

Materials

For this workshop you will need:

Wooden base for your sign/project

Thick Dacron batting the size of your board

Extra dacron stuffing

White craft glue- PVA

Acrylic Sealer (Passion for DIY Polysealer)

Gun Stapler

Printed Tissue & Serviettes

2 Mixing Jars for glue & aging liquid

Hairdryer

Chopstick or other poking stick

2tsp coffee powder for aging

Heavy card for backing your board

D-ring or similar for hanging

Paintbrush

Before you start your project make sure you have all materials ready, you have covered your workspace to protect it and you have read the full instructions.

1. Cut the Calico to the size of your base leaving an extra 4 cm all of the way around.
2. Cut the batting to size of your base and glue it to the board with the white glue.
3. Place some extra Dacron stuffing on top of the batting to give it extra puff. You can add to this later if needed.
4. Lay your calico out on your workspace and place the wooden shape and Dacron face down on the calico

You can see the steps 1-8 in video #1

5. Starting at one end pull the Calico over to the back and staple with the staple gun.

6 Pull the other end tightly over to the back and staple this also.

7. Fold the corners in to form a neat mitre and pull one side tightly over and attach with the staple gun.

8. Before stapling the last side re look at the puffiness and decide whether you need to add more stuffing. If so poke the extra Dacron under the Calico in the areas needed with the chopstick. When you are happy with the result you can pull the fabric on the last side over and staple making sure it is tight and smooth.

When you have completed stapling you can cut any excess fabric off the back.

9. In one of the mixing jars mix 50/50 white glue with water approx half cup glue with half cup water. Put lid on jar and shake well.

10. If using serviettes you will need to separate all layers, there could be 2 or 3 and some are quite difficult to separate. This is very important as if you leave a backing layer on when you glue it down it may lift when dry.

11. Video #2 will show you how to print onto tissue paper with a Laser printer

You may be able to use the same process on an ink jet printer but I am not sure if the ink will bleed when it is glued down, you may like to try this yourself and let me know. Please be aware that this is probably not recommended by the printer companies and in some cases if not done correctly may damage your printer. I have one that I keep specifically for these processes.

12. Once you have determined what serviettes and tissue you are using the fun part starts and you are ready to apply them to your padded base..

When selecting sections from your serviette you can cut them out exactly or you can rip around the sections for a softer edge. You will need to be aware that when the serviette is wet with glue it almost becomes transparent so you will see any that are overlaid on each other. If you decide to rip the serviette you will notice that they rip really well in one direction and not so good in another so you will need to take your time to get a good piece.

You can see the preparation of the servittes in video #3

13. Paint a coat of the watered down glue on your entire base to wet it this will ensure an even colour of your Calico.

14. If you were able to print a quote onto tissue paper now is the time to place it down onto the wet fabric.

Smooth over it with your glue brush to push it firmly onto the fabric

15. Now you can go crazy with your cut and torn serviettes to create a beautiful collage. Always brush glue onto the base before laying a piece down, if it is getting too wet you can dry it off with the hairdryer and then continue. When glueing your pieces make sure they go right over the edges to the back. You dont need to cover the entire back, just the edges.

When you are happy with the way it is looking dry it off completely including the back with the hairdryer or leave overnight.

[See video #4 for the glueing process](#)

Now you are ready to make the coffee aging solution so this could be a good time to put the jug on.

16. Make a brew of instant coffee with 2tsp coffee powder with 1-2 tbsp hot water.

17. Put approx 1/4 cup of the 50/50 glue water mix in a separate jar and add the coffee brew. Put lid on jar and shake well.

18. Paint a coat of this coffee mixture all over your collaged board. This will give it a golden aged look. You may need 2 coats depending on the depth you want.

Don't forget the sides and a small margin on the back. Dry this off completely.

I use coffee for this instead of a paint or other aging medium because coffee gives a lovely natural golden glow and smells wonderful.

If you have another aging medium or other solution that will give you the look you want then feel free to use that instead.

[see video #5 for the aging process](#)

19. You will now need to give it a few coats of sealer. I use Passion for DIY Polysealer but any clear water based sealer should do. You will need to do at least 4 coats to get the depth and feel of aged leather. Dry well after each coat.

20. Finally cut out the shape of your board from the heavy card but make it slightly smaller so the edge is not showing. Staple this securely on the back to cover all of the messy edges of the fabric.

21. Screw a D Ring or similar hanger on the back and now your Decoupage sign is ready to hang.

[See video #6 for the finishing touches](#)

This is such a great technique that you can develop and grow and apply on larger more exciting projects.

The technique is the same whatever the size project you are working on.

I hope you have enjoyed your workshop & please have a look at the others that are available online.

Please feel free to leave a comment if you have any questions and don't forget to download and print the PDF instruction below.

