

Preserving a Piece of the Past

Barbara Matthiessen



Some of us are fortunate to have needlework or textile pieces created by ancestors. The problem with many of these pieces is that the fibers are too fragile to work with and sitting in a drawer or closet does them no justice. We want to honor the work that went into them and enjoy them. Here is one way to do all of that and create a one of a kind accessory.

Supplies:

Textile/needlework piece

Wood tray sized to match textile

Earth Safe Finishes (www.earthsafefinishes.com) products:

Generation Green Texture, Smooth

Acrylic paint in Glacier

Colorant- Blue (Sample uses blue to pick up the color in the textile. Choose a colorant that relates to your textile.)

Gel Glaze

Gel Medium

Marine Varnish-Gloss

Simple line stencil width of tray sides (You may also add texture then draw in lines with the side of a palette knife.)

Palette knife or old credit card

Paint brushes, wash size

Paper towels

Instructions:

1. Add texture to the sides of the tray using a simple line stencil and a palette knife. Dip the knife into the texture then spread over the stencil evenly while holding the stencil in place. Alternatively you can spread a layer of texture onto the sides then draw lines through it with the knife. Set aside and allow to dry completely.

2. Apply a coat of Glacier white to entire tray. Allow paint to dry.
3. Mix 2 drops of Blue Colorant into a spoonful of glaze. Brush glaze onto tray in sections wiping off excess with a paper towel as you work. Brush blue glaze over entire tray, allow to dry.
4. Apply another coat of Glacier paint to tray thinning the paint slightly with water. Allow to dry.
5. Brush a layer of gel medium onto center of tray where textile will be placed. Smooth textile over gel medium. Brush a coat of gel medium over textile. Allow gel medium to dry.
6. Apply 2 or more coats of varnish allowing each coat to dry before applying the next. Two coats were applied to sides and handles and 3 coats on top of textile.

