

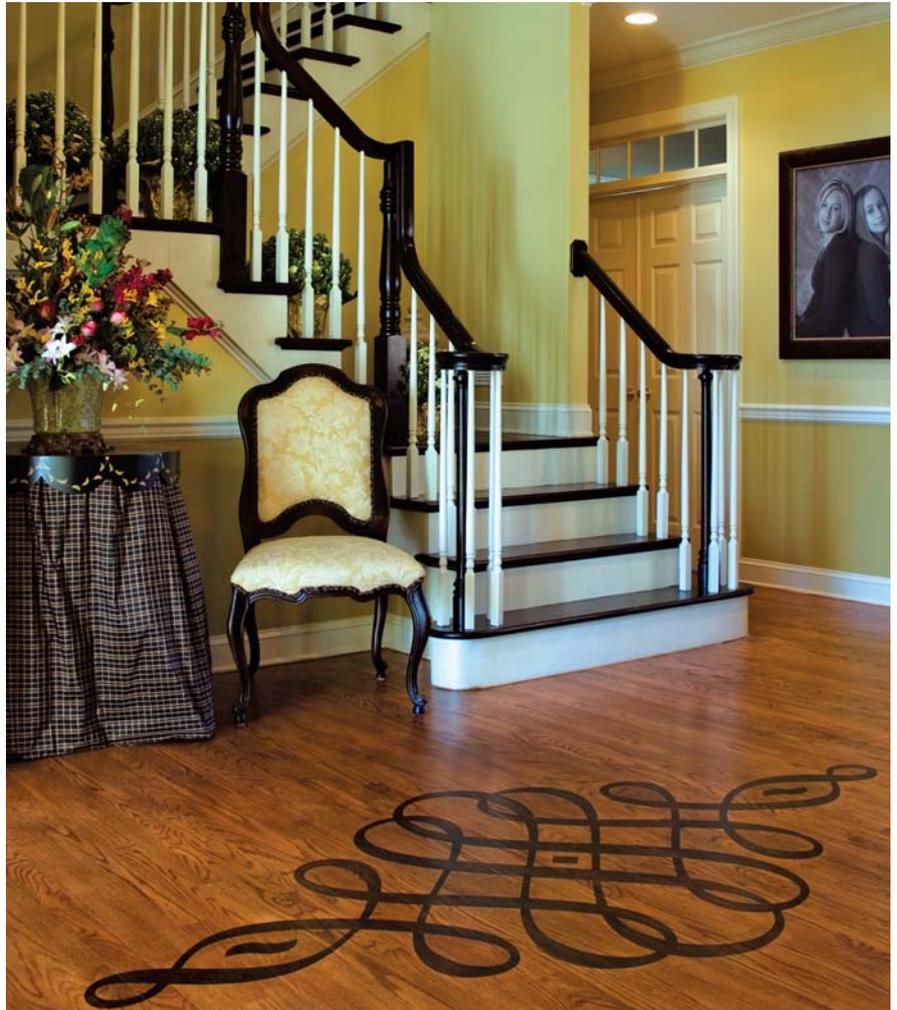
Into the Woods

Creating Faux Marquetry Patterns on Floors, Furniture and Ceilings

It is easy to enhance the warmth of wood with decoration using either stencils or Modello® decorative masking patterns. The trick is to use a water-based gel stain for wood, such as Stain and Seal™ from Faux Effects International Inc. This type of stain has a heavier consistency that reduces the risks of having the stain bleed under your pattern, it is fast-drying and comes in a broad range of colors.

While stencils are ideal for creating simple, graphic borders that simulate the look of inlaid wood patterns (such as in the photo at right), you will be limited to always applying darker stains colors for the design over a lighter basecoat.

Masking patterns provide additional decorative options in that they can be produced as large-scale, delicately detailed designs and they can be used “in reverse” to produce lighter-colored designs within a darker background.



This technique looks and works best on light-colored woods with minimal graining, such as maple, alder, poplar and tightly grained oak. It is best to apply the faux marquetry technique to unsealed wood so that you get some absorption into the wood. You can also “sandwich” the stain between topcoats, if necessary, but you will have to apply it in thin, multiple layers to get a good depth of color.



Faux Marquetry Floor Finish
Gary Lord of Prismatic Painting Studio created a highly ornate marquetry effect for his new oak showroom floor. An extra touch was the addition of gilded accents.

Inlaid Faux Marquetry Technique

Supplies

Stain and Seal™: Golden Oak,
Antique Cherry, Ebony
Aquaglaze™
Natural Bristle Brushes
Cheesecloth
FX Thinner™
Modello® Decorative Masking
Pattern: OrnCen158

Note: Stain and Seal dries very quickly. To increase the “open time” and make the stain more translucent, I like to add from 10 to 30 percent Aquaglaze to the stain. The amount of glaze you add will depend on the amount of open time and translucency you desire.

Surface Preparation

Your wood surface should be sanded down and wiped clean. In some cases, to ensure a more even application of stain over a large area, you may want to condition your wood by applying a coat of Sanding Sealer or FX Thinner™.

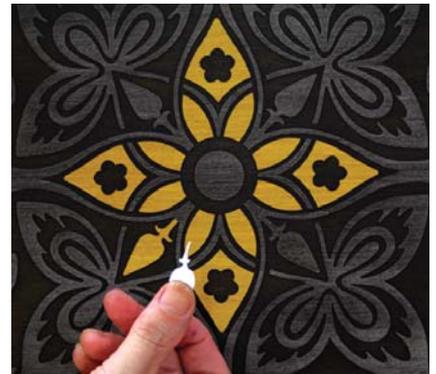
Apply one coat of Golden Oak Stain and Seal that has been mixed with 20 percent Aquaglaze. When dry, lightly sand and wipe clean. Ap-

ply a “negative weed” Modello pattern. For this inlay technique, you will want to use a fairly graphic design that has the negative space around the design area removed, leaving the design itself as the mask. Burnish the Modello pattern well, so that it is stuck securely to the background.



STEP 1

Add 10 percent Aquaglaze to Ebony Stain and Seal. Brush on and remove the excess glaze as you work with cheesecloth. Always work in the direction of the grain. Allow to dry thoroughly and apply a second coat of Ebony stain if more opacity of color is desired.



STEP 2

After the Ebony stain has dried, remove the masking material from those areas of the pattern that you wish to be colored in the medium value, Antique Cherry.



STEP 3

Add 20 percent Aquaglaze to Antique Cherry Stain and Seal. Brush



Oak Door Reinvented

Cabinetry and furniture projects are another great opportunity to introduce a faux marquetry effect.



Coffered Ceiling Tiles

Wooden, coffered ceilings are ideal for doing decorative tile treatments on wood. The beams can be coordinated with similar or contrasting colors and designs.



Grand Entrance Floor Finish

This gorgeous wood floor finish was created by Joan Kingsbury of Canton, Mass., for an elegant and stately home.

this over the entire surface and wipe off excess as you go with cheesecloth. The Antique Cherry color will bite in and deeply color the exposed areas of Golden Oak will nicely toning and warming up the Ebony background.



STEP 4

Add 30 percent Aquaglaze to Rich Brown Stain and Seal and use this to tone the entire surface and “marry” the three contrasting colors together.

The technique is deceptively simple. The finished look, shown at right, is intricate and elegant. It can be done simply with two colors, but using three colors in the order of light, dark and medium value creates the most dramatic result.

You can apply this same technique to a variety of wood surfaces with equal success. See the other project photos that accompany this article for an idea of the types of results that can be achieved. TFF



Melanie Royals is the creative force behind Royal Design Studio, an industry leader in the art of stenciling. Melanie continues to pursue the advancement of stenciling with the decorative painting industry by offering sophistication, inspiration and education to decorative paint professionals. For more information, call (800) 747-9767, or visit online at www.royaldesignstudio.com.

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