

Tip 8

Tools of the Trade



Brushes

The most important tools that you will purchase are brushes. Some companies advocate the use of sponges for stenciling, but I find that you cannot accurately control the amount of paint that comes out of a sponge, nor can you get the airy, textural quality that you can achieve with good stencil brushes. I am very particular about the brushes I use. A weak thin bristle head will give you a clumped up imprint, too stiff a brush will not deliver enough paint to the surface. You will find that the larger the bristle head, the more coverage you will get and the

faster you can get done with the job. Dressler Stencil Co. brushes are really great. They have oversized, soft fully packed bristle heads. They stand up to years of stippling, pouncing and swirling.

All of our designs come with detailed instructions as to what colors are used in which openings and what size brush you will use for each color. You will need a separate brush for each color of paint that is called for in the instructions. A rule of thumb to determine what size of brush to use, just roughly size up the openings in the stencil and choose a brush that will cover most of the area. For instance, if your doing the Ivy and you have a base leaf color of DA005 Taffy Cream to apply to all leaves. The size of leaf varies, but you should use a 1" diameter head for all Taffy Cream. Our BR58 is the perfect brush. It makes those small leaves a breeze to stipple over and the larger ones won't have a polka-dot look from using a small brush. Same for the Green, a 1" brush is great because you will just be doing around the outside of the larger leaves and zipping across the smaller ones. Your shading color of DA167 Paynes Grey you will want to be diffused, so again, a 1" brush will suffice. You can't believe how much faster you will go when you use larger size brushes.

Tape



You don't need fancy spray adhesives to stencil. Not only are they messy to use, (the spray gets everywhere) but they make your stencil extremely hard to work with because it tends to stick to everything including itself and other overlays. It also picks up every disgusting thing from the floor and carpet, and the stuff stares at you while you are stenciling like a bug under a microscope!

All you really need is masking tape. If it is really sticky, remove some of the tack by applying it to your shirt and peeling it off, that way it won't pull off any paint from the wall. The painter's Blue or Green tape works well too, and it is easier to see.

Sponges



A good sea sponge is a necessity for doing Faux finishes and applying textured images like the #624 Cobblestones, #156 Stone Block Wall, and #621 Bricks. A good sponge is large enough to fill your hand, has a soft texture, and contains interesting dimensions. You will want a "wool" type sponge because it is softer. They call it "wool" because it looks like the stuff that grows on a sheep. It does not come from a sheep. Sponges are animals that live in the ocean. You will find as you rinse them out that they

come with various and assorted little sea relics like pieces of shell and coral. It's really like biology class all over again!

Your sponge must be soaked and squeezed out thoroughly before you use it. After dipping the sponge in your desired paint, distribute it evenly by either wringing out the sponge if the paint is quite thin, or blotting it on newspapers if it is thicker in consistency. The desired result is a uniform imprint free of blotches or runs. It should quite "dry" if you are stenciling with it in order to avoid run-unders. Put the sponges in a bucket of water and rinse them well during the project. Don't let paint dry in your sponge because it will ruin it.