

How to...

FREE
information

Decorate Papier-mâché

Introduction

Papier-mâché is an exciting range of blank items including boxes, houses, masks, pedestals and many other items ready to be decorated in a variety of ways. This leaflet will guide you through a range of ideas and techniques to create something really individual.

Equipment needed

Papier-mâché blank

PVA glue

Paints

Brushes

Palette

Optional extras

Ribbon, Tissue paper, Varnish, Beads, Fabric, Wooden shapes, Chenille stems, Pom-poms

Preparing Papier-mâché

Whichever design or technique you have in mind it is always best to seal your papier-mâché blank item before embarking on your project. This will provide a good surface for whatever paint or decoration you plan to use.

Make up a mixture of PVA medium and water in a 50:50 ratio and apply to all areas of the papier-mâché with a soft brush.

Paint

You can use any number of different types of paint on a papier-mâché surface – oil paints, watercolours, gouache, poster paints and acrylics – the last two giving you the best results. Both come in a wide range of colours, are water based and generally non-toxic. They dry to a matt finish and can be easily varnished.

Stone effect paints are available in sprays or tubs and give a wonderful finish to your work. Dimensional paints can also give a really unique finish by building up to create a 3D effect. Acrylic paints are waterproof when dry so care must be taken to clean brushes and palettes thoroughly before the paint dries.



Project ideas

Nest of Decoupage Boxes

Seal the outside of the mache boxes with a 50:50 mix of PVA glue and water. Allow to dry.

Paint all three boxes and lids with two coats of Lavender acrylic except the lid of the medium size box which should be painted with Black Plum. Allow to dry after each coat.

Apply decoupage shapes to large and small boxes with a thin coat of PVA. Paint stripes onto the medium size box in Lemon Yellow and Black Plum as shown.

Once fully dry, paint over all surfaces with a highly diluted coat of Burnt Umber to age. Follow instructions on the Crackling Medium and apply.

Finally, load an old paintbrush with Burnt Umber paint and flick speckles of colour onto the boxes.

Hints and Tips

Spatter paint using a toothbrush, by running your thumb across the brush to flick the bristles, applying colour onto the surface.



Springy dog and cat

A fun kids project to make these cute animals.

Paint a small oval papier-mâché box with white acrylic paint and leave to dry. Use black acrylic paint to make the 'Dalmatian' dots. Wind four white chenille stems around a pencil to create the legs and glue in place on the base of the box.

Cut a length of chenille stem for the tail and glue in place. Glue a large white pom-pom onto the front of the lid for the face. Glue another pom-pom onto the side of the lid, just below the first pom-pom, to create a muzzle. Glue a small black pom-pom in place for the nose and add a small piece of red felt for the mouth. Create the ears out of black felt and glue in place.

Finish by glueing the wobbly eyes in place. The cat is made following the same instructions using orange and yellow acrylic paints and different sized and coloured pom-poms.



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