

Recommended Reading

Warning: You are infringing copyright if you sell things using the work of still-living artists. You are OK if you are using them for your own use or gift-giving.

Decoupage

Lade, Val. 18th Century Decoupage. Lots of advice on *how to* and many beautiful pieces with the process described. Some background colour combinations to try.

Lade, Val & Singleton, Nerida. Découpage with Painted Backgrounds. This is a good reference for colour mixing. Instructions are easy to follow.

Raymond, Audrey. Traditional Découpage. A variety of styles are explained. Great inspiration and comprehensive instructions. This is the book that taught me to do illumination and cloisonne. It was easy!

Singleton, Nerida. Découpage Fairies. Do this project step by step with Nerida or use it for inspiration.

Singleton, Nerida. Divine Découpage. Complete and easy to follow instructions.

Singleton, Nerida. Paper Enchantment: Decoupage & Wrapping Papers.

Singleton, Nerida. Nerida Singleton's Romantic Papers.

Singleton, Nerida. Nerida Singleton's Découpage Project Kit Book: With Images, Papers and Projects

Sloan, Annie. Annie Sloan's Découpage - A Step-by-Step Course. Has decoupage on glass instructions, decoupage on metal leaf and some discussion of hand colouring and free cutting.

Painted Finishes

Bennell, Jennifer. Painted Finishes. Learn how to paint faux finishes to enhance your decoupage.

Driggers, Susan Goans & Baskett, Mickey. Painted Finishes for Walls and Furniture: Easy Techniques for Great New Looks. Try an interesting background to add depth to your decoupage pieces. Or try your hand at doing decoupage on a large piece of furniture that you've painted.

Art Books - Sources for Pictures

Barker, Cecily Mary. The Complete Book of the Flower Fairies. This collection contains the Fairies of the Spring, Fairies of the Summer, Fairies of the Autumn, Fairies of the Winter, Fairies of the Wayside, Fairies of the Tress, Fairies of the Garden and Flower Fairies. In Australia, it costs \$80 but once you have it you can use colour photocopies forever. These fairy pictures are popular with little girls. I use them frequently on small items like hair brushes, mirrors, and trinket boxes.

Barker, Cecily Mary. The Flower Fairies Découpage Book. This book has a couple of the flower fairies repeated on the pages along with separate little flowers repeated also. It was meant for paper tole but I use it because the extra flowers are very useful.

Boulet, Susan Seddon. Shaman: The Paintings of Susan Seddon Boulet. Lots of inspiration here for trays, platters and plates.

Boulet, Susan Seddon. The Goddess Paintings.

Boulet, Susan Seddon. The Power of the Bear.

Boulet, Susan Seddon. Unicorns: Paintings by Susan Seddon Boulet.

Brill, David. Brilliant Origami: A Collection of Original Designs. Japanese origami papers are exquisite. I use small origami squares for small objects and large sheets for trays and platters. I paint the back with white gesso because the papers are somewhat transparent. You could also use titanium white. I use metallic gold quilling strips for borders and gilding for accents.

Leek, Michael. The Art of Nautical Illustration. These illustrations of old sailing vessels are good for masculine projects.

Massenglae, Jean Montague. Jean-Honore Fragonard. Fragonard's paintings are romantic and delicate and appeal to women. Who can resist The Swing?

Morrison, Venetia. The Art of George Stubbs. Stubbs specialised in horses. He painted lots of men on their horses and horses alone. If you are looking for something very masculine to decorate a gift for a man you will no doubt find something here. I have made several boxes with Stubbs' paintings, combining them with simple borders and crackled paint finish.

Racinet. Racinet's Historic Ornament in Full Colour (Series I and Series II). Both worth having as artistic reference.

Wakefield, David. Fragonard.

Wood, Christopher. The Pre-Raphaelites. This is full of romantic images. I use them over and over and never tire of them.

To visit the **Dover Books** home, go to <http://www.thedoverbook.com>

Calendars

Check out the calendars. They are wonderful sources of images. You can sometimes pick up last year's calendar for \$5 or less. I usually can't wait that long for the object of my desire.

Giftwrap

Do a search on the word Giftwrap at Amazon. There are a lot of themes to choose from.

Supplies

Products

Sealers

Liquitex Gloss Medium & Varnish— This product can be used to seal pieces, to seal papers, to seal your design when you're finished, to glue small pieces of paper in place. Go to the Liquitex website and read about their products.

<http://www.liquitex.com>

ModPodge – I no longer recommend this product for traditional découpage since I have items that are still spongy and get marked easily. However, it is good for **iron-on** decoupage. See my **iron-on** page or download the instructions.

Varnish

Whether you use oil-based or water-based varnish is dependent on how you want the finished piece to look.

Both types of varnish come in Matt, satin, and gloss finished. Oil-based will yellow your piece which gives it an old feeling. This is alright for warm colours.

But if you are using cool colours or bright colours and want them to remain bright or the way they looked when you painted them, then water-based varnish is required.

Water-based varnish dries clear and does not yellow at all.

Please consult our local hardware store for brands.

Paint

There is a wide variety of paints available to you for decoupage.

Liquitex – Some decoupeurs use these colours because they are artist's pigments. They are thick and rich in colour. Go to the Liquitex website and read about their products. <http://www.liquitex.com>

Matisse – These paints are pigments. They come in tubes or in jars. It is more economical to buy by the jar. The jars labelled *Background* are quite dense and cover well. They include a sealer so you can paint them right onto raw wood. Go to the Matisse website and read about their products. <http://www.matisse.com.au>

Jo Sonya – These paints are gouache. They come in tubes and there are a great variety of colours available. Go to the Jo Sonya website and read about their products. <http://chroma-inc.com/josonya/index.html>

DecoArt – These paints are gouache. They come in small plastic bottles and there are a great variety of colours available. Go to the DecoArt website and read about their products. <http://www.decoart.com>

Lumiere – These paints are my new favourites. They come in small plastic bottles and there are a great variety of colours available. They are jewel-like. You won't be able to buy just one. They are relatively expensive compared to other paints but really worth it. You will need to undercoat your object in a similar colour before applying the Lumiere paint. Go to the Lumiere website and read about their products.

<http://www.jacquardproducts.com>

Others – You can use the sample paint pots of house interior paints, either oil-based or water-based.

Don't be afraid to mix your own colours!

Brushes/Sponges

You will need some sponge brushes. You can buy these at the craft shop or artists supply shop. Kmart sells a range of sponge brushes with plastic handles which seem harder than the wooden handled ones from the craft shop.

You will need a fine liner brush for touching up. You will need a natural sea sponge.

Gesso

Liquitex and Matisse both make white Gesso. Matisse also makes coloured gesso. You can mix Liquitex paint with their gesso to create coloured gesso. Why do this? Because you get a very smooth paint finish and when you lightly sand it you don't go back to white.

To use this product, apply about 5 coats. Dry sand lightly between coats. Wet sand the last coat until it is as smooth as silk. Then seal and paint.

Be warned. Wet sanding the final coat is a messy business. If you just need a white undercoat then use titanium white paint.

Tack Cloth

A tack cloth is an open weave cloth saturated with linseed oil. You can buy these at craft shops. It is used to remove lint and dust between coats of varnish.

Shopping List

Essentials

- A good pair of curved blade scissors (check that points meet)
- Liquitex Gloss Medium and Varnish
- Gesso (for filling rough areas)
- Acrylic paints
- Glue
- Old brush for applying glue
- Piece of sponge for wiping off excess glue
- Sponge brush
- Sea sponge
- Tack cloth
- Synthetic bristle brush for varnishing
- Varnish
- Mineral turps (if using oil-based varnish)
- Sanding pads or sandpaper

Optional

- Roller (for removing excess glue and air bubbles from large pieces of paper)
 - Faber Castel Polychromos pencils (for touching up white edges of cut outs)
 - Cutting board
 - Scalpel
 - Micromesh kit
 - Furniture polish or car polish
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Internet Resources

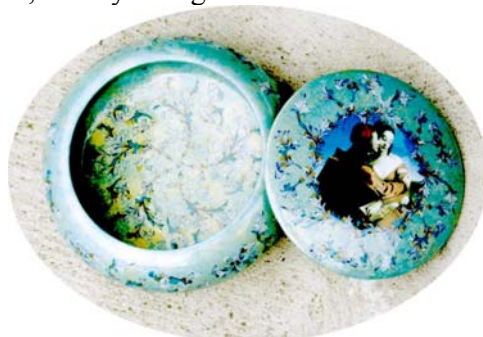
- <http://www.decoupage.org> - Decoupage Guild of America - There is a display of excellent decoupage to look at.
- <http://www.geocities.com/dgnewsw> – Decoupage Guild New South Wales (based in Sydney, Australia). Look at some recent exhibition/competition pieces.
- <http://www.decoupage.com.au> – Decoupage Guild Australia (based in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia)
- <http://www.decoupage-online.com> – My own decoupage place on the web. Check my links page for more sites to view.

See the following decoupage sites for examples of pieces that are being sold over the internet or just displayed.

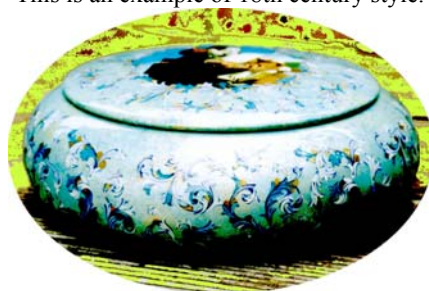
- <http://www.zynet.co.uk/elea/decoupage> - Découpage Plates
 - <http://www.users.on.net/decodesign/index.htm> - Découpage by Design
 - <http://www.makestuff.com/decoupage.htm> - MakeStuff - Découpage
 - <http://www.painted-house.com> - Découpage instructions
 - <http://www.boab.net.au/homepages/gourdfather> - Where to buy gourds to decoupage
 - http://www.makestuff.com/decoupage_ornaments.html - Christmas Tree Ornaments
 - <http://users.sedona.net/~whitebears/page1.html> - Découpage and Hand Painted Furniture
 - <http://www.bobbydazzler.co.uk/decoupag.htm> - Découpage Frames and Mirrors
 - http://www.passagem.com/decoupage_tips.html - How to Prepare Used Furniture for Découpage
 - <http://decoupagesimo.homestead.com/decoupage.html> – Simona's Découpage Eggs and Spheres
 - <http://www.olddecoupage.com> – Dianella's Découpage Furniture
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Styles

18th Century – This style is characterised by paintings of the period, scrolls, tiny flowers, florentine swirls, moody backgrounds.



This is an example of 18th century style.



This is the side view showing all the florentine swirls I cut out. I cut for several months.

Romantic/Victorian – This style is characterised by a picture of a young woman or other object surrounded by flowers. Most Victorian pieces are totally covered by pictures without any background showing.

Chinoiserie – This style imitates Chinese painted and inlaid work. The images are Chinese landscapes and figures on a background. The background is often black but can be other colours.



Hand coloured – By colouring photocopies with pencils, you can create pictures which are unique. This box lid shows a photocopy from a book of 19th century drawings of Egypt which I coloured with pencils.



Print Room – This style is characterised by photocopies of 19th century drawings in black and white on a pale pastel background.

Trompe L'oeil – This style offers an optical illusion. The découpeur combines images which give an impression that is not real. For example, a tray with a picture of a cup of coffee and a plate with a cake or a tablemat with a plate of food and cutlery.

If you have any questions/problems you can email me at

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