



Ornate details become dramatic features when the hand-rubbed lacquer effect is achieved.

Oriental simulated Lacquering

Rating 3.5 - moderate



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For use on furniture, and objects.

Red lacquer - Images of oriental cabinets, chinoissiere chests and screens, hand rubbed objects from far away places stir the



featuring the
3 step color **Scheme** system



materials

Lacquer Chest	
▶	Universal Tinters Raw Umber Black
▶	Painters tape
▶	2.5 quart paint bucket
▶	3 - 3" paint brushes
▶	Clear oil-based varnish - Satin or semi-gloss
▶	Mineral Spirits
▶	Oil-based primer
▶	Oil-based paint see color options
▶	mini-roller
▶	rags
▶	disposable gloves
▶	Bree Wax - optional
▶	Drop Cloths

imagination. This simulated polished red lacquer effect is perfect for creating a wonderful Asian influence in any environment. Transform simple furniture, or elaborately carved ornament into a beautiful keep sake.

Preparing the surface

You can use this decorative technique on any type of furniture or object. We've chosen this oriental cabinet to create our finish. You can use new, un-finished furniture, an old antique, or even a painted object. Following we describe how to refinish furniture with an existing finish. For more information on preparing painted, stained, varnished and unfinished furniture visit the [artSparx Basic Preparation workshop](#).



Step 1: Remove all nails and repair any damaged or cracked areas. Place protective drop cloths around object or furniture, and tape any areas not meant to be painted or refinished. Refer to the [artSparx basic preparation](#) resource for tips and techniques.

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Deco Art Americana Acrylic Paints 2 oz. bottle oyster pearl metallic

All-purpose, professional artist quality, highly pigmented water based acrylic for decorative artists and general craft use. Excellent for stenciling, home decor and fabric painting. Use on wood, fabric, walls, canvas, metal paper, ceramic bisque, leather, etc. Opaque colors cover in one coat. Intermixable and permanent, soap and water cleanup. Available in 2 oz. and 8 oz. bottles.



Floetrol® Latex Paint Conditioner: Quart

Flood

Add to latex paints to improve flow and cover qualities.

**SKU: 770817
\$5.49**

BUY

what's new



Using a liquid sander, with protective gloves, quickly removes the existing finish.



Scraping the stripper off the surface with a putty knife and razor blades will bring the original wood to a workable condition..

Step 2: Once you have stripped, or sufficiently dulled the existing surface, you will need to sand the wood thoroughly. Use 180 grit or 220 grit sandpaper, always sanding in the direction of the wood grain.



Note

Visit the [artSparx sanding resource](#) for more information on sandpaper and sanding techniques.

Priming and undercoating

Step 3: When you have completed your sanding, remove all dust with a tack cloth. Next you will need to [prime](#) the surface with a

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good quality primer. A fast drying oil-based primer is recommended. Refer to the [artSparx basic preparation](#) resource for tips and techniques.

Note Because the 'lacquer' glaze, as described below, is an oil-based product, it is recommended that you use an oil-based primer, followed by an oil-based base color. Water-based paint will work, but will not be as durable and the final luster may be slightly affected.



Priming the cabinet with a high quality, white primer.

Choosing the base color

Step 4: A rich red is used for the base color on our simulated Chinese lacquer surface.

More Techniques!

- ▶ [Color mixing recipes](#)
- ▶ [artSparx Color Learning Center](#)
- ▶ [Color washing - Oil glaze method](#)
- ▶ [More decorative paint and glazing techniques](#)

Feature tutorial

Faux Delft tiles!



The loose, un-even quality to this faux technique makes painted Delft tiles an ideal decorative effect for the beginner or inexperienced do-it-yourselfer.

Irregular lines and loose hand painted renderings add character and old world charm, easily achieved without any prior painting experience.

artSparx Special Painters' tape



Scotch Safe-Release Painters' Masking Tape

3M No. 2080-1 & 2080-2 Safe-Release blue painters' masking tape is the most versatile tape on the market.

SKU: 798204 \$5.49



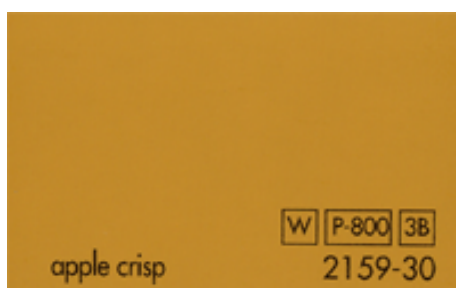
Notes on the base color

Choosing a paint supplier.

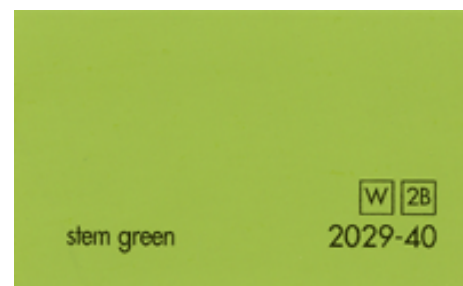
Though artSparx refers to **Benjamin Moore** paint colors, you can take your color request to any paint supplier and they can color match any color, by any manufacturer.

Other recommended paint manufacturers include Pittsburgh Paint, Pratt and Lambert, Behr, Sherman Williams, TrueValue, Best, and Ace brands.

Other colors, such as Ochre and Sage green, are also used, though less frequently. Following are two additional color options. The following glazing technique will be the same for any color you choose.



Golden Ochre implies a rich, golden inner glow.



Stem green creates a lovely softness in your lacquer appearance. Ideal for small and unusually shaped objects

Applying the base color

Step 5: After you have stripped and primed your furniture or object, and allowed the primer to completely dry, you are ready to apply your base color.

**Silver Brush
Renaissance Series
7120S Shader Red
Sable Brush**

Finest quality pure red sable from selected marten tails creates a range of superb sable brushes with a natural spring and generous color holding.

Hair is carefully hand cupped, individually tied into bundles, then set by experienced brushmakers into seamless goldtone ferrules. Gloss black hardwood handles have gold tips.

size 0 \$ 4.03	size 5 \$ 6.11	size 8 \$ 9.70
size 2 \$ 4.66	size 6 \$ 6.55	size 10 \$ 13.67
size 4 \$ 5.29	size 7 \$ 8.44	size 12 \$ 16.82

quick tip

Painting Tip: Oil-based paints are often used for windows, doors and trim. It provides a stronger bond and a more durable surface for these high use areas.

Step-by-Step Feature



An un-finished detail.



Priming the surface.



Step 6: Paint the surface using a good quality painter's brush. A 3 inch brush should work well for most surfaces. For large, straight areas, use a mini roller where ever possible. This will insure a smoother, flatter painted surface.

Creating your 'Black lacquer glaze'

Step 7: You will now proceed with the 'black lacquer' treatment for your simulated lacquer effect. The effect you will be applying is essentially a soften variation of the classic [strie](#) treatment, only you will leave the edges more opaque and the center panels softer and more 'transparent'. In this manner you will achieve the hand-rubbed, hand polished effect of time worn lacquer, buffed and polished over centuries of care - and wear and tear.

Hand painted floors!



The magic of a painted floor can transform a common space into a unique and beautiful expression of you and your families personality. You can paint entrance floors, children's rooms, porches, or just about any wooden floor.

[more decorative treatments](#)

"Poetry is superior to painting in the presentation of words, and painting is superior to poetry in the presentation of facts"

Leonardo da Vinci 1452-1519

Create your 'lacquer' glaze in the following manner. First, put on your disposable gloves. In a 2.5 quart bucket, mix 1 to 1 1/2 tubes of black [Universal Tinter](#) with 1/2 tube Raw Umber [Universal Tinter](#) into 1 quart of satin or semi-gloss oil based varnish. Stir thoroughly. You can always add more tinter if the glaze is not opaque enough. Add approx. 1/4 mineral spirits (white spirits) to the glaze solution and mix completely.

Note As you begin to apply the black 'lacquer' glaze, the colored varnish will settle in your bucket, being heavier than the mineral spirits. It will be necessary to continually stir the solution to maintain it's fluidity. It may also be necessary to add small amounts of mineral spirits to your glaze as you work through your project. This will compensate for any evaporation and settling of the glaze mixture.

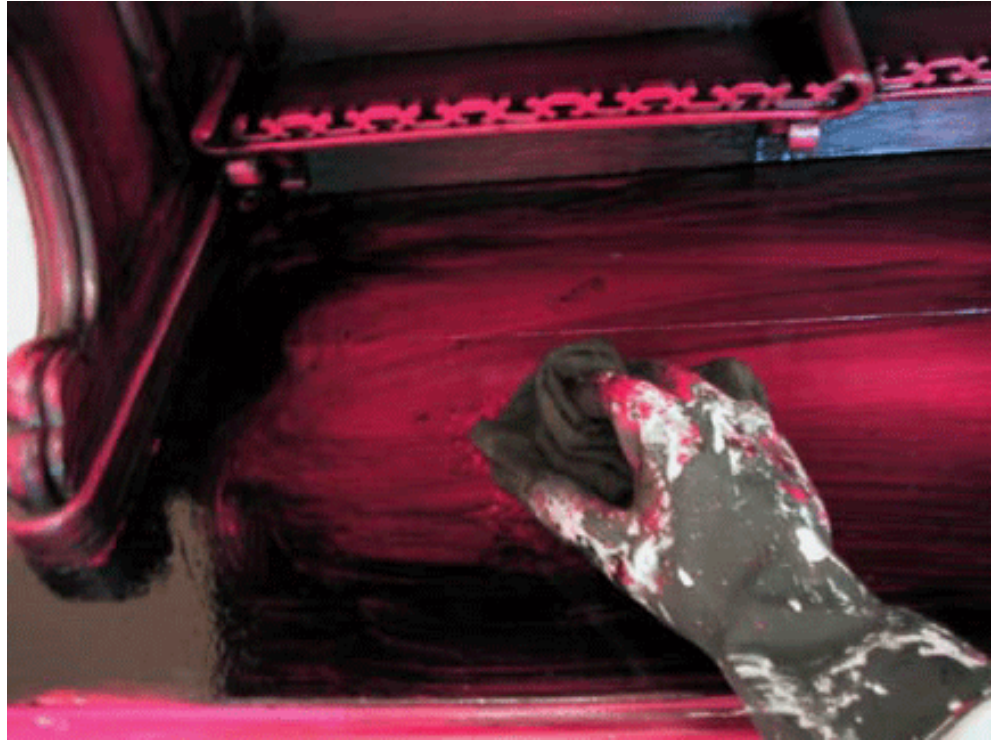
Applying your lacquer glaze

Step 8: Begin glazing from the inside surface outward. Therefore, any back panels will be first, then side panels, etc. Working in one area at a time, you will start by taking a rag moistened with mineral spirits and wet the panel you are working on. This helps move the glaze fluidly over the surface. Now apply your glaze from the outside of the working area towards the center, but leave the center panel blank.



Use a clean rag and carefully 'pull' glaze color from the outer edges into the center panel. The technique is to create a 'halo'

effect, with a soft, lightly glazed center panel, gradating outward to near black on the outer edges.



While still wet, use a clean, dry brush and *lightly* brush over the surface, called 'feathering', to soften the glaze and create an even, blended appearance. You can brush in all directions at first. When you are pleased with your results, finish off with light, even brush motions from one edge - completely stroking through - to the other edge. Continue this even brush movement over the entire surface you are currently glazing.



The completed, soften glaze effect glows with an apparent 'halo' of blackness surrounding a sumptuous, deep red tone.

Glazing a door with inset panel.

Step 9: Always start with the inner most area first, then move outward. In this case we will start with the center panel of the doors. Following is a diagram for the method of approach for glazing doors.

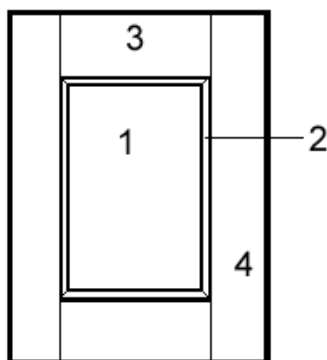


Diagram 1

A: Begin with center panel.

B: Continue to center panel moldings, always dragging in a horizontal or vertical manner.

C: Drag top and bottom panel in a horizontal manner.

D: Use a damp rag and wipe clean a straight line between panel 3 and 4. This mimics the grain pattern of how the door is put together.

E: Glaze left and right panel 4, carefully dragging against clean line created in step D with your dry brush.

Step 10: Again, start by taking a rag moistened with mineral spirits and wet the panel we are working on. This helps move the glaze fluidly over the surface.

To create the antique effect we start by apply our glaze in a 'halo' manner, keeping the center of the panel free of glaze.



illustration 1

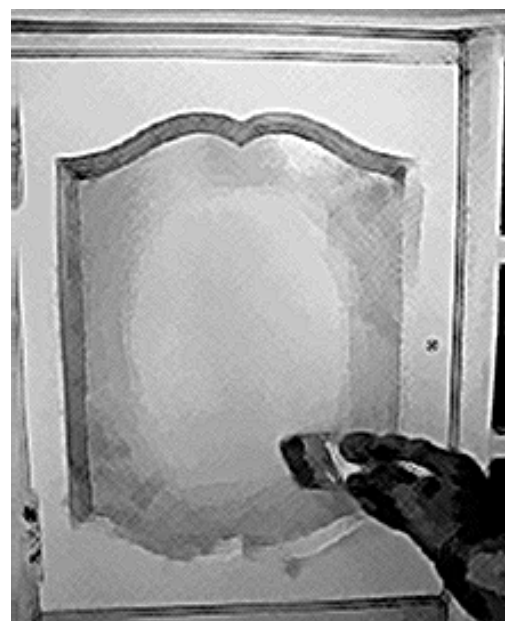


illustration 2
Soften lightly and begin to

Apply glaze to edges of panel



illustration 3
Now soften evenly

bring glaze into the center,
pulling glaze inward.



illustration 4
Begin outer panel

Step 11: Once you have created a halo with your glaze use a dry brush and begin to pull color into the center panel. You want to keep the edges a stronger tone than the center. Drag glaze in straight, even motions from top to bottom until the center has a slight 'veil' of color.

Once you have completed this move to the outer panels. Apply your glaze and with your dry brush, drag the glaze in an even manner soften the panels as mentioned above.

Step 12: Repeat this process on the side panels and frame of the cabinet.

Accenting your lacquered object

Step 13: If your lacquered object or furniture has any interesting details - high points, relief moldings, rounded edges - you can accentuate them and build character into your Chinese lacquer piece. First glaze the section completely with the black lacquer glaze, softening with a brush as mentioned above. Next, use a clean rag and gently wipe the high points, and edges, removing some of the glaze and revealing the base color underneath. Soften lightly with your brush to even the 'buffed' surfaces out. You will immediately see amazing results! Do this where ever you feel there might be a need for a 'glowing' accent or edge.

Allow your object or furniture to completely dry, approx. 24 hours.

Optional 2nd glazing treatment

Step 14: If you would like your newly lacquer piece to be darker, particularly in the edges, you can apply a second glaze treatment, exactly as before. You will not need to be as conscientious, however, as the initial treatment will have covered the base color completely.

Applying a second coat of glaze, though not necessary, will create a richer, deeper appearance, and will make the lacquered object even more magical and authentic looking.

Applying a protective varnish coat

Step 15: To add additional protection to your object or furniture, an oil-based varnish, preferably the same brand as you used for your 'lacquer' glaze, may be applied after the painted surfaces have dried completely (24 hrs). A low luster or satin finish will work well.

Applying a wax protective coat instead of varnish

Instead of applying a oil-based varnish, you may chose to coat the surface with a tinted wax. This will create a hand-rubbed finish and will provide sufficient protection to your object. A tinted wax, such as **Bree Wax**, will work perfectly. For more information about antiquing with waxes visit the [artSparx antiquing center](#).

Step 16: [Dispose](#) of rags properly. For oil based rag rolling clean up with mineral spirits. Visit the [artSparx waste disposal](#) resource.

Step 17: [Clean](#) up with mineral spirits.

artSparx Book special



Chinese Painting Techniques for Exquisite Watercolors

In 12 step-by-step demonstrations, Zhen shows you how to capture the essence of pheasants, egrets, peacocks, ducks, cranes, koi, goldfish, angelfish and more, as he helps you master new skills and envision new possibilities.

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