

Instructions for Easy-to-Crete Decoupage

Is it that time again? You have to find the perfect present for a friend's birthday and you have no clue what to get them. Decoupage is the answer for you. Decoupage is the technique of decorating a surface with cutouts. This type of decorating is not only fun and inexpensive, but a beloved gift for years to come.

Items needed to Decoupage:

- **Surface:** picture frame, box, or other surfaces you want to Decoupage
(Note: The item you are going to Decoupage needs to be flat, smooth, and can be easily glued to. Examples: wood or craft box, wood picture frame.)
- **Decoration:** pictures, magazine cutouts, or other items you wish to decorate with.
(Note: You may want to make photocopies of the pictures at a smaller size.)
- **Mod Podge Gloss Lustre** (Can be purchased at Wal-Mart in the art section)
- **Glue:** A glue stick or regular white liquid glue
- **Paint Brush:** Preferably foam tip
- **Scissors**

Step 1

Collect all of your items (see figure 1 below) on a flat surface with room to work. Cut out the **Decoration** (figure 2 below) pictures or magazine clippings you want to use. The best result if you are going to use pictures is to use photocopied pictures. They not only tend to glue better but you will not lose your photos.



Figure 1: All Items



Figure 2: Decorations Pictures and Magazines

Step 2

Once you have all of your **Decoration** items cut out and collected that you want to use, arrange them on your **Surface**.

Decorations can overlap or be spread far apart. You might have to cut down or remove some of the items you wanted to use.

For best results do not use any items that will not glue down with stick glue or white glue. Also, do not use big bulky items.

Step 3

Now that you have your **Decorations** arranged the way you like, very carefully remove one piece at a time and glue each one down to the **Surface**.

Step 4

Once all pieces are glued down, you will now begin to seal them. Read the instructions carefully on the back of your **Mod Podge Glass Lustre**. You will want to use the sealer option. You might want to use **two to three coats** depending on your **Decorations**.

Step 5

Let the Mod Podge set over night before you wrap it up. Your friend will appreciate the thoughtfulness you put into their birthday! Just take a look at the before and after photos below to see what a difference it makes.



SURFACE Before



SURFACE After

Hope you have enjoyed making the perfect gift for your friend. Do not forget that you could get together with your friends and have Decoupage parties. Gifts can also be made for weddings, baby showers, or as a thank you gift.

For more Decoupage ideas take a look at www.durwinrice.com.