



Seas The Day
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I have a deep and abiding love of the sea. To walk the beach or stand on shore and listen to the waves pound the rocks, it sings to a part of me. So anything that relates to the sea tends to find its way into my home. One day I will live where the sea and I can spend all our time together. But in the mean time I will have to take comfort in having wonderful reminders around me. This Simple sign is a gentle reminder to take everyday and live it...by the sea if at all possible.

You will need:

www.cdwood.com

10 x 14 arched panel

DecoArt Americana

Vintage Effects (Patina)

Americana Warm White, Asphaltum

Stencil "Ocean Life" ADS205

Dynasty Blue Ice Brushes 1" Flat

Dynasty Faux Squirrel 1827

1/2 angled shader, 1" angled Shader, #2 Rigger,

Tracy Moreau 1/2 stencil Brush

Misc:

Blue Painters tape, White or Grey Graphite, Fictis Black 18 Eraser, 6" Cork Backed Metal Ruler, 0.7 Uniball Signo (blue black or red)

To Begin:

I fell hard for these Vintage Effects Paints from DecoArt. reminiscent of Old Faux Glazes , they can be manipulated a number of ways for a variety of effects , and with considerable ease. In this particular case I am using it to create a soft weathered look, that allows the grain of the wood to show through. It's subtle and very pretty. Perfect for wonderful decor Signs! Its very easy to use and spreads beautifully, (the colour selections is wonderful!)

To Begin:

Don't be shy with the vintage effects.. Apply a nice even coat of it to the unsealed surface, I found that this is easiest to control when you work a section at a time on larger areas. Immediately wipe the surface back with a damp Shop towel (Damp not wet or you will pull off too much.) Gently wipe it down following the grain of the wood, Take off as much as you like, if you want MORE COLOUR, take off less, if you want a more heavily aged effect, remove more. Set it aside to dry well. Sand Lightly to remove any furring that may have occurred.

You can distress the surface a little , at this time, by sanding the edges of the sign, and wearing away some of the colour in a few places. (How much is entirely up to you!) Wipe the surface down with a clean damp shop towel to remove any dust.

Tape off the edges and the top of the panel with blue painters tape.

“The Wonderful Thing about VINTAGE EFFECTS is the ability to Layer them.. (you could apply a darker colour of the vintage effects first , wipe back, let it dry and they apply a lighter colour over top and repeat the wipe back method to expose both a little of the original wood and the first colour. These paints make it very easy to create all kinds of Fun effects!!”

The Lettering:

Most will assume that you have to have a very steady hand and a good eye to paint lettering well, but there are a few simple tricks to painting crisp clean and beautiful lettering even if you have a less than steady hand.

Simple rules to follow:

First and foremost, you cannot paint clean beautiful lettering if the image you are working from isn't. I print my lettering on copy paper(I don't trace it onto tracing paper.) in the size and font that I have chosen or drawn. If it is hands drawn, I clean it up well and use a ruler for straight vertical and horizontal lines . (VITALLY IMPORTANT)

To Transfer the design to the surface. I take the time to ensure that it is properly centred on my surface, and that it is straight. We are conditioned from birth to read everything from left to right and top to bottom, so if something is not level it screams at us until we fix it. Nothing will ruin a lettering job faster than crooked lines. If you start with CRISP Clean vertical and horizontal Lines, it is easier to keep them that way!

Secure the Paper to the surface using Painters Tape (it will prevent the paper shifting while you are working.) Slip White or Grey graphite paper under the Paper and secure the paper with tape at the bottom of the page as well

Trace all of the vertical lines first then the Horizontal Lines , using a Cork Backed straight edge METAL ruler. This is important.... a plastic ruler can be damaged , chips in the edges etc... this makes for ragged lines... Use a metal one for this). and a very fine roller ball point pen. (I use a 0.7 Uniball Signo,) NOT a stylus. (the lines are finer and clearer, and you can see where you have been!). Press firmly while tracing, but keep your hand relaxed.

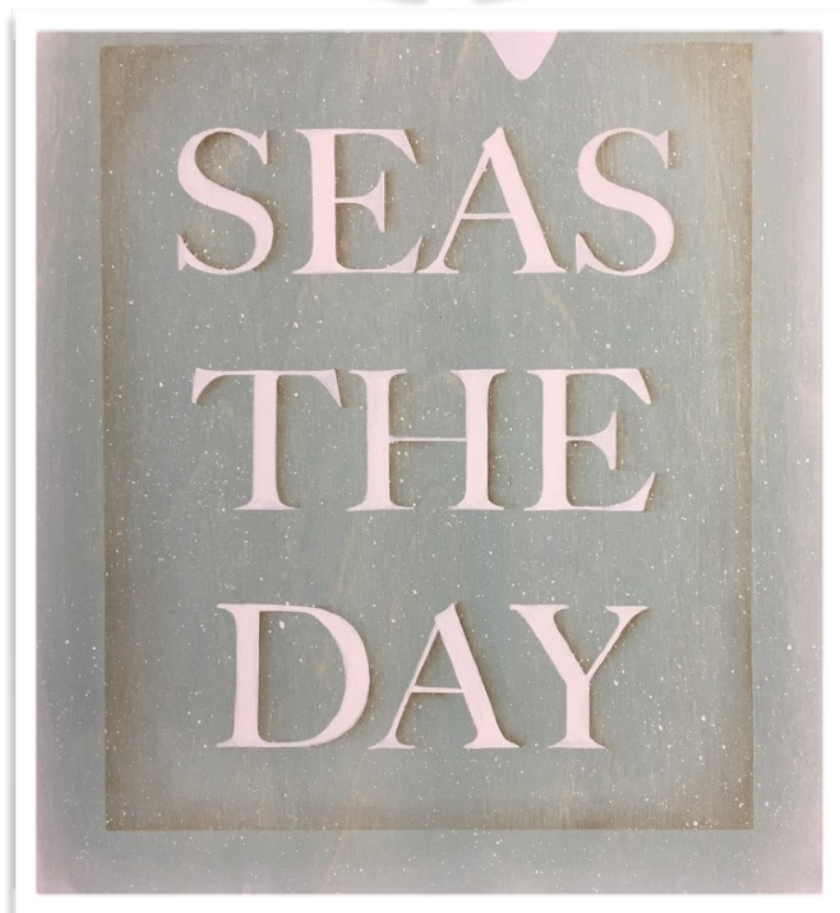
Once all of the vertical and horizontal lines have been traced, free hand the curved portions using the same pen.

Check the transfer before removing the paper from your surface to ensure that every letter has been clearly traced and that everything is straight. (use the ruler to make sure).

Remove the paper.

Depth is what really makes your lettering stand out. and it is as simple as a light shadow in the right place. In this case we are applying a float of heavily thinned Asphaltum to the right side of each of the letters (refer to the Image provided for placement)

I place these shadows before painting the lettering so that I am not cleaning the floats off of the Lighter colour. So if your floating is not as neat as you would like it, this is an opportunity to clean things up.



Painting the letters is the scary part , though why I have no idea.. we have all been taught to write and print.. so painting lettering is not a stretch.

Thin Warm White to a inky consistency . It is really important that you keep adding a little water to the paint as you work. Each time you pul more paint into the puddle , you have to add a touch of water to maintain the consistency.

The RIGGER: Everyone asks me about the rigger.. Why do I use this ?? Simple.. control! This is an easy brush to control, and it's size means that I can paint areas up to a 1/4" wide with ease.

A rigger looks like a liner but is shaped like a flat, when you press down on the brush you will notice that it has a chisel edge (like a flat) when loaded with paint you can hold that chisel , making it ideal for painting script lettering and Block lettering , Serif or sans serif the rigger will be your best pal , when it comes to painting lettering.

Load the Rigger with the thinned Warm White and paint all of the vertical sections of the letters. the trick is to place the brush inside the line and leave a small space so that when the brush splays as you apply pressure it just meets the line instead of going over it. keep that pressure on the brush and pull the brush the length of the space you are painting. repeat until all of the space is painted. (always in the same direction) reload the brush as needed. Once you have the vertical spaces done , paint in the horizontal and all of the curved spaces as well. (always pulling the brush in one direction)

NOTE: Pulling the brush the full length of the space will give you a clean edge, when it just meets the line.

Take your time.... if you hurry , you will make mistakes.

Float heavily thinned Asphaltum to the edges of the tape on the border of the panel (at the top of the panel leave a space in the centre about 5" wide) , keep the float weak, and walk it out to it has a soft transition . Let it dry and then remove the tape.

Use the Facts Black 18 Eraser to erase and graphite lines that are showing...(I prefer to use White Graphite as it doesn't show as badly as the grey, but it is also harder to see on the lighter backgrounds.)

The Stencilling:

Position the stencil at the centre top of the panel and secure it with Painters tape. Using the Warm White and the 1/2 stencil fill in the stencil by working in a circular fashion and changing directions frequently. Continue until the Shell is nearly opaque (I say Nearly , not completely.) If you like it less opaque by all means go easy with the paint... we are going to distresssss it anyway!

Once you have achieved the look you like, remove and clean your stencil. Shade the inside edge of the shell segments with a float of thinned Asphaltum. Let it dry.

The Distressing:

Sand the entire surface lightly in One direction . (top to bottom) applying a little more pressure to the areas that you want to age a bit more. You can remove as Much or as Little as you like.. if you prefer a heavily distressed look then go for it!! I like it a bit more subtle so I only wore away the edges and a few places over the lettering.

Once you are happy with your distressing, you have two options. You can age the edges with thinned Asphaltum or with Warm White. I opted for the Warm White to give it a softer look, Float your colour choice over the edges of the panel. Let it dry. Spatter the entire panel with Warm White (or Asphaltum).

String a piece of Jute rope or Cording through the hols and tie a know on the ends to hang.

Thanks for playing in my sandbox!!

Tracy

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