

HOW TO DECOUPAGE

You can learn how to decoupage! Decoupage is one of those crafts where the completed project is sometimes deceptive. By looking at the finished object, you would think decoupage would be complicated, but it isn't.

Decoupage is actually quite simple. If you can cut and paste, you already know most of the techniques involved. Basically, you cut out pictures; you glue the pictures onto an object; and then cover the object and pictures with a few coats of glue/decoupage medium to protect it. You might even have everything you need to make your decoupage project laying around your home right now! Go gather together your decoupage supplies and start crafting...



First of all, you need something on which to decoupage

You can decoupage pictures to almost anything: furniture, photo albums, shelving, frames, boxes, vases, mirrors, hard cover books, trays, suitcases, dishes, candles, cans, bottles, egg cartons, rocks, glass, paper mache, wood and much more.

Next, you need pictures or papers to decoupage.

Pictures can be cut out of magazines, catalogs, or books. You can also use scrapbooks papers and there are many that are quite beautiful! The options are endless: cut out pictures, motifs, or shapes from wrapping paper, wallpaper, fabric, napkins, greeting cards, post cards, photographs, travel brochures, handbills, programs, garden seed packages, pages from old books, foil covered paper, paper doilies, ribbon, posters, dried flowers, tissue paper, and more. You can also buy paper and pictures made especially for decoupage. Get creative!

Decide on what decoupage medium to use.

You can buy a product made especially for decoupage, such as Mod Podge.

There are a few other items you should keep close by:

Popsicle Stick - You can use this to help smooth out wrinkles and removed excess glue. You can buy a tool made especially for this called a brayer.

Foam Brush - This is used to spread glue onto the item you will decoupage. If you don't have a foam brush, you can use an ordinary paint brush or even a cotton swab.

Scissors - Used to cut out the pictures and other items you will be decoupage. To help with cutting pictures with a lot of small details, you might want to use a utility knife.

Tweezers - Tweezers are sometimes a great help when it comes to positioning small pictures.

Damp Rag - Keep one nearby to wipe up excess glue and to help with other clean up.

Watch for bubbles as your decoupage dries. if one forms, use a pin or utility knife to pop it and then use your fingers to smooth it down.

Before you start you should read through these decoupage tips.

Inkjet printed materials must have completely dry ink; then spray it with cheap hairspray. It sets the ink and then you can use the print. Make sure both are completely dry before using the your medium.

- Decoupage can get messy. Keep a damp cloth nearby to wipe up extra glue and keep fingers clean.
- Be patient and let each layer of decoupage medium dry completely before applying the next layer.
- While decoupage is known as a 'cutting' craft, sometimes you might want to tear your pictures instead of cutting them. Torn edges lay a little flatter and blend a little better.
- Do not try to decoupage pictures printed from an ink jet printer. The ink will smudge and run. Instead, print out the desired picture and photo copy it.
- Consider making photo copies of photographs and other original papers so you can save the original.
- If you are using pictures on thicker paper, such as photos or greeting cards, give your decoupage project plenty of time to dry.
- Use a utility knife to cut pictures with detailed edges.
- Make sure the item you will be decoupageing is free of dust and dirt.
- When it come to decoupageing on plastic, experiment before you commit! For rougher surfaces the pictures should adhere okay but take a little longer to dry. If the surface is very smooth, consider roughing it up with a little sandpaper.
- If you are going to decoupage on a surface that was recently painted, make sure the paint has dried completely. If you feel any tackiness or can see an imprint of your finger if you press on it, it is not dry enough.

Once you gather together all of your supplies, you can begin decoupageing.... As with any craft project, you should read through and understand all all of these decoupage instructions before starting.

1. Start out by making sure the item you will decoupage is clean and dry. If you are going to paint your item before you decoupage it, make sure the paint is totally dry before you decoupage.
2. Cut out the pictures you are going to decoupage.
3. Arrange the pictures onto the item you are decoupageing before you add glue. The pictures can be in any placement you like and can also overlap.
4. Working in a small section at a time, remove the pictures and apply a generous layer of decoupage medium onto the item you are decoupageing. Make sure you completely cover any area the picture will touch. If you prefer, you can spread the decoupage medium onto the back of the picture.
5. Stick the picture on the decoupage medium. Use your finger to gently push down the picture (for a large picture, start from the center and work your way out) and push out any wrinkles and excess decoupage medium. You can also use a popsicle stick or brayer to do this.
6. Continue with the last 2 steps until all your pictures are glued on. Let the decoupage medium dry.
7. Once all of the decoupage medium is dry, coat your item completely with decoupage medium. Let this dry.
8. Now, you can continue to add coats of the decoupage medium until you get the desired results. You will, however, want to keep adding coats until the edges of the pictures are all smooth.
9. Let your decoupage craft dry completely and then it is ready to use, display, or be given away as a gift.



Please carefully read all instructions before beginning any project.

We make no guarantees or warranties for the outcome of any project or interpretation of instruction.

Most of all, we want to have fun making your projects!!

Thank you!