

Four Fabulous Fresh Finishes

Classic Old World wall finishes will never go out of style, but there is a definite trend toward brighter colors and cleaner, more graphic looks for walls. This trend is especially applicable to younger age groups: i.e., tots, tweens and twenty-somethings.

With this trend in mind, I recently created a series of wall treatments that are infused with fresh colors and intricate patterns. I wanted to incorporate the ease of use of Modello® Decorative Masking Patterns for creating large, solid colored graphics with the ability of stencils to cre-

ate allover patterns economically.

I was also interested in checking out the new Aura line of paints from Benjamin Moore, to test their coverage. You can get any Benjamin Moore color mixed in an Aura base. You will need to choose from their main deck if you want bright colors. I found that the Aura paint works great for graphic looks because it provides more opaque coverage in one coat and dries quickly so layering multiple coats quickly is an option.

I hope you enjoy these new takes on some classic patterns!



Black & White & Pink Allover

Base Color and Product: Benjamin Moore Springtime Bloom, White, Black (Aura Eggshell Finish)

Products for Finish: Faux Effects® Aquacreme; Faux Effects® Aquacolors—Magenta, Blue, Violet;

Folk Art Acrylic Paint—Black, Wicker White, Hot Pink

Tools Required For Finish: Paint roller and tray; assorted stencil brushes; cheesecloth

Royal Design Studio™ stencils: 2069 Wicker, Pro 2062 Foliate Damask Allover, 1001 Half Daisy Chain

Step-by-Step Application:

1) Divide your wall as you wish to create a chair rail and dado. Generally, a chair rail will run between 30-36 inches up from the floor, depending on the ceiling height. Use tape to tape off and apply two coats of Benjamin Moore White to the lower area and two coats of Springtime Bloom to the upper area of the walls. Allow to dry.

2) Tape off a 3.5-inch wide band to go between the white and pink areas and paint this solidly with black. In order to get a very clean edge and

avoid having paint seep under the stencil, seal the edges of the tape first by painting over them with the pink or white base color.

3) Use black acrylic paint to stencil the allover wicker design on the diagonal below the chair rail.

4) Use Magenta Aquacolor (or similar acrylic color) to stencil the Foliate Damask Allover on the pink basecoat above the chair rail.

5) In the black chair rail band, stencil the Half Daisy Chain using Wicker White and Hot Pink.

6) Create a glaze by adding a half teaspoon Blue and a quarter teaspoon Violet to each cup of Aquacreme needed. *Note: Aquacreme coverage averages 100 square feet per quart. Brush or roll this on to the top wall area only in a small workable area and immediately dab with cheesecloth to blend and soften.*

by Melanie Royals



Circles and Rings

Base Color: Benjamin Moore® Hasbrouk Brown (Aura Eggshell)

Products for Finish: Benjamin Moore (Aura Eggshell) paint colors—Forget me Knot, Fashion Pink, Ylang Ylang

Tools Required For Finish: Paint Roller and tray; stencil brushes; 1/4-inch tape

Royal Design Studio™ Stencils: 606 Small Scrollallover, 613 Lacy Leaves, 1003 Flower Field, 1031S Small Allover Floral

Modello Silhouettes™: Circles and Rings

Step-by-Step Application:

1) Roll two coats of Benjamin Moore Hasbrouk Brown onto your wall surface, allowing it to dry between coats. Allow to dry.

2) Lay out your first layer of circle and ring patterns. Seal the inside edges of the design to prevent paint seepage by rolling or brushing over them with Aquaseal™ or any matte or satin water-based varnish.

3) Apply 2-3 coats of the blue, pink and white colors into your de-

sired areas allowing the paint to dry between coats.

4) Keep the Modello Silhouette™ patterns in place as you stencil various small allover patterns through them, using the same color palette. You may need to stencil over each pattern twice as you go to get even solid coverage.

5) Remove those Silhouette shapes and apply the remaining ones, overlapping some of your original shapes here and there to create a pleasing arrangement. Use 1/4-inch tape (it's flexible!) to tape off and protect the overlapping areas of your original shapes and add 1-inch tape around the outer edges of the 1/4-inch tape for further protection.

6) Proceed to seal, paint and stencil as desired.



Dragonflies

Base Color: Benjamin Moore® Hasbrouk Brown (Aura Eggshell)

Products for Finish: Benjamin Moore Paint colors in Aura Eggshell base—Pear Green, Return to Paradise, Springtime Bloom; Faux Ef-

fects® Aquaseal or a water-based satin varnish

Tools Required For Finish: 4-inch wide 1/2-inch nap paint roller and tray, assorted stencil brushes

Modello Silhouettes™: Branching Out Vine, Dragonfly Set

Royal Design Studio™ Stencils: 613 Lacy Leaves, 600 Lovely Lace, 624 Mini Brocade

Step-by-Step Application:

1) Roll two coats of Benjamin Moore Hasbrouk Brown onto your wall surface, allowing it to dry between coats. Allow to dry.

2) Lay out your Silhouette patterns as desired. Burnish well and seal the edges by brushing or rolling over them with Aquaseal or a water-based satin varnish. Allow this to dry completely.

3) Use small rollers to roll on 2-3 layers of your base colors: Pear

Green for the leaves and Return to Paradise and Springtime Bloom for the Dragonflies. Allow to dry between coats and before proceeding with stenciling. Note: You can speed up the drying process with a hair dryer.

4) Keep the Modello Silhouette patterns in place as you stencil various small allover patterns through them in your colors of choice. We use the Mini Brocade in the leaves and Lacy Leaves in the Dragonflies in the pink, green and brown paint colors.

Note: You may need to stencil over each pattern twice as you go to get even solid coverage.

**Additional Project
On Next Page**



Fingerpainted Flowers

Base Color: Benjamin Moore® Pear Green (Aura Eggshell)

Products for Finish: Faux Effects® Aquacreme or similar clear glazing medium; Aquacolor—Earth Green; So Slow Super Extender

Folk Art Acrylic Colors: Black, Wicker White, Hot Pink

Tools Required For Finish: 4-inch wide half-inch nap paint roller and tray; stencil brushes; terry towel.

Royal Design Studio™ Stencils: 2082 Japanese Flower Garden B

Step-by-Step Application:

1) Roll on two coats of Benjamin Moore Pear Green to your wall surface, allowing it to dry between coats. Allow to dry.

2) Create a green glaze by mixing 1 1/4 teaspoons of Earth Green into each cup of Aquacreme needed. *Note: Coverage will be approximately 400 square feet per gallon.* Add about 20-percent So Slow Extender into your mixed glaze to increase the open (working) time.

3) Use a 4-inch roller to roll the glaze onto the wall in workable areas, keeping a leading “wet” edge as you work around the room. (Better yet, get someone to “roll” while you

“scroll.”) You will want to roll the glaze out nice and even, with no visible roller marks. This is best accomplished by using a cross-hatching motion with the roller.

4) While the glaze is still wet and fresh, drape a damp terry towel over your index finger and use this to “fingerpaint” in loose, random scroll shapes. If you don’t feel comfortable just “going for it” on the wall you can sketch out some variations to scale and work from that. Allow this to dry overnight.

5) Stencil the Japanese Flower Garden motifs randomly using variations of black, white and pink. It looks nice to group them differently in sets of three, two, four, etc. For more variation, you can flip or rotate the designs around. You can also tape off the outer portion of some of the larger flowers and just stencil the middle area to create another “design.” In some of the flowers, we used a very dry stencil brush to just swirl in some color before stenciling the center details of the flower over it.

Note: You may need to stencil two or more layers of color to get full, solid, even coverage over the green background.

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