

Decoupage Tips and Techniques

Decoupage is the art of decorating an object by gluing colored papers, which have been cut out of larger sheets, magazines, newspapers, etc. The object is then covered with the same glue to preserve the finish. Traditionally this has many layers. The word decoupage comes from the French, decouper, "to cut out". The nice thing about decoupage is that you can utilize previously created art to make your object, so it has a professional look, but is easy to create.

In choosing your papers to use, consider photos, magazines, catalogs, newspapers, fabric pieces, ribbons, fancy papers, rice paper, themed papers and tissue papers. Today with so many choices in scrapbooking papers, it is easy to make a piece all in one themed paper.

Some of the most common coatings are the various versions of Mod Podge, Color Splash Glitter Glaze, or Guildcraft Over-Glaze.

This technique would work well on wood pieces, paper mache, ceramic, glass, plastic, styrofoam, chipboard, or any heavy cardboard.

Finishing: If the piece gets a lot of wear and tear, then an extra finishing might be required. This may be additional layers of the same decoupage glue or it may be a varnish or wood sealer. Allow time for the piece to dry completely.

Try these project ideas:

1. Tea box: Take a small wood box and cover it with tea bag wrappers in lots of different kinds.
2. Holiday Ornament: Take a smooth ball ornament and cover it with holiday papers.
3. Photo Tray: Choose 3 or 4 special photos and mount them on papers to appear like a frame around the photo. Then these may be decoupage to the tray, for a special gift.
4. Door Hangers: Use cut out letters, symbols or favorite pictures to create a cool door hanger.
5. Lots of ideas for boxes- try these:
 - Postage stamps box
 - Sewing Box
 - School Pencil Box
 - Boxes for your desk office supplies
 - Jewelry boxes
 - Crayon boxes
 - Button boxes
 - Coin Banks
6. Journals and Scrapbooks: Design your own covers using decoupage and cover it in a theme.
7. Personal Pencil Caddy: Using a theme special to the person you give it to.
8. Flower Pot: cover the outside of the pot with any design. Add ribbons to finish.
9. Wood or cardboard coasters: Create a holiday theme.
10. Decoupage may be done on any craft foam shape, to create holiday ornaments, decorations or package ties and cards.