

How to Use Napkins in Crafts

If you want to add pictures to your crafts napkins are a great solution. They come in thousands of designs and pictures and enable you to add virtually any picture to your project for at a very small cost. They are also transparent and thin which enables you to add them to a surface without adding a noticeable layer.

Napkins can be used on virtually any surface: wood, candles, glass, ceramic tiles, metal, flowerpots, mirrors, etc.

Supplies needed: napkins, paint brush, scissors, napkin glue or any water based glue, sponge brush (optional), varnish (optional)

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:

- 1) Choose the napkin you want to use.
- 2) Place the napkin over the surface you wish to cover in order to check what size you will require. Cut out the size. If you are placing the napkin over an entire surface it is easier to use a bigger size than you need and then cut off the excess at the end (for e.g. see [coaster project](#)). If you are only using a picture from the napkin (for. e.g. see [decorative bottles](#)) then cut around the required picture or area.
- 3) Discard the second layer (or second and third layer if it is 3-ply). You only use the top layer of the napkin.
- 4) Paint the surface with a base coat. It is preferable to use a light color since darker colors will show through the napkin.
- 5) Using a paintbrush, apply glue to the area where the design will be fixed.
- 6) Place the napkin on the glue.
- 7) Paint a layer of glue over the napkin. Start from the center and move to the sides. If you have a sponge brush it is advised to use it at this stage. A regular brush tends to break the delicate napkin.
- 8) Allow to dry.

- 9) Apply a layer of varnish in order to protect the surface (optional). If you are planning on using the item outside then this stage is very important.

Tips:

- It is suggested to first experiment before applying the napkin to your project. Try to use a surface similar to the one that you will be using on your project.
- 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.
- You can also add a [crackle finish](#) over the napkin.

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