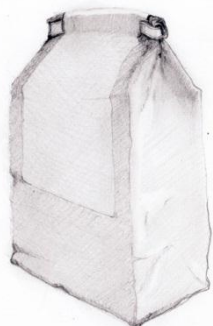


## DAMAR CRYSTALS

Damar crystals come from the damar resin which is tapped from a family of trees found mostly in India and East Asia. Damar crystals are yellow and irregularly shaped with a dusty appearance. Damar can be used in oil paint mediums to speed drying and add gloss. While traditionally also used as a final picture varnish, over time it will yellow, become brittle and difficult to remove, and is less favored by conservators for these reasons.



### SUPPLIES NEEDED TO PREPARE DAMAR CRYSTALS FOR USE:

- Damar Crystals - .5 lb (8 ounces)
- Pure Gum Spirits of Turpentine (12-13 ounces)
- Large glass jar with lid (wide mouth)
- Cheesecloth
- String
- Pencil or stick

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Wrap damar in cheesecloth and tie with string. Leave 4-5 inches of string in order to hang the cheesecloth bag.
2. Poke a hole in the center of the jar lid.
3. Pour the pure gum spirits of turpentine into the jar and place the cheesecloth bag into the solvent while holding the length of string.
4. Pull the string through the hole in the bottom of the lid making sure to suspend the bag so it is not touching the bottom or sides of the jar. Once the bag is suspended, tie the end of the string in the lid to a pencil or stick so the bag stays stationary while the crystals dissolve.
5. Screw the lid back on in place. It will take a day or two for all of the crystals to dissolve. Check the bag periodically to make sure that it has not stuck to the side of the jar. If it has stuck, gently pull on the string to break the bond.
6. When fully dissolved, the cheesecloth bag can be removed from the jar. Impurities will remain in the cheesecloth bag and can be disposed of. Additional filtering can be done to clarify the mixture further by straining the mixture through clean cheesecloth.



*\*Please note that any water in the mixture whether it be in the jar prior to preparation or an extremely humid day can lead to clouding. Arid conditions are favorable in the preparation of damar.*

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