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## How to Make a Faux Wood Grain Finish



by eHow Home &amp; Garden Editor

### Introduction

Use paint and vinegar to make plain wood look exotic.

### Instructions

**Difficulty:** Moderately Easy

#### Steps

1

**Step One**

Make sure the wood has been sanded smooth and all of the dust wiped off.

2

**Step Two**

Put down a base coat of mustard or ocher yellow acrylic paint and let it dry.

3

**Step Three**

Mix 1 part white vinegar with 6 parts burnt umber or raw sienna from an artist's tube of watercolor paint. The mixture, called glaze, should be smooth and thick.

4

**Step Four**

Paint a coat of glaze on the wood surface with a wide, flat brush.

5

**Step Five**

Use any of the following techniques to achieve a fancy grain look while the glaze is wet.

6

**Step Six**

Use an awl to poke holes in the flat end of a cork. Stamp the cork on the glaze, dabbing it on a clean rag every fourth stamp to keep the glaze from building up on it.

7

**Step Seven**

Stutter an index finger in diagonal patterns across the glaze.

8

**Step Eight**

Wet a small piece of natural sponge and dab lightly at the glaze. Pat the sponge on a clean cloth occasionally to keep the glaze from building up on it.

9

**Step Nine**

Use the same paintbrush you used to apply the glaze and twist it in circles to form swirls.

10

**Step Ten**

Let the glaze coat dry and apply a coat of oil-based varnish. Let it dry and finish the piece with a second coat.

#### Tips & Warnings



Change colors for different effects.

### Overall Things You'll Need

- ▶ Flat Paintbrushes
- ▶ Clean Rags
- ▶ Turpentine
- ▶ Clean Rags
- ▶ White Vinegar
- ▶ White Vinegar
- ▶ Dishes
- ▶ Toothpicks

- ▶ Awl
- ▶ Sandpaper
- ▶ Awl
- ▶ Sandpaper
- ▶ Dishes
- ▶ Toothpicks

## Who Can Help

- ▶ [Find Prescreened Painting & Texturing Contractors at ServiceMagic.com](#)

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