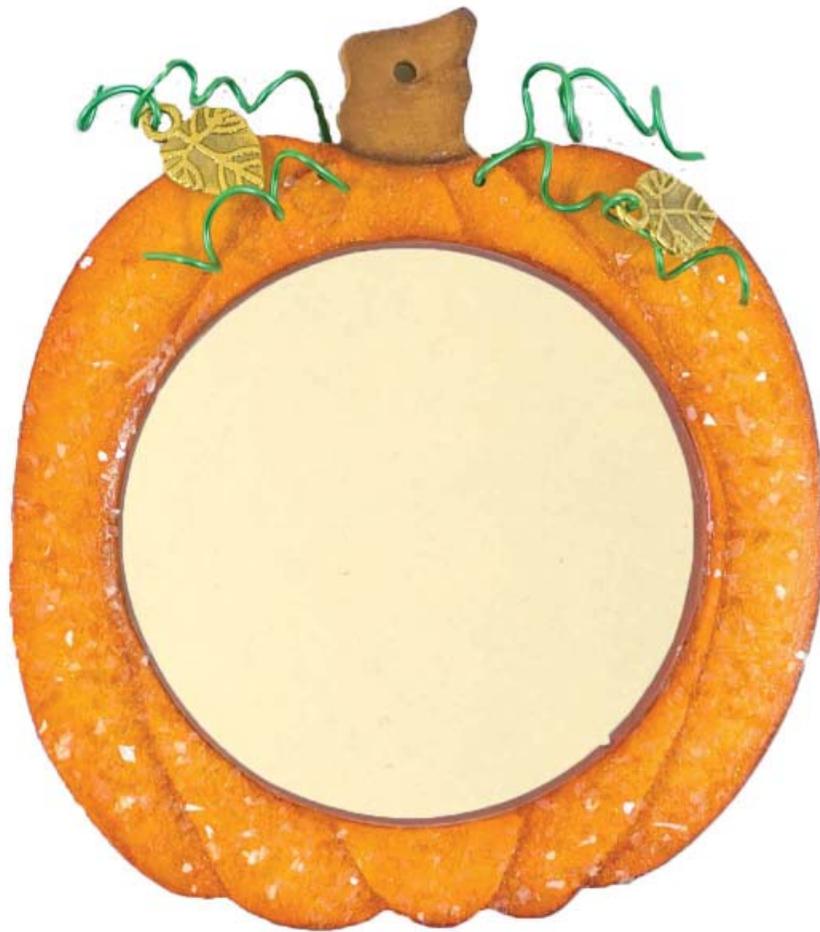


Sheila Landry Designs

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SLDPK127, 141 and 144, Bevel Cut Pumpkin Plaques and Ornaments General Instructions



*An original painting pattern with general instructions
for decorating the pumpkin-shaped surfaces.*

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Materials and Supplies

- Pre-cut Wood Kit from Sheila Landry Designs (SPDPK127, 141 or 144 available at www.tolepaintingdesigns.com)
- Optional Bronze metal Leaf Charms (EMB10)
- Green or bronze 1mm wire
- FloraCraft Diamond Dust Glass Glitter (optional - or glitter paint/glitter of your choice)
- Pinata alcohol ink - Tangerine (optional)
- Your usual paint brushes

DecoArt Americana Acrylic Paint

- Asphaltum (DA180)
- Bright Orange (DA228)
- Burnt Sienna (DA63)
- Buttermilk (DA03)
- Honey Brown (DA163)
- Saffron Yellow (DA273)

Introduction

I love the two piece bevel-cut ornaments surfaces! They are so versatile and fun to paint up so many ways. I thought it would be nice to offer these general instructions for you to follow for painting the outside frame of the pieces and then you can paint the insides any way you choose. I hope you enjoy this method and come up with some of your own interesting ways to use your surfaces.

Preparing the Surface

Working with MDF is fun and easy. I like that it is a smooth and consistent surface that isn't prone to warping. I found that preparing the surface with a little extra TLC can really make a difference in the outcome of your project.

Since MDF is a bit darker than 'regular' wood surfaces, and quite a bit porous, I suggest base coating the entire piece(s) using a light color of paint, such as Buttermilk. This may sound quite basic, but I believe it is an important part of the process and really makes a difference in the ease of creating your design.

Begin by using a larger wash brush (maybe about 3/4" wide or so) to apply this base coat. Dampen the brush in water first, blot it on some clean, folded paper towels, and pick up some of the Buttermilk paint. Apply this to your surface using wide, sweeping strokes. At this point, I only paint the top of the pieces. I leave the edges for later on, as I usually cover them in the color that I am using to shade those areas. Be sure to realize that your paint will NOT cover very well (yet!). Trying to apply a thick coat of color to cover will make the surface thick and chunky and brush strokes will show through on your painting. Keep this coat sheer and transparent and don't worry about covering the

surface fully. The purpose of this first coat is to allow the paint to penetrate the surface and raise and 'freeze' the surface fibers and somewhat lock them into place. This will form a barrier so subsequent layers of paint won't penetrate the wood and the paint will sit on top of the base nicely.

After the first coat dries, repeat the process and apply a second layer. While this will cover better, it still may not offer totally opaque coverage. Please be patient. It will be worth it in the end.

Allow the second layer to dry completely. This can be helped with a warm hair dryer if you are impatient. The paint will be fully dry when it is no longer cool to touch and it will have a flat, matte finish.

When the first two layers are completely dry, use some fine grit sandpaper (220 grit or finer, if you have it) and very LIGHTLY sand the surface until it is smooth. Again, try not to look at the piece too much. It may look a bit uneven, but what is more important here is the 'feel' of it. It should feel velvety smooth. What we are doing is knocking off those fibers that were raised by the water in the first coats of paint and are now 'locked' into place from the dried acrylic. We don't want to sand the paint off, just those raised fibers so use a light hand.

After sanding, you can gently wipe the debris off the piece using a slightly damp paper towel or lint-free cloth. I don't like using tack rags because they tend to leave residue behind which can interfere with subsequent layers of paint. I just dampen a good quality paper towel and give the piece a couple of swipes to make sure it is clean.

Now we will paint a third layer of Buttermilk paint on our piece. Again, we don't want to paint it on thick, but this time it should really cover nicely. If it doesn't, allow it to dry and apply one more coat in the same manner. You should have a nice, smooth base to paint on as in Figure 1.



Figure 1

Now we are ready to paint the frame. Set aside the center piece of the pumpkin and follow the instructions in your pattern or your own design.

Begin by applying a layer of Bright Orange to the top only of the outer frame. (Figure 2) Again - this will require at least two coats. You can see in the photo that the first coat is rather streaky. That is normal. Allow it to dry and the second coat will cover much better.



Figure 2

Apply Honey Brown to the stem area. Again - use a couple of coats, allowing them to dry thoroughly in between applications.

Use a flat brush or deerfoot stippler and paint Burnt Sienna around the outer and inner edges of the pumpkin, avoiding the stem area. I use these brushes so that the color doesn't get on the face of the piece.

Use a flat or deerfoot brush to paint the edges of the stem with Asphaltum, again not getting paint on the face of the piece.

You can freehand and pencil in the crease lines in the pumpkin. Use Figure 3 as a guideline, curving the lines to follow the outside shape of the piece as well as the 'bumps' at the bottom and come together at the top where the stem meets the flesh of the pumpkin.

Use a dome blender or deerfoot stippler brush and dry brush some Saffron Yellow onto the inner sections of the pumpkin to brighten the central areas of each section.

Float shade Burnt Sienna toward the outside of the pumpkin sections. You can do this in two coats, if you wish to have deep divisions. Allow them to dry completely, and then float around the entire outside of the pumpkin area and under the stem.



Figure 3

Float shade around the stem with Asphaltum. Add a couple of 'creases' in the stem by floating some lines partially across the stem in a downward curve, following the shape at the top of the stem.

Figure 3 shows the finished painted outer frame. If you don't want to glitter it, you can leave it as is and it looks great. Just spray it with a couple coats of finish and you are ready to go. :)

Adding Glitter

For my sample, I added some FloraCraft Diamond Dust. I understand that it is available at local Michael's stores. If you are unable to find it there, you can look for it on Amazon for a very reasonable price. Diamond Dust is real shards of glass which is used for like glitter to decorate projects. I love its beautiful sparkle and shine. However, since it is real glass shards, it should be used carefully and not a good choice for projects that are going to be handled by children. The glass pieces can 'bite' you if they aren't handled carefully and it should be carefully monitored and cleaned up when you are finished with it. You need to use it at your own risk. A great alternative is DecoArt's Glamour Dust Ultra Fine Glitter paint. It is safe and easy to use and while it doesn't give the exact same effect, it is also a great way to finish these pretty pumpkins.

The FloraCraft Diamond Dust come only in clear. This will go nicely on just about any project, but I have done some experimenting and found that it is very easy to dye this glass glitter using alcohol ink. Since the glass glitter is not handled and the alcohol ink is 'permanent', i find it is a great way to vary the look of the glitter and really make a lovely impact on your projects. Just follow these easy steps and I am sure you will love the beautiful result.

Take a couple of spoons of the Diamond dust and place it in a GLASS bowl (Make sure the bowl is GLASS so you can clean it completely and thoroughly. I used a WHITE bowl so I could see exactly the color I was getting.)

Since the Alcohol Ink dries very quickly, we need to work quickly. I used Pinata brand by Jacquard and I was very happy with it. You can see buying information at the end of this instruction sheet. (Figures 4 and 5)



Figures 4 and 5

Drip several drops of the Alcohol Ink into the bowl with the Diamond Dust glass and use a fork to stir it to mix it together. (I used Tangerine, which is a light orange) At first I found it to kind of clump together, but the fork helped break up the small clumps and soon it covered evenly and completely. (Figure 6)



Figure 6

I used a small, glass spice jar that I got from the dollar store to store my glass glitter colors (they were actually 3 for \$1.00!) (Fig 7)

I experimented with other colors like red and even metallic silver and they all came out beautiful. I needed more red ink to achieve the deep color, but it wasn't an issue. I just kept adding and stirring until I got the color I wanted. (Figure 8)

Even BLACK worked great! (Figure 9)



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9

To apply the glitter glass to the pumpkin, I used DecoArt Decoupage Crystal Glitter Formula. This is a glue, sealer and finish all in one and as the name suggests, it has a very fine glitter added in. I knew I wanted to apply the “glue” heavy so that I am not losing shards of glass glitter, but I also wanted a transparent glue. The Decoupage was the perfect answer and the extra bit of shimmer in the glitter formula was an added bonus!

I applied a good, thick coat of the Decoupage to the top only of the pumpkin, avoiding the stem. I used a 1/2” deerfoot stippler brush and tapped the Decoupage into place, leaving it about 1/8” thick. I then sprinkled a heavy coat of glass glitter onto the glue. (See figure 9)

The piece was sitting inside the lid of my Sta-Wet palette so that the glitter glass could be contained and then re-used.

I allowed this to dry OVERNIGHT. I didn’t want to pick at it and keep checking, as I wanted the glass to adhere nicely so I wouldn’t lose some every time I picked the ornament up.

In the morning, I used an old, stiff brush and gently brushed off the excess glitter. What was left is what you see in Figure 10. A BEAUTIFUL, sparkly finish that still allowed the lines of the pumpkin to show through. I finished my ornament off with some green wire and metal leaf charms. It looks just stunning!



Figure 9



Figure 10

I hope you enjoyed seeing how I decorated this fun and versatile piece. I also hope it inspires you to come up with a few ideas of your own.

Enjoy your creativity!

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact me at 902-482-7174 or you can email sheilalandydesigns@gmail.com for a prompt response. You may also see and purchase additional wood pieces, as well as other patterns and kits for painting and scroll sawing at www.tolepaintingdesigns.com or www.sheilalandydesigns.com and download a free catalog.

You can purchase the Jacquard Pinata Alcohol Ink from Dharma Trading Company, <http://www.dharmatrading.com/>

They have great prices and wonderful products and services and I use them frequently.

If you have difficulty finding any of the DecoArt products used in this project, you can now go online and visit www.decoart.com to see and order directly from DecoArt. Their web store carries a complete line of their painting products and mediums.