

Terms and Techniques:

Preparation of surfaces: I spend a lot of time preparing the surface that I am going to paint on.

Wood: Sand the surface and the edges to make smooth. I just use a medium grit sand paper and do this by hand. Clean the surface with a damp cloth and make sure you remove the dust. Now I like to base coat the wood with a sponge brush or a chip brush. I find the sponge brushes and chip brushes at home improvement centers.

Metal , glass, melamac or a slick surface. Make sure your surface is clean. Now I like to sand the surface when I can, so that it makes it a little rougher and takes the paint better. Then I love to use Deco Art Multi-Purpose Sealer (DS17). I apply this with a sponge brush or a chip brush. Sometimes I apply this smooth and sometimes I dab it here and there for more texture.

Cloth or Canvas: I have to be very careful when painting on cloth or homespun fabric. I use Deco Art Americana Acrylics to paint on cloth and I paint very slowly, loading my brushes with a little more paint for a smooth edge to my painting. If painting on canvas, I usually just basecoat the whole piece of canvas with Deco Art Americana Acrylics. Then if I get a splatter on a piece that I don't want there, I can cover it up with more of my basecoat paint. I use a chip brush to basecoat the canvas.

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Basecoat: When basecoating a color in a pattern, I like to use flat brushes. Using the size of brush to fit the area that you are basecoating. Sometimes I use my angular shader too. And , when I am finished basecoating , I might sand the painted surface a little with a fine grit sandpaper to get a nice smooth surface and then I might basecoat that area a little more, sometimes leaving a sanded area for a worn look.

Shading: This is a technique that I do a lot. I love using an angular shader, this is my favorite brush. I use this brush for so many things. You can get into tiny areas with the tip of the brush. I also float shade with this brush and sometimes even basecoat an area. I love angular shaders of all sizes. I can't have enough of them. Dip the brush in water and blot a little and then dip the tip of the brush in a little bit of paint and start shading. I shade a little at a time.

Line work: This is the most difficult for me. It is always a challenge. I love to use 18/0 liner brushes. This just takes getting the right amount of water with the paint to paint a tiny wispy line . I like to line my designs a little and leave some areas without lining. It makes a nice interesting painting.

Dry brush: I use this technique so much, using different sizes of brushes. The brushes I use for this are chip brush brushes and very worn and old flat brushes. Dab the brush into paint and dab the brush on to a paper towel or maybe an old towel and dab over the area that you want to dry brush. This takes practice and lots of dipping into paint and dabbing the right amount of paint off for that smooth highlighted dry brushed area.

Spattering: I use a toothbrush for this. Just dab the toothbrush into paint and with your finger, run through the bristles and the paint will spatter on to your project. This takes some practice also.

Dabbing: with a little worn stippler brush , touch the brush into the paint and dab gently on to the area.

Highlight: I highlight lots of surfaces using a lighter color of paint and using several different techniques, dabbing, shading, float shading, spattering and linework.

Float shading: This is like shading, but using more water.

Dot: I use the end of a toothpick and dip into paint and dot on to the surface.

Antiquing: I use this technique all the time. I use a sock and put my hand in it and then dampen with water and dip a little into Deco Art Trad. Burnt Umber Paint. Then I rub this onto my surface, which antiques the surface and makes a nice muted old look. I use this sometimes all the way through my painting and at the end.

Sealing or Finishing: I just love Deco Art Matte Finisher Sealer. I use this all the time. It is a perfect Sealer. I have never found one better. I like to spray my surface when I am finished painting very lightly and follow with another spray. Also another finish I love is Deco Art matte DuraClear varnish. I use this by applying with a sponge brush. If I paint a platter, or cake taker, etc, I like to use this. It is wonderful. I painted a set of coasters and used this finish and it was perfect. What I love about this product is it is non toxic and that is so important to me.

Techniques:

Old look technique: To make a surface that I am going to paint on look like an older piece, I like to use this technique. First Base the piece , using a sponge brush with a dark color of brown paint. I like to use Deco Art Americana Acrylics, Bittersweet Chocolate. Let Dry and now rub over the edges or where you want your piece to look worn and apply wax, by rubbing a piece of a white candle over the area. Now basecoat your piece with the color that you are going to paint it . Let dry and then gently sand with med. Sandpaper and the paint will chip right off where you applied the wax. This is a fun way to prepare a surface to look very old. I also like to just basecoat a piece with the paint that you are going to use for the project, let dry and sand heavily and then with a damp sock, and water, dip the sock into a little bit of Deco Art, Trad. Burnt Umber paint and rub on to your surface. This is a nice look.

Tracing patterns: I like to use the dark and light graphite papers for this. Sometimes I just make copies of my design and cut out the pieces separate and trace around the outside.

Helpful tips:

I have to have a hair dryer with me all the time when I paint. I couldn't be without it. After basecoating, or painting I use the hair dryer to dry my surface faster and lets me get so much more painting done.

Also I need an old large towel to place in my lap when I am painting. I use this to dab my brushes on all the time when I am painting to get the right effect I am wanting.

Styrofoam disposable plates are stacked up on my painting table and they are wonderful, inexpensive and can be thrown away after each painting.

I use Loew-Cornell Brushes . I think the brushes are wonderful! Also a must have is the Loew-Cornell Brush basin. This is what I use all the time also . Clean water in this basin and you can clean your brushes in this by raking across the accordion cleaning surface. I have had mine for probably 10 years. I have to have clean water , so I change the water all the time.

***Most important of all is to enjoy painting. I love to paint. I have a painting room, filled with my paints, brushes and surfaces. I used to cut all my wood , now i like to purchase it and it gives me more time to paint. I have a nice big table to paint on and keep my brushes, water and paints nearby. Also i love lots of good lighting. I have two large lamps on my painting table and have over head lighting also. Something else I just need so much is a favorite movie playing , so I can listen to it and glance up and watch a little now and then. This is just so relaxing and that is what painting is all about !!!

I hope that this information is helpful. Thank you so much.
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