

## Finishing Touches (Della's Finishing Touches)

1. When thoroughly dry, spray two coats of matte Sealer/Finisher to keep your completed project free of dirt and smudges. Allow adequate drying time between applications.

2. Antiquing.

**Note: Safety precautions. Place linseed oil cloths in a zip-top plastic bag filled with water—dispose of the bag and its contents in an outside container with a lid. Do not leave it indoors, as linseed oil is highly flammable and a fire could occur.**

Use small squares of Viva Paper Towels or a lint-free cloth to apply a coat of artist's linseed oil over the tin. Wipe off as much as possible after it is applied. Leaving too much oil on the surface makes it difficult to control the pigment. If you press on the tin and it leaves a distinctive fingerprint, wipe it down again with a clean, dry square of the Viva or cloth.

Antiquing (or mudding) my way is done to set shadows, divide and separates elements, and ages and mellows the painting. Shadow areas appear where the oil paint mix is placed. The paint next to the object or area creating the shadow will be the darkest. So when you start to “mud” load your angle or flat brush on one side only and blend it well on your palette. When you apply the “mud” it should fade from light to dark. You will use you mop brush to soften the edge of all of these “mudded” shadow areas.

On your palette mix Burnt Umber oil paint + Black oil paint. Side load a #8 flat or angle brush with the paint mix. Place the paint side of the brush next to the element that is creating the shadow. Start on the background area. Pull your brush a short distance and then blend to get the feel for the process. With a small square of paper towel wrapped around your index finger, softly feather the antiquing. Use the mop brush and continue to soften until the edges appear to fade away. Complete these areas as they are large and it will give you confidence to mud you design area.

You apply only enough oil paint to “age” your piece a bit. Use a large mop to blend out the edges. After you have blended the edges remove any excess oil paint in the Otherwise it will look dirty, not aged. A cotton swab can be used to clean out small areas. If it is in a White area I touch the clean swab to my tongue to slightly moisten it. Rub the “dirty areas” gently until they are very clean looking. It will not be an issue on the dark background.

When your piece is thoroughly dry (at least 24 hours), spray with several coats of matte Sealer/Finisher. Let dry. You may brush on your favorite varnish if you prefer a brush on. However, be sure to spray at least one good coat of the spray varnish to protect the oil paint. It could lift your oil paint if you do not place barrier of spray varnish before you brush on varnish.

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