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1 Base Plaster Finish

1.1 Description

Earthaus Base Finish is an interior lime plaster finish named after its coarse matte granular texture. Matte and unsealed, Base Finish is not suitable for shower use.

1.2 Materials Summary

The standard Base finish includes the following materials:

1. Primer Grit: To prepare a level-4 finished drywall or painted wall substrate, prime the surface with Earthaus Primer Grit mixed in. Any PVA or latex primer works well.
2. Base Plaster: Two 1/32" coats* totaling 1/16" (** 1/32" is the thickness of a credit card)
3. Mineral Pigment: One Pigment Pack per bag of Base Plaster

1.3 Properties

- Earthaus Base Plaster is made with high quality US-quarried lime (refined limestone), pumice (volcanic rock), and a plant-based binder. Mineral pigment color is optional.
- 100% natural materials
- Excellent adherence and workability
- Zero VOCs or chemical additives
- Earthaus Base will absorb CO2 and will transform back into limestone as it cures
- Mold and mildew resistant
- Durable and breathable

1.4 Storage & Disposal

Storage: Once mixed, Base Plaster will keep for 10 days covered at room temperature. To rework Base Plaster after storage, it is essential to remix the plaster using a drill. Unmixed dry Base Plaster will store for up to one year dry and at low humidity.

Disposal: To dispose of excess Base plaster, allow the plaster to fully dry in the container. Once dried, the plaster will easily be removed from the container and can be disposed of in the trash.

2 Preparation

2.1 Gather Tools

The recommended tools for a Base Finish are organized and listed on our website. Each tool is linked to an online purchase option. [Recommended Tools](#)

Substrate Preparation: Priming

- ☐ Drill
- ☐ Small Mixing Paddle
- ☐ Roller or Brush

Plaster Mixing:

- ☐ 1200 RPM variable speed drill
- ☐ Egg beater style mixing paddle
- ☐ 5 gallon buckets
- ☐ 5 gallon Mesh Paint Strainer

Plaster Application:

- ☐ Hawk
- ☐ Trowel
- ☐ Scraping Knife

2.2 Safety Precautions

As lime-based products, Earthaus Plasters are highly alkaline during mixing and while wet. It's recommended to wear a dust mask and safety glasses, cover exposed skin during mixing, and wear neoprene gloves and protective clothing during application. If skin comes in contact with wet Base plaster and causes irritation, rinse skin with cold water. White vinegar can also be used to rinse skin to neutralize the lime. If Base plaster gets into your eyes, flush your eyes with cold water using an eyewash.

2.3 Substrate Preparation

Earthaus does not make a primer product. Any PVA or latex Primer will work well. We recommend using a primer with zero to low VOCs.

Application of Primer with Earthaus Primer Grit

1. Add one cup of Primer Grit into one gallon of primer.
2. Mix Primer Grit into a primer product with a drill and mixing paddle for 30 seconds until fully integrated.
3. Drywall should be dry and free from any dust or impurities that could hinder the bonding of primer with Grit.
4. Use a brush or roller to apply one coat of primer with Grit evenly to the finished drywall.
5. Allow the primer to dry fully to ensure that the Grit is completely bonded to the surface

3 Base Finish Application Steps

Tips & Considerations

- Even coats: Paying attention to ensuring coats are even and preventing any high spots or ridges in the basecoat especially, will minimize aesthetic issues in the finish coat and with color continuity.
- Thickness of coats: Novices tend to apply too thick of coats which can show up as ridges and trowel lines. Too thick of coats increases the risk of cracking.
- Color variation: Burnishing, applying pressure with a trowel, if done too hard can bruise a plaster finish, darkening the color. Burnishing in areas with high spots or ridges are easily bruised with burnishing.

Mixing Steps

1. Add 2 gallons of water to a 5 gallon bucket
2. Add the Mineral Pigment Pack to the water and mix vigorously for one minute with a high RPM drill. It is highly recommended to pour the pigmented water through a five gallon paint strainer to minimize the potential for pigment bursts. A pigment burst is a small chunk of unmixed pigment that can burst into the finished plaster when troweled over.
3. Add 1/3 of the bag of Base Plaster to the strained pigmented water. Mix well then scrape any powdered plaster from the sides of the bucket.
4. Add the next 1/3 of the bag, mix, scrape, and repeat until all the powdered Sand Plaster is incorporated.

5. Once all of the Base Plaster has been incorporated, mix vigorously with a high RPM drill for 3 minutes, minimum. The long and thorough mixing time will ensure full pigment dispersion and minimize the possibility of any unmixed particles.
6. Adding a small amount of water may be necessary due to variations in pigment quantity in each color and slight variation in plaster content per bag. Be careful to not add too much water. Aim for a plaster consistency of a thick milkshake.

Base Coat Application Steps

1. Apply an even base coat of Base Plaster approximately 1/32nd inch thick. 1/32 inch is the thickness of a credit card
2. When the first coat of Base Plaster is approximately 60% dry, use a clean trowel to smooth out any trowel marks or ridges.
3. Allow the Base Plaster base coat to dry fully before applying the finish coat.
4. The color will lighten significantly when fully dried.

Finish Coat Application Steps

1. Apply a “tight coat” which means a coat just thicker than the largest grains of aggregate in the Base plaster.
2. When the first tight coat is firm but still wet, “double back” (apply another) tight coat.
3. If textured effects are desired, use the trowel or other tools to incorporate textural patterns into the wet Base Plaster.
4. When the plaster is semi-dry, smooth the surface with a clean trowel if a smoother finish is desired.
5. The color will lighten significantly when fully dried.

4 Care & Maintenance

4.1 Cleaning

Base Finish is granular, unsealed, and absorbent. Routine cleaning using water is not recommended. Instead, Base Finish can be dusted and vacuumed to keep the finish looking fresh. For spot cleaning guidance, see staining.

Base Finish can be sealed with Earthaus Olive Oil Soap Sealer which will reduce absorbency and increase stain resistance. Sealing a Base Finish changes its care & maintenance recommendations - please refer to the guidance in the Earthaus Stone Finish Care & Maintenance Guide for a sealed Base Finish.

4.2 Repairs

Staining: The standard Base Finish is unsealed and absorbent which increases susceptibility to staining. There are two types of stains in an absorbent finish: superficial stains and deep stains. For superficial stains, light sanding of the stain with an abrasive cloth or fine sand paper will have the best chance of removing a stain. For deep stains, where a stain has been absorbed into the plaster, either patching the area or re-plastering another coat over the entire surface will have the best results.

Hairline Cracking: Long hairline cracks in a Base Finish indicate structural movement in the substrate. These cracks can be repaired, but the repair may be more noticeable than the crack after the repair. If the substrate is still moving, the crack will likely reappear. Hairline cracks and repair options should be evaluated and determined by a plaster professional.

Chipping: Chipping on a Base Finish is rare but there is a high risk for chipping on any 90-degree outside corner. Chipped or nicked areas on a Base Finish can be repaired by filling in the chipped area with additional Base Plaster

5 Informational Notices

Application Guide Disclaimer

The information provided in this Application Guide is given in good faith, based on current knowledge and Earthaus Plaster's experience with the plaster products when they are properly stored, handled and applied in normal situations. The Application Guide is useful for information but is not legally binding. In particular, it does not exempt the user from testing and verifying the suitability of the product for the desired application and purpose. Should the user modify the instructions and recommendations, they will assume all the corresponding risk and responsibility. Earthaus Plaster reserves the right to modifications that improve the product or its application.

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