

## How to Create a Faux Crackle Paint Effect

If you want to achieve an antique weathered look then crackle paint is the perfect medium. It forms cracks on the surface creating a time-worn look. You can control the size of the cracks from fine fragile cracks that are hardly noticeable to large heavy prominent cracks. The choice is yours.

**Supplies needed:** Crackle medium, paint brush, soft rag, paint, sealer (optional)

The crackle effect can be applied to practically any surface (wood, glass, metal, ceramics, etc). When using wood make sure that the surface is primed or painted. It is suitable for any project for which you are trying to achieve an aged look.

**Preparation:** Clean the project surface so it is free of dirt and grease. If working on a wood surface, sand smooth making sure you remove all dust.

### Instructions:

It must be noted that the process depends very much on the product that you use. There are many different mediums often with very different instructions. Most of the mediums require a two step process while some can be applied in a single step. The following instructions are appropriate for many products but please be sure to check the instructions for your particular brand.

Before you start take a minute to decide on the effect that you are trying to achieve. Do you want fragile or large alligator style cracks? The thicker the steps are applied the larger the cracks will be when dry.

- 1) Clean the project surface so it is free of dirt and grease.
- 2) Mix the product thoroughly.
- 3) Apply step 1 onto the project (with a brush) in one horizontal direction (for example from left to right).
- 4) Allow to dry for 30 – 40 minutes.
- 5) If you want very large cracks you can apply a second layer of step 1.
- 6) If you have applied a second layer allow 30 – 40 minutes drying time between each step and before proceeding to the next step.
- 7) Apply step 2 vertically (such as from top to bottom). Make sure that you are not applying in the same direction as step 1 (i.e. one of the layers will be horizontal and the other vertical).
- 8) Allow to dry for 30 – 40 minutes.
- 9) After these two steps cracks should have formed but at this stage the cracks are transparent and often difficult to see. You need to apply color in between the cracks to make them more visible. For this step

there are many products you can use such as acrylic or oil paint, water-based stains and waxes depending on the effect your desire. You can use the color of your choice – such as brown, antique gold, copper, etc. If you used a light colored basecoat, choose a dark color (such as dark brown) and if you used a dark colored basecoat then use a light color (such as beige, cream or white).

- 10) Apply the color to the surface with a rag and then wipe off (with the clean side of the rag) making sure that you can see the color between the cracks in the areas that you want to highlight. You can wipe off as much or as little of the color as you want according to the desired effect.
- 11) Seal the project by applying a clear topcoat (such as a varnish or spray acrylic) to finish and protect your work.

**Tips:**

- Achieving the effect is as easy as painting but it is suggested to first experiment before applying the medium to your project. Try to use a surface similar to the one that you will be using on your project. Also practice using color to bring out the crackle.
- We recommend applying a clear topcoat (such as a varnish or spray acrylic) to finish and protect your work.
- Make sure that the surface is free of dirt and grease.

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