

Image Transfer On Stone Coaster Set by Tracy Moreau www.tracymoreau.net

Image Transfer is a method of transferring a laser print or copy to a surface. Be it a full color image or black and white, the technique is easy, Once you know what pit falls to avoid. Enjoy the Video , and try your hand at this fun and functional project.

You Need:

- 4 Cultured stone Tiles 4 x 4
- 1 Jar of DecoArt Americana Decor Image Transfer Medium
- Dynasty 3/4 Flat wash Brush
- 16 x 1/4" self adhesive felt pads
- DecoArt Ultra Matt Varnish



Image Transfer is Not a quick n easy thing, it's a " be a little patient and it'll be even better" thing. This Coaster project is so simple and produces a very professional and high quality finish. I promise you, You will love the results!

DecoArt is always raising the bar and has produced two FABULOUS Image transfer products. DecoArt Americana Decor Image transfer Medium and DecoArt Photo Transfer Medium are both exceptional and work for a variety of surfaces, both painted and unpainted. I also use DecoArt Decoupage Medium for image transfer, it works very well on a variety of surfaces too, But for an item like these coasters I wanted them to hold up long term, so I chose the Americana Decor Image Transfer medium for it's exceptional durability and adhesion.

I have included a few images for your use , those that required it, have been reversed already for your convenience.

Tips to begin with....

There are always a few tricks and tips that you learn as you go, mess up often enough and you learn LOTS. I just like to pass on what I have learned the hard way, it saves time and makes things easier for you.

- 1: Make sure you have a clean surface: if you are working on tile, as in this instance. Be sure to wipe them down to remove any dust or debris, a quick wipe with a damp cloth will save you a lot of headaches. Painted surfaces must also be clean and oil free, for best results.
- 2: Make sure your brush is Clean and Dry. If there is water in the brush, it will affect how well the medium works and can (and does) result in a poor transfer.
- 3: Be patient, I know you're excited and anxious to see the results, but trust me, it will be worth the wait. If you try to finish the transfer too soon, you will end up wiping off the image. Better to wait until things are good and dry before proceeding.
- 4: Use the Cheapest Paper you can find to print or copy your images on, the lower the quality of the paper the easier it is to remove, when the time comes.
- 5: This product WORKS, if it fails it is most likely that one of the preceding, is the issue.

So now you are armed with what can go wrong and how to prevent it, lets get to the fun stuff!

PREPARATION:

As I said, surface preparation is important, make sure your surface is clean, dry and oil free before proceeding.

Trim the images to fit the space (the tiles are 4 x 4 so trim the images so that the paper is just a touch smaller than 4 x 4) and the image is centered. I usually trim a couple of extras just in case I mess one up (it happens).

The medium itself is quite thick, a little gelatinous looking but it spreads rather easily. Don't be shy with it, You want to apply it rather generously. Brush a generous coat of the medium onto the tile, take it right to the edges, brush it out so that it is fairly uniform. Immediately lay the trimmed image face down into the medium. Use the palm of your hand to smooth out the paper and seat it firmly into the medium. Use the brayer to roll over the paper to ensure that the image is well seated and to remove any bubbles under the paper. (if you don't have a brayer a paint bottle will do the trick)

The DecoArt Americana Image Transfer Medium, was developed to be used on furniture, it is tough when dry and cured, however it can be reactivated by moisture if you don't wait until it is well dry. The packaging suggests 8 hrs, you will get the very best results by following the manufacturers instructions. Of course drying time varies from place to place , if you are in Arizona , or Nevada you might not have to wait as long. I air dry things under fans so it speeds things up quite a bit.



The Fun Stuff:

Clean the tiles with a damp cloth to remove any dust from the manufacturing process, let them dry well. Trim your image with very sharp scissors and close to the edges of the images as you can , leaving a small border of the paper. Apply a generous but even coat of the Image Transfer Medium to the surface of the tile. Lay the image face down into the medium and firmly press it into place with the tips of your fingers. Take a damp terry cloth, and gently but firmly wipe the

surface, working from the centre out , to remove the excess medium. (try no to get any on the paper) then use a braver or a paint bottle to firmly roll over the image to ensure it is firmly seated. Z

Set the tiles aside to dry.

Removing the paper is the best part, it's messy , (the best things usually are) but it's fun! I suggest you put down some paper and keep a broom handy to clean up all the bits of paper.

Moisten a terry cloth face cloth with water, it should be wet but not dripping. GENTLY begin rubbing the paper in a circular fashion , the moisture will cause the paper to buckle (don't panic) and then it will start to roll up into little balls. as you continue to do this , the image will come into view.

Most important: TAKE YOUR TIME!, work carefully, moving all over the surface, don't spend too much time in one spot or you will rewet the medium and scrub the image right off. You will have to go over the surface two or three times to remove the paper completely. Once the bulk of the paper has been removed(first wash) , let it dry for a few minutes before repeating the process. Letting it dry will allow you to see where there is paper remaining (you will see a fuzz or a hazy appearance)

Repeat until you see NO Fuzz or Haze.

Once you have removed all of the paper, set the tiles aside to dry well. Once completely dry, seal them with two coats of the DecoArt Ultra Matt Varnish. I like to take it right over the edges and onto the bottom of the tile. (any moisture seeping int the stone will cause the Image to lift , so be sure to completely seal the tile on all sides. This varnish spreads really nicely and dries to a beautiful dead flat finish. When cured it is extremely durable and will give you Years of use, and easy cleaning.

To give your coaster a professional looking finish, place a self adhesive felt pad on each corner of the bottom of the tiles. This will help protect your table top and counters.

These coaster s make great gifts as you have the ability to customize them to the recipient. Select color photos of each of the kids, or the family Pets, Copy them using a color laser printer or copier, and follow the same instructions! They will make a great gift for Gramma and Grampa, and it is an easy enough project to get the kids involved!

RESOURCES:

DECOART

www.decoart.com

DecoArt Manufactures Only the highest quality Paint and Craft Products, for Home decor , Art and Hobby. Check out their full line of great products, including DecoArt Decoupage, Deco Art Americana Decor Image transfer medium, and DecoArt Photo Transfer Medium.

HOME DEPOT

www.HomeDepot.com

These are great to make for craft sales and bazaars, A case of these tiles run about \$40 and makes 12 sets of coasters.

The Tiles are Tumbled Stone (Cultured) and are available via special order from Home Depot. There are 12 x 12 netted tile panels that contain 4 4x4 tiles, You have to trim away some smaller tiles and the netting but it will make one set of coasters. These retail for about \$9.00 Perfect if you only want to make one set.

DYNASTY BRUSH

www.dynastybrush.com

THE premier brush manufacturer in the United states, Manufacturer of High Quality Artists Brushes , Cosmetic Brushes and Brushes for Craft , Hobby and Education. Looking for Dynasty Brushes? Check out www.TheBrushGuys.com

The GRAPHICS FAIRY:

www.thegraphicsfairy.com

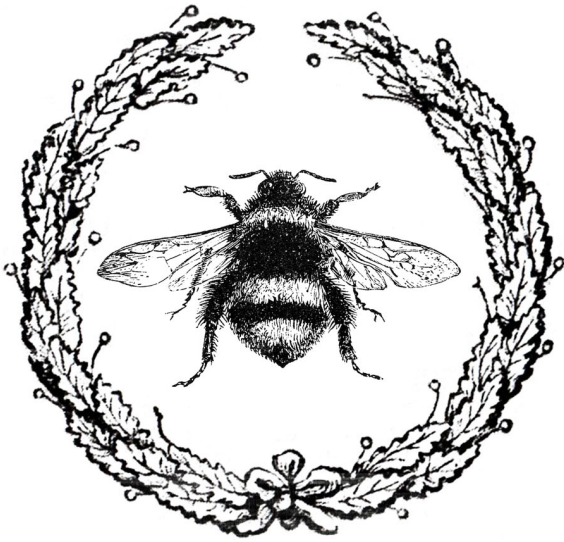
I am a huge fan of The Graphics Fairy, Karen has one of the best image sites on the Net, Her images are free for personal use, and she has a huge selection of great images that lend themselves well to image transfer. There are also plenty of tutorials and reader submissions , to inspire you too!

BEAR WITH US

www.bearwithusinc.com

I love " Bear With Us" , if you are looking for Great wood items to paint , create with or decorate with, this is the site for you. Patterns and Surfaces are available from a variety of designers. (and Wooden coasters too if you can't find the tiles)

JARDIN



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