HOW TO DO AN ANTIQUED FINISH

Antiquing--sometimes called glazing--is produced by applying a transparent wash or glaze over a painted surface. The result gives a soft mellow effect with deeper color tones in corners and carvings.

To do an antiqued finish, you may use a kit that contains all the necessary materials. Or you may use supplies you have on hand--low gloss enamel, varnish, turpentine, and linseed oil.

It's a good idea to try out the glaze on a sample piece of wood before you tackle your good piece of furniture. As you go through the first two steps below on your good piece, repeat them on a small piece of wood so you will have a surface on which to practice with the glaze. By experimenting, you will discover interesting patterns and effects. Also, you can practice your technique for handling the glaze.

Here's how to do your own antiqued finish--

1. Apply 1 coat of undercoat. When dry, buff lightly with 4/0 steel wool.

2. Apply 1 or 2 coats of low gloss or satin finish enamel, in the color of your choice. White, ivory, and other light colors are good base colors, but darker or brighter tones may also be used. When the surface is dry, buff it lightly with 4/0 steel wool.

3. For the glaze: Mix well 2 tablespoons clear interior varnish, 2 tablespoons turpentine, 1 teaspoon boiled linseed oil, 1/2 teaspoon oil pigment in the color you want. Earth tones such as burnt sienna and burnt umber often are used, but the choice depends upon the color effect you want. Pigments are available in 1/4-ounce tubes.

4. Remove dust from the surface.

5. Apply the glaze with a brush. Stir it often to keep the ingredients well mixed.

6. Use a small soft clean cloth to remove the excess glaze. Wipe with the grain of the wood. The amount you leave on depends on the effect you want. If the glaze gets sticky while you are still smoothing it out, dampen the cloth lightly with turpentine. Instead of a cloth, you can use a small piece of sponge or plastic foam, or a dry paint brush. Going over the glaze with an old comb sometimes gives an interesting pattern.

7. When the glaze is dry, apply 1 coat of clear low gloss varnish or other clear finish.

8. For a satiny protective finish, apply 1 thin coat of paste wax.

NOTE: See Intermediate Members Manual, Home Furnishing Project, pp. 30-36, for more information.