

THREE BEARS PRINTS

Tutorial



Top Ten Decoupage Tips



Welcome to this Three Bears Prints Tutorial!

Welcome to this Three Bears Prints tutorial! Three Bears Prints is run by me, Marliese Richmond. I live in Perth, Scotland, with my husband, daughter and dog. My first passion is linocutting and printmaking, and I also apply these skills to fabric design and pop up cards. I love teaching my creative skills and this tutorial is part of that.

Come and visit me on my website, where I share my artistic interests, especially my prints and designs. On a weekly basis on my blog, I let you see my latest artistic projects, my sources of inspiration and give an insight into my creative processes.



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Project Description: Top Ten Decoupage Tips



Decoupageing a piece of furniture can transform it. We have done our house up on budget, and much of our furniture has been bought very cheaply or been given to us. This has not been a problem though, as it has given me 'permission' to change them to suit our tastes and the room in which they sit. The woodpecker chest resides in the cool blue of our hallway - the bubble gum pink furniture belongs to my little girl!

In this tutorial, I share what I have learnt over the years as to what I find works - but there is so also a lot of information online about how to decoupage, so it is worth doing your research.

The woodpecker and hummingbird papers are based on my handmade prints, and are available through my website - come and visit, and find out lots more about other projects you can tackle yourself!



What you will need: Cover a Drum Lampshade



What you will need:

- A piece of furniture that you wish to upcycle.
- Paper to decorate furniture .
- Materials to prepare the surface - so in my case, this was sandpaper and primer white paint.
- Paint suited to the surface of your piece of furniture.
- Glue to stick on paper - I use Mod Podge.
- Decent paintbrush.
- Varnish suited to sealing the surface of your piece of furniture.

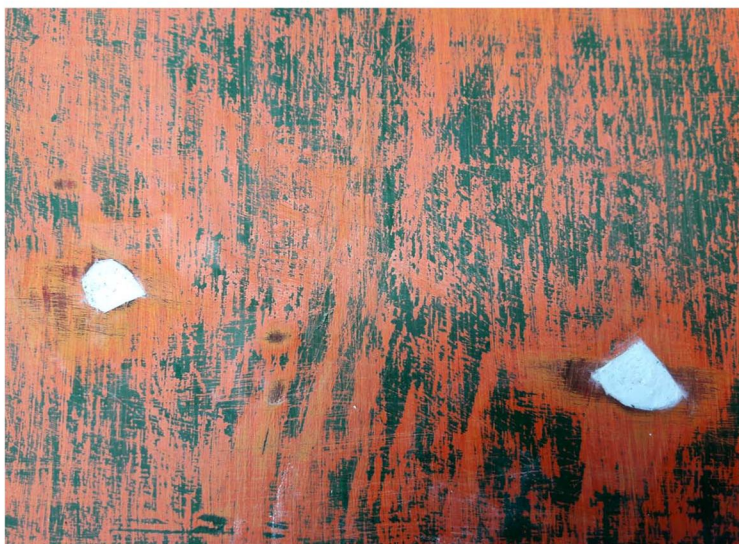


Top Ten Decoupage Tips



1. My first rule is to decoupage a piece of furniture that can only be improved with a lick of paint and some decorative paper. I like to choose pieces which are free, cheap or very old, but importantly, the furniture is solidly constructed and worth upcycling. Make sure the piece of furniture is thoroughly clean, free of any dirt or grease.

2. Choose paper which will not leach colour or disintegrate in any way when you apply glue or varnish it - it is probably worth conducting a patch test to check. I used my Woodpecker design in Gift Wrap from Spoonflower - see website for more info.



3. Prepare your surfaces accordingly. In this case, for example, the chest is wooden with painted veneer which has been varnished. I gave it a good sand, cut out the bubbled veneer and filled it, and painted the surfaces with 2 coats of primer.

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4. Paint your piece of furniture in a neutral colour which ties in with the colour of the paper you intend to decorate it with, and which allows your paper to be the main feature. Consider how the surfaces are going to be used, and which should be papered or painted - I painted the top for example, as I knew the surface was going to be obscured, so it was not appropriate to paper it.

5. Cut your paper carefully, giving consideration to the layout and preserving the key motifs. As you can see, I cut the 3 panels of my chest of drawers so that the woodpeckers did not have their heads chopped off, and the three panels link up. I messed up cutting the side panels - as you can see, I chopped the 2 woodpeckers heads off. Very frustrating! I would say cutting the paper is one of the most important tasks, so do it when you're fresh and on the ball! I cut the paper ever so slightly smaller than the area it is to be pasted into, so it is easier to match it up.



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6. Work quickly when gluing your paper. Personally, I glue my paper first, taking the glue right up to the edges. I then also put a thin layer of glue all over the area I'm going to be sticking the paper to.

7. Air bubbles are the enemy! If you have cut your paper correctly, you should be able to line it up with one corner, then smooth it out into place. Rub the surface with a soft cloth from the centre out to the edges to ensure there are no air bubbles. Do this as soon as you've glued on your paper.



8. Seal everything with a least two coats of varnish. Initially, I seal the paper parts with a layer of Mod Podge. I then varnish everything twice. I have learnt that it's essential to use a good brush which does not shed hair and to make sure you keep the area pet hair free!



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9. Use handles as accessories to reflect the look you're aiming for. I wanted my woodpecker chest to look quite classy, so I bought 6 of these beautiful glass handles.

10. Display your piece in an interior which allows your piece of furniture to be the focus. For me, this means plain walls with only a few ornaments which co-ordinate with colours of the furniture. Happy decoupageing!

