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MILK PAINT AND FINISHING

RULES:

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- Work in well-ventilated areas.
- Wear fume/vapor respirator & gloves. Read labels.
- Many finishes are flammable. Store in sealed containers.
- Dispose of rags carefully.

BASICS:

1. Preparation of wood. Sanding scratches, tear marks, roughness absorbs more color. If you didn't see it before, this will certainly bring it to your attention.
2. Water stains raise the grain. Wet sand & raise grain prior to adding color.
3. The color of the wood affects the color you are applying.
4. Colors (hues,) materials (stains,) methods of application are not pleasing on all woods. Samples are important. But a curved surface is never quite the same as a flat/straight-grained sample.
5. Finish adds color and its properties may dissolve and/or not protect some color materials. A basic understanding of finishing techniques is essential.
6. Oxidation from light and sun will still occur on stained surfaces.
7. Using materials not originally intended for wood means that there may not be instructions. Trial and error is the method of choice.

MILK PAINT DIRECTIONS: (Old Fashioned Milk Paint Co.)

Porous Surfaces: Milk paint, like all water paints, adheres best to a porous surface, such as bare wood or masonry.

Nonporous Surfaces: Extra-Bond additive will help the milk paint adhere to MOST clean, sound nonporous surfaces.

SIMPLE TO USE

- 1} **Mix:** Measure about equal amounts of water and powder into separate containers. The one pint package contains about 1-1/2 cups of powder, and when mixed with 1-1/2 cups of water it will make about 1 pint of paint. (Note: warm water helps.)
- 2} **Apply:** Apply with a dry brush, roller or spray gun. . Milk paint is naturally somewhat streaky in color. This is normal. Foam brushes & rollers are easier to control. For spraying, paint should be a little thinner than for brushing, and should be strained. Spray with conventional spray equipment at about 30 lbs. pressure. Remember always wear proper protection when spraying any paint.
- 3} **Clean up:** Clean all tools now with water and a Scotch-brite pad so that the paint doesn't dry on them.

MIXING TIPS

Small Amounts: When mixing small containers of the paint by hand it is easiest to make a paste of the powder with some of the water and stir until smooth, like making gravy, using a rubber spatula or paint stick. Then gradually add more water until you reach the desired consistency.

Large Amounts: When mixing up larger amounts it may be easier to mix equal amounts of water and powder together using a wire paint paddle on a drill or similar method, on lowest speed, being careful not to mix too fast which can create foam.

Timing: Mix thoroughly for 2-3 minutes. Then let stand for 10-15 minutes so everything has a chance to disperse completely.

Strain: Sometimes powder lumps don't fully dissolve. You may want to strain the mixed paint through a paper mesh paint funnel, a piece of cheesecloth, or, better still, a piece of nylon stocking.

Stir: Stir paint every 10 minutes or so while using, and add more water to the proper consistency if the paint thickens.

Best Used Fresh: Milk paint is always best mixed up fresh. If you happen to have leftover paint, or need to wait a day to finish your project you may keep any unused paint in a sealed container in the refrigerator (even plastic wrap held in place with a rubber band is fine). It keeps best if mixed on the thinner side, even with a thin layer of water put on top of the paint mixture. Any unused powder can be stored indefinitely in an airtight container such as a jar.

POROUS SURFACES PAINTING PROCEDURES

New wood or other porous surfaces.

Note: No primer is necessary - the first coat acts as its own primer on most softwoods and open-grained hardwoods. However, close-grained hardwoods such as maple or birch will require an initial coat of milk paint with Extra-Bond added.

Clean: wipe down with damp rag to remove dust and to pre-dampen the surface.

Seal: Seal knots with shellac. Apply first coat of milk paint while still tacky. Or paint knots with Extra-Bond added or Extra-Bond in entire first coat.

First Coat: Paint entire item with milk paint.

Second Coat: After an hour or more, you can rub down the first coat lightly with Scotch-brite, fine sandpaper or non-oiled steel wool. If it needs, a second coat can be applied of straight milk paint.

Optional: After several hours or overnight, can rubbed down to satin smooth finish and/or distressed.

Water-spotting/Finishing: Seal the paint on any surface subject to spills. Paint is fine but will water spot and absorb dirt without finish. Any sealer will work but oil finishes will deepen the color. Wax is fine. Gel finishes and solvent finishes work well. Clear coat/acrylic finish will keep from yellowing.