

Alternative Finishes Steps

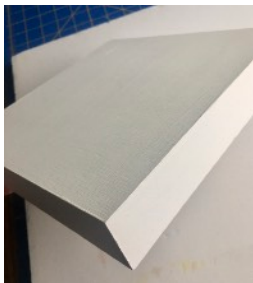
1. Drill shallow starter holes inside the cradle board about 2 1/2" from the top of the board and about halfway inside the side rail. (Use template :) If you don't pre-drill, you risk splitting the side. Be sure not to drill all the way through! ;)



2. Attach D-rings to cradle board.



3. Apply two thin coats of Gesso to front and sides with at least 30 minutes between coats. (Container #1)



4. Adhere flattened painting with Acrylic Gel Medium. (Container #2) (It dries quickly! Work fast.) Apply even, thin layer from the center outward ON THE BOARD as if spreading butter thinly on toast. Leave no air holes. An offset palette knife spatula works well, or a stiff flat brush. Lay the painting face down on a clean, hard, even surface and position board on top, checking for equal spacing around all edges. Go over the painting with a CLEAN brayer if you have one. Be sure not to move the painting on the board.



5. Carefully clean away excess gel medium, then hold the piece firmly onto the paper by stacking with a lot of EVEN weight. You could place 4 cans inside the board to apply pressure to the middle of the board. Pile heavy books on top.



Let dry overnight.

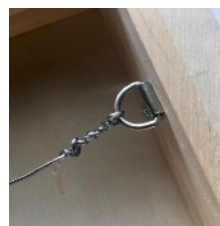
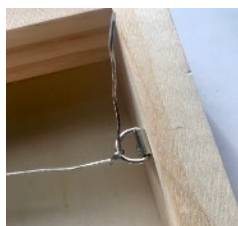
6. Trim edges ONLY when completely dry. Use a NEW blade on your x-acto knife or boxcutter. Carefully and slowly cut straight down - don't angle inward to avoid cutting the wood. If there is residual gel medium that is dried, it will take a little extra care to cut through cleanly. I will be demoing this step at the March meeting.



7. Spray a thin coat of varnish, (to avoid runs). Hold can about 18" away from painting and swing back and forth beyond the edges of the painting. This can also be done before the painting is adhered to board.



8. Attach wire to cradle board. The wire should be fairly taut, with just enough 'give' for hanging, this will help hold the painting flat against the wall. Take care when laying the painting down on a clean, even surface.



9. Apply a thin even coat of wax, (Container #3) to the front of the painting in a circular pattern, using a piece of soft cloth or gloved fingers. Make sure no clumps are visible and that it looks pretty evenly spread. Let dry completely for a day or two. Buff with a soft cloth. Repeat the process at least twice. The finished product will look beautiful and even. I will be demoing this at the March meeting.

10. After the painting has been sealed with the wax, use the remaining wax to seal the sides. This will protect the Gesso a bit and look nice. Do not paint the sides as the Gesso will be enough. We want all the boards to look the same when we hang them. If you have any questions, contact me. Have FUN!