

How to Make a Wall Mural



If you want to paint a wall mural but are unsure of your ability to draw freehand then this is the perfect solution. This method will enable you to draw even the most complex murals without any experience!

You can transfer any picture you like. If the mural is for kids then look through their favorite books for pictures. If they are old enough to be involved in the decision show them the pictures and ask them to choose. Depending on their choice you might have to have the final say...

Supplies and equipment needed:

If you need to paint the wall with a base color: newspaper (for the floor), masking tape to protect areas that you do not want to paint (such as floorboards, etc), water based interior paint, roller or painting pad and tray.

For the mural: Various acrylic paints for the mural, pencil, black fiber tip marker (such as Artline 70 or any similar product), picture of your choice, paintbrush, clear film and overhead projector (If you have one at work ask your boss if you can borrow it over the weekend. If not these can often be hired from craft shops.)

Preparation: Paint the walls with the base color and then allow to dry completely.

Instructions:

- 1) Choose the picture that you would like to appear on your wall.
- 2) Print it onto clear film (make sure that you choose the clear film that is suitable for your printer. For e.g., if you have an ink jet printer you cannot use film suitable for a laser printer as the picture will smudge). If you do not have the picture on your computer then either scan it and print it or take it to your local printer and have them copy it onto clear film. If you are using a simple picture you can also use "write on transparencies" and trace the picture onto the film.
- 3) Place the film on the overhead projector and project the image on to the wall.
- 4) Adjust the settings and move the projector around the room until your image is on the exact place you want it to be and the right size.
- 5) Trace the picture onto the wall with a pencil.
- 6) Go over the lines with the fiber tip marker.
- 7) Decide which colors you will be using for each area. You can either use the original colors from the picture that you have chosen or you can make adaptations to suit the color scheme in your room.
- 8) Start with the larger areas of the mural (such as the background). Use a bigger and wider brush for these areas.
- 9) Once you have chosen an area first outline it with a thin good quality paintbrush and acrylic paint and then fill in the area with a bigger brush.
- 10) Once the paint is dry you can go over the outlines if necessary (i.e. if you have painted over parts of the outline).

Tips:

- Keep small quantities of each color used and close tightly in suitable containers. That way, if you ever need to retouch a section this can be easily done. If you find that the paint is dry try adding a drop of water.
- Make sure that the wall is free of dirt and dust before you start.
- If this is your first mural then use a picture without too much detail.

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