now this looks milky and white. Don't worry because Mod Podge always dries clear. So it's not gonna change

the color of your paint. It's still gonna be really bright once we mix it all together. Now I'm gonna take one of our craft sticks. So a craft stick, a Popsicle stick, a plastic spoon, all of that works great. And we're going to stir each one of our cups. And you wanna make sure that you mix it really well and there's no lumps. You wanna make sure that the Mod Podge Ultra is mixed in with the paint. So now we have our FolkArt Acrylic Paint and our Mod Podge Ultra all mixed together. So I'm gonna pop these over to the side. And I'm gonna bring my baking pan over. So we use these aluminum disposable baking pans. We reuse them over and over again, but they are a great surface to pour on. I love them because they're stiff. So once you pour, you can move around your pour around the room and let it dry. And it's not gonna be flimsy. It's great and you can peel your paint off of it when you're done to create your paint skins, which we're gonna get to. So these are just really great and handy to have. You can pick these up anywhere. They're really inexpensive. And again, you can reuse them. You can also use a silicone mat or palette paper to protect your workspace and also pour on. But again, I love these because it's like a tray and it contains all your paint and it helps control the mess. So I've got these there. I have a canvas, so I'm gonna be pouring on this canvas. It's a 10 by 10 canvas. And before I get started, I'm going to flip it over on its back and I'm gonna use push pins to pop them in the corners here. So you push them right into your canvas, they're not gonna ruin your canvas and they're gonna come right out after your canvas is dry. So push these in your corner. And the reason I'm doing that is because it elevates your canvas so the pour can run over the sides. And it's also easy to get your hands under and move it around when we're swirling. Now you can wear gloves while you're doing a paint pour, 'cause your hands are gonna to get messy, but our product is non-toxic and it washes and cleans up with soapy water so I'm not gonna bother with gloves, but again, you're welcome to cover up your hands if you want. Here's my canvas. I put my four push pins in and these are the flat back ones. So it's gonna be like creating like a little table you can see. And again, it fits right in my tray. I'm gonna pour and this tray is gonna contain all my paint, which is great. So I'm gonna get started pouring, but I wanna walk you guys through the difference between a clean pour and a dirty pour. So I'm gonna grab the dirty pour here, just so you guys can see the difference. So a clean pour, you get more defined lines and larger bold patterns. So you can see we've got this big stripe of aqua, the teal, the pink. So you have control on your canvas where your paint is going. When you do a dirty pour, we're gonna combine all the paints and it's gonna be a more muted look. And the colors blend together a little bit more. So again, same color palette, but two different looks. Also on this one, you can see I used gloss to do the clean pour, and on the dirty pour, I used the matte. So you can see the shine and the dullness. Again, two great different looks that you can get by using different product, but they work so well together. So this would be an awesome display if you're doing a gallery wall. So I'm gonna set the dirty pour aside because we're gonna get to that next. So we are doing the clean pour. And what I'm gonna do is I'm gonna start pouring directly on my canvas. And it doesn't matter what order your colors go. So you could start with white or you could start with teal because you're gonna cover your entire canvas with all the colors. So I'm gonna start with this Patina, which is, again, one of our favorite colors. And I am going to start by pouring it right on my canvas. It's okay if it goes over the side. Remember you've got your pan there and I'm just gonna go back and forth across my canvas. Now don't worry also, if there's any canvas showing, because you're gonna add more paint and then at the end, we're gonna swirl and move our canvas around. You can also use your craft stick, that's why I love this to scrape out any additional paint that's left in your cup. Next, I'm gonna add my Perfect Purple. Guys, this is like an electric purple. It's so pretty. And I'm just gonna go over the same pattern, filling in those spots. It's okay if it goes over the Patina. And again,

because we use the Mod Podge Ultra as a pouring medium, you're not gonna get that blending or muddiness to this. It's not all gonna smoosh together. It's gonna keep it separated. And it's gonna really flow over the canvas. I'm gonna add my Teal. You can see that we couldn't pour the paint out before we added the Mod Podge Ultra, but now it just pours right out of the cup. My Perfect Pink or my Bright Pink. And then, last, I'm gonna add the Titanium White. So again, remember we put this push pins in our canvas so we can stick our fingers under it, grab it and swirl it. And this is where the magic happens. This is like the process part that is so fun to do. All right, so you can see, look at that movement that you get. And you wanna just go side to side, back and forth, and you really wanna get that paint flowing all over your canvas so you can see that beautiful movement. Let it keep dripping and then stop when you get it where you want it to be. So each pour is gonna be different, which I love also. You could do 10 pours with the same color, the same canvas, and they're all gonna different, which I love. It's so much fun to do. So again, that's done. So what we're gonna do is we're gonna let that dry. Again, that's why I love these baking pans. We're gonna set this aside. It takes about, overnight, I would let this go till tomorrow. And then I'm gonna show you what to do with the paint that's left over in the pan once we do our dirty pour. So the next pour we're gonna talk about is a dirty pour. In a dirty pour, the colors blend a bit more together. And that's because we're gonna combine all our paints in one cup and pour directly from one cup. And remember, I use Mod Podge Ultra gloss on the clean pour and on the dirty pour, I'm gonna go ahead and use matte so you can see the difference in the two sheens. Each work great as a pouring medium. It just depends what kind of look you're going for. All right, so I'm gonna set these aside and I'm gonna start exactly the way I started with our clean pour. All your pours will start the same. You need your paint and your pouring medium. So we're gonna grab our Folk Art Acrylic Paint, and I'm gonna use the same color palette. We've got Bright Pink, Patina, Perfect Purple, Teal and White. And we're gonna use our Mod Podge Ultra Matte. I'm gonna grab my cups. And again, you're gonna start the same process. So you need one cup per color. So five cups total. I'm gonna pour our Folk Art paint into our cups. All right, so I'm gonna use my Mod Podge Matte. Remember, this is all-in-one glue and sealer. I'm gonna take the top off. I'm gonna do a 2:1 ratio, two-part paint, one part Mod Podge Ultra. You want it to be like a thick syrup once you mix it all together. Okay, so now I have all my paint mix with my Mod Podge Ultra, I'm gonna set it aside and pull my pan over. Okay, so I just have, again, a disposable baking sheet. Again, these are great to reuse, great to pour on. I'm gonna take my canvas, flip it over. I'm gonna add my flat back thumbtacks right into the corner of my canvas. And this is really great for this type of pour, because you're gonna have to get your hand under the canvas and flip it over, so this makes it really easy. So next, we're gonna grab one of our larger plastic cups and we're gonna start layering in our paint. So place that down and we're gonna layer. And remember, the first color you put in will be the last color that dumps onto your canvas. So just think about that. If you want your canvas to be primarily pink or purple, you wanna start with that color and put that in first. And that'll be the majority of your pour as you layer. Also, remember with black and white, it's gonna take over, especially black. So a little bit of black goes a long way on your pours. So I'm gonna start with the pink. Then I'm gonna pour that in. And again, grab your end of your craft stick and just scrape the excess paint out of the cup. I'm gonna put Patina in next. Now, if you weren't using a pouring medium like Mod Podge Ultra, your paint would mix all together in the cup. But because you're using that Mod Podge Ultra, it's gonna keep your paint from mixing and it's gonna layer really beautiful in the cup and keep it separated to pour under your canvas. So you can see that, like that looks awesome, already. I'm gonna add my purple. I'm gonna add a little bit of white and then I'm gonna add our teal on top. Okay, so we've added all our paint and you can see we've got all these

different layers in there. So next, what we're gonna do is we're gonna center up our pan and our canvas. We've got our thumb tacks in. And we're gonna put the cup in the middle of our pan. Then you need to center your canvas on top of your cup, but you wanna flip it over. So this is the top of your canvas. This is what's gonna show. Flip it over so the backside is up. Take your hands to center that. Place your hand on top of your canvas. Hold it tight. Take your hand, grab your cup and flip it over. All right. So this is the magical part. Ooh, this is where it gets messy. So then what you're gonna do is you're going to lift this cup. You can see that's so pretty. Get all of that out. And then you're gonna do the same thing you did with the clean pour is you're going to swirl and tilt till you see all those colors. You can see those are all hiding in there. Those were all the layers that we added to this pour. So I'm gonna keep turning him so see you guys can see towards the camera. And again, just that beautiful movement. And again, how different this pour is than the clean pour. You can even rub your fingers along the side. But again, just let that go over your entire canvas. That's beautiful, I love that. So I'm gonna move this cup so you guys can see better. So you guys can see the camera. And again, look at that. It's so fun and beautiful. I love it too, it's like, you don't know what you're gonna get every time. It's different. All that teal came out of the cup. I was like, ooh, it's gonna be really teal, but it just moves. And the more you move the canvas, the different looks that you're gonna get. And again, just keep moving and tilting till you get that look. And I love the rings that it's creating. I love the movement, these little specks of teal. Okay, so now that we've got all of our paint moved across our canvas, we're gonna let this dry in our pan. And you can see the difference between the clean pour and the dirty pour. Same color palette, same process in the beginning, but the two different looks you get. Yup. So here, I'm gonna move this out of the way so you guys can see. Again, the same color palette. They both start out the same by mixing our Mod Podge Ultra with our FolkArt paint, but then the two awesome looks that you can get. So these are gonna dry and I'm gonna show you what to do with all this paint, all this mess down here that drips off of your canvas. I'm gonna show you a really fun craft that you can do with that. All right, so now we're gonna talk about paint skins. So paint skins are what is left over after you've done your pour. So again, here's our paint tray. This is a paint pour that we did and let it dry. And this is what's left over, all this awesome pattern of paint. And because we're using this pan or a silicone mat, you can actually pull your paint up, all your leftover paint up, and it doesn't stick. And so we call these paint skins, and I'm gonna show you how you can use these to craft with. So it's just a really fun way to not waste your paint and reuse all the drippings. And again, pouring is so unpredictable. You get these awesome patterns and every one looks different, but it's hard to control. So for example, if you wanna pour on a round surface or create a specific design, it's hard to do that with pouring, but if you use your leftover paint and with your paint skins, you can actually cut and Mod Podge them onto a canvas or a round 3D object and create new crafts. So I'm gonna show you how we did these. Again, this is just all the paint drippings, and it's really flexible. You can use this if you have like an electronic cutting machine, or you can just cut it with scissors, you can use a stencil or trace a pattern. This is great to personalize. So if you wanted to create your initial or a design, specifically for your space, this is a great way to do it. So we've got these in our trays. Again, this is just from the pour that we did. We let it dry and you can pull these right up. So we've got a couple of these. You can see we have a pile here of all different skins and you can save these and craft with them later. They're great for scrapbooking and you can see how easy this is to grab, and you just pull that right up. All right, so we've got our different variety of skins, all different colors. Again, these are from pours that we've done in the past, but you can see how great these are to craft with, and with the Mod Podge Ultra, you can put them right onto your surface. So I have a canvas here. I just

wanna show you how fun and easy it is to use these paint skins when you're done with your pour. You can put them on canvases, on notebooks, on picture frames, on letters for your room, and also on 3D objects like I said, because they're so flexible, they can wrap around, say a mason jar or a planter. So I have my canvas here and I'm just gonna take a paint skin that we created with our pour. I'm gonna grab this guy right here. And all you need to do is you can either use a stencil or you can even print a picture or a letter or initial that you like, and you can trace it right onto your paint skin. So you can use a marker or a pencil. You can also free hand it if you just wanna cut out a design. So I'm gonna go ahead and I'm gonna do a heart on this one. So I'm just gonna loosely draw a heart right on to my skin. Okay? And then, I am gonna cut out this heart. And again, look how easy this cuts. You cut right through the paint. You're almost creating a sheet of paper with your paint. Is a little thick. So I'm going to do another heart. And again, there's no right or wrong to this. It's all about personalizing your space. Once you learn how to do your mixing and do your pours, you can create whatever you want. Okay, so I've got my hearts. And what I'm gonna do now is I'm gonna use my Mod Podge Ultra. Again, you could use the matte or gloss, totally up to you. And I am going to use this to actually glue down the paint skins right onto my canvas. So I'm gonna spray my canvas and remember, it's gonna dry, completely clear, just give it a few sprays. Then I'm gonna take my paint skin and I'm gonna place it down. And again, I'm just freeform with this. And then you're gonna take your Mod Podge Ultra and give it another spray to seal it. And you can see, as we did here with the rainbow, then it's stuck on there and you have this awesome pattern. So again, it would be really fun to do an initial, your favorite picture. You could do sports colors or your favorite team. This would be a really fun project to do. And then, remember, paint skins can be wrapped around a 3D object like you can see here. So again, like a Mason jar, a planter, you can wrap it around. So all you do is need to trim out your paint skin. And again, you can use a ruler and measure out your pattern. Trim it with a straight line, and then it can be wrapped around your object, just like we have here. So whether it's for your wall or your shelf, you can create an awesome little display. I had so much fun showing you how to create a clean and dirty pour to personalize your space. (upbeat music)