



DESIGN DECISIONS

Faux Painting Techniques: Dragging

In dragging, a dry brush (or other tool) is pulled through a wet glaze, producing fine, blurry stripes of the base coat color showing through the glaze. On walls, dragging creates a striped effect of soft graduated lines. Tone-on-tone color combinations are effective on walls. Using contrasting colors furniture creates a unique fashionable finish.

1. APPLY BASE COAT

Use a quality latex eggshell enamel. Two coats may be necessary on some colors.

2. FORMULA FOR GLAZE

Thin glaze color as described below. The dilution ratio is affected by heat and humidity. Experiment to find what works best for you. Start with: 1 part latex paint, 1 part Blend and Glaze, 2 parts water (less may be used if desired)

Tools Needed

- Latex paint for base coat
- Latex paint for glaze
- Blend and Glaze latex
- Wide masking tape
- Brush, roller and tray for base coat
- 4" nylon/polyester brush, wallpaper brush, steel wool or a dragging tool of your choice
- Plastic gloves

NOTE: 1 quart of latex paint thinned to these directions should make enough glaze for a 12' x 14' room.

3. PREPARE FOR GLAZING

Apply wide masking tape at ceiling and baseboard. Glazes are runny and a bit messy. Take extra time to be certain that surfaces not to be painted are taped off and well protected. Do not leave masking tape on 24 hours. It is best to take off as soon as possible. Use a cutting blade along masking tape before you pull the tape off. Cover all heat registers to prevent glaze from drying too quickly.

4. APPLY THE GLAZE

Dragging is best done with two people—one to apply the glaze and one to drag it off. While one applies a thin but uniform strip of glaze about 18" wide from ceiling to floor, the other follows behind doing the dragging, working at a quick pace. If the glaze loses its wet edge before the next strip of glaze is applied, blot it with a damp sponge or role back over dry area with glaze to wet.

Find more at <http://4h.unl.edu/designdecisions>

© The Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska on Behalf of Nebraska 4-H. This document may be reprinted for educational purposes only.



Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture.

The 4-H Youth Development program abides with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.



5. DRAGGING

Using a 4" nylon/polyester brush, wallpaper brush, steel wool or dragging tool of your choice (experiment for desired effect), drag through the wet glaze beginning at the ceiling, drawing continuously with even, relaxed pressure all the way to the floor. Wipe the brush on a dry rag after each drag. Practice this dragging motion first with a dry brush on a dry wall, especially if 1 ceiling height necessitates trips up and down a step ladder. Never mind if you're unhappy with your first few drags. Brush or roll out the glaze and drag again.

A continuous drag from ceiling to floor creates the most pleasing look. Watch for a build up of glaze where the two strokes meet. Be sure to wipe the brush on a rag after each stroke. Have patience: Once you start a wall be prepared to finish that wall. If you are doing more than one wall, be ready to keep going around the corner or tape the next wall and wait 24 hours, and then you can tape off the wall you have done to get started on the new wall.

6. PRACTICE FIRST

Experiment on sample boards, cardboard or paper to find the technique you want to use. Then practice applying it until you are comfortable using it.

7. EXPERIMENT

Try using the dragging technique on furniture pieces - stools, tables, even an armoire. On heavily used pieces, a clear finish is recommended to protect the dragged finish.

8. BE CREATIVE

Variation: This technique looks very effective when applied as a partial technique on a wall.

Example :

- Below a chair rail
- 10" down from ceiling with a paper border

Compiled by Gail Brand, Extension Educator.

Ragging On is a supplement to *Design Decisions*, a Nebraska 4-H Publication.

Find more at <http://4h.unl.edu/designdecisions>

© The Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska on Behalf of Nebraska 4-H. This document may be reprinted for educational purposes only.



Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture.

The 4-H Youth Development program abides with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.