

COLORS of the Peacock

Fabric Inspired Finishes

by DEB DRAGER

The first warm weekend in the Midwest calls for the annual trip to the zoo. In my recent Spring pilgrimage, I was again fascinated with the wandering peacocks. As the sun shines on their ever-listening plumage, I am awestruck by the magnificent, rich layers of colors found in the peacock. A single feather can hold my attention for hours. During the winter, I made a trip to one of my favorite fabric shops to gather inspiration for new finishing ideas and was drawn to a gorgeous piece of peacock feather fabric. Now I had what I needed to begin to create some fun new looks!



SUPPLIES



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Cabinet Door Panels; Plastic, Rubber, or Steel Trowels; Chip, Pounce or Blending Brushes; Blue Tape, Cheesecloth, Stencils or Modellos™, Rolco Size, Variegated Foil, Bead Fringe, Craft Glue
Optional: Cabinet Hinges, Wooden Legs, Drill, and Screwdriver

Gold Label™ Architectural Coatings & Aqua Finishing Solutions™ by Faux Effects International Inc.

BASECOAT: "Texture Coat"

DECORATIVE LAYERS: LusterStone™ Azure Blue, Peacock Blue, Tequila Sunrise, Medallion Gold, or various other shades; AquaGlaze™, Venetian Gem™ Finish Coat, AquaColors™, Stain & Seal™ Natural Cherry, Eggplant and Metallic Gold; FXThinner™ and Dutch Metal™ Gold
TOPCOAT: AquaGard™ Gloss and Varnish Plus™ Gloss

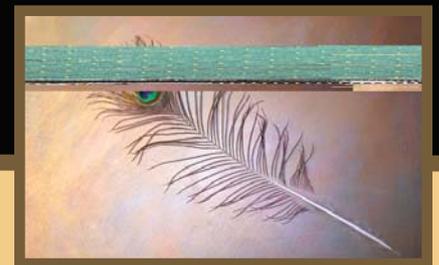
The Beauty of Iridescent, Metallics, and Foil . . .



My first attempt at a **"Faux Feather Finish"**, shown above, with a peacock feather trim laying across it and the fabric underneath, hung in our studio window all winter. After my zoo trip, I was inspired to try many more samples.

With a little imagination, we turned a couple of discarded door panels into a room screen divider. See following pages for step-by-step instructions.

Wall behind screen was created with *Mandarin Red, Tequila Sunrise and Cantaloupe LusterStone™*.



With close examination of my fabric and feather, I began experimenting with many color combinations of iridescent and metallic paint choices. Shown above are layers of LusterStone™ *Bordeaux, Azure Blue, and Brown Suede*, mixed with AquaGlaze™.

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ART-i-MATRIX manager Amanda had a friend with peacocks on his land, and she sequestered armloads of feathers. I had them all over the studio, laying on top of many finished samples, and the feathers would take on different color characteristics. I tried dozens of color combinations. I was "peacock crazed"! Here are some of my favorites.



Raised Panel Cabinet Door with Single Feather Modello™ motif
see: www.modellodesigns.com

The panel doors, from an estate sale, were finished already with a few scars and scrapes, so we hand-rubbed them with the Natural Cherry Stain & Seal™ on cheesecloth and let dry. Amanda taped off the inset panel and painted two coats of AquaBond™ Texture Coat, first horizontally and then vertically. (This is the key to the underground, even texture that creates the embedded strokes of the faux feathers.) Using a small hand-cut plastic trowel, I scrape-filled the texture coat with a combination of *Azure Blue* and, yes, *Peacock Blue* LusterStone™. (The sample at right was accomplished with the same colors, then a random dimensional stencil feather pattern with Silver Palette Deco™ was added.)



After the blues dried on my two panels, I used a chip brush with a little glaze, dipped into the *Tequila Sunrise* LusterStone™, and blended across the top taped-area of my inset panel. After this dried, I rubber-troweled a tinted, limey-green mixture of Venetian Gem Finish Coat across the entire sur-



After staining the cabinet door with a combination of Eggplant & Natural Cherry Stain & Seal™, I applied the Modello™. (These are the best tools yet for securing a tight registration of connecting detailed patterns.) I have taught several Modello™ classes and everyone loves them. They are easy to use with no clean-up!



After applying the Modello™, I immediately pounced on *Tequila Sunrise* LusterStone™, then *Azure Blue*, then *Medallion Gold*. I poured some AquaGlaze™ on a palette and dipped my pounce brush into the glaze, then into the LusterStone™. Since I wanted the deep eggplant color to show through, the glaze helped open up the shimmering luster and spread evenly and smoothly across my Modello™. The Lusters dried very quickly, since I only used a little glaze, and I was able to pull my Modello™, and *presto!* A gorgeous peacock pattern was revealed in the woodgrain of the door. I added Dutch Metal™ Gold around the edge and the bead, and finalized with an even coat of Varnish Plus™.



Apply the Modellos™ in a stair-step pattern (follow the Modello™ instructions for adhering and removing properly) and extend the feather's stem with blue tape. Fill over the patterns with *Tequila Sunrise*, then *Medallion Gold LusterStone™*. Pull Modello™ and tape. Re-tape beveled inset and brush with an even coat of *Rolco™* size. Let cure. (Follow the manufacturer's instruction here, as well.) Apply variegated foil (we used *blue*) to entire inset frame. Adhere bead

fringe along dividing line, with craft glue and line-up with a straight-edge.



Deborah Drager is a seasoned faux finisher, instructor, and graphic designer who has been certified with the Faux Effects® materials for over a decade. Deb trained with the founder,

Raymond Sandor, and has created

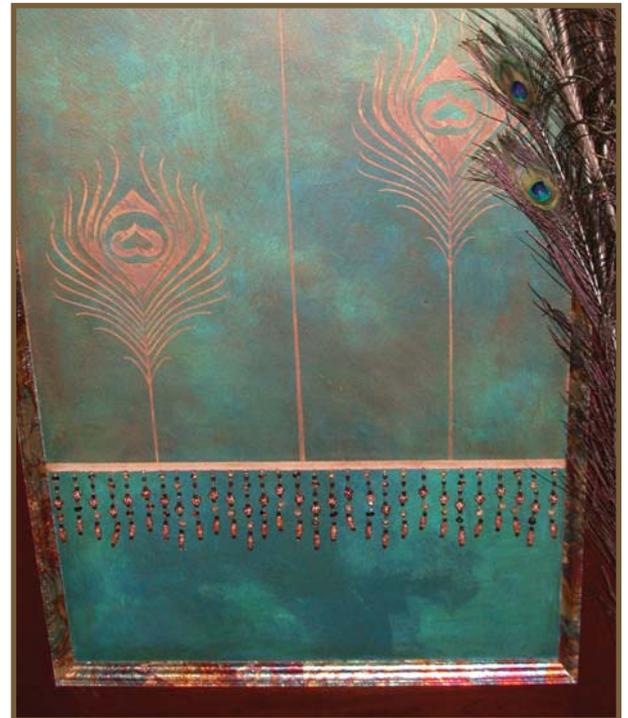
marketing tools for the corporation and many of the networks' other training schools and artisans. With a BFA in Fine Art, in 1980 Deb launched her career as a freelance fashion and product illustrator, and did a five-year stint as advertising manager of a department store, learning the ropes of fast-paced deadlines, direct mail, print, radio, television and visual merchandising. Deb started her own business in 1986, providing custom graphics, and began painting faux backdrops for photo-shoots for many ad agencies. She art-directed numerous photo sessions herself, from booking models to finding props. The faux painting became an integral part of Deb's creativity, culminating in her position as director of ART-i-MATRIX Academy of Architectural Finishes in Old Town, Wichita, Kansas. Phone: (316) 264-arty(2789). Amanda Erwin, Manager, www.artimatrix.com or www.ddrager.com, Phone: (316) 269-3600



Many fringe/bead choices are available at hobby stores.



VARIEGATED FOIL TIP: Make sure to pull the blue tape before you apply the foil. That way you have a nice clean edge of glue-size, and the rest of the un-stuck foil falls away. Push the sheets and broken bits into the tacky size with a gilding brush (we used an inexpensive chip brush). Use a shop-vac to get rid of all the small fragments and foil dust. Apply protective top-coats, hinge doors together, add feet, if you wish, and your folding screen is complete!



Photographs just do not capture the final reflective, shimmering colors . . .



For a more masculine effect for this project, I tried matching the deeper tones of the peacock feather. I began with *Ebony Frost* and *Midnight Blue* Lusters, then overlazed with the *Bordeaux* and *Eggplant* LusterStone™.



The finished sample above is another Modello™ inspired panel. After layering the deeper Luster-tones, we applied random black crackle and overlazed with *Metallic Gold Stain & Seal™* on left.



Sample above was created with a peacock feather stencil from The Stencil Library, made in England. Embossed stencil work is *White Venetian Gem™* with *AquaColor™ Hi-Lites*, in various shades, over a background of troweled layers of *Royal Jade LusterStone™*.