

“Dirty Pour” instructions

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This technique works best on a sloped surface that does not curve in on itself. I use it for lids of bowls or boxes, but try it on anything you like.

Prep the wood surface with Zinsser Bin Primer sanded to 320. You will need something to help you to hold the piece...I hot glue a small piece of wood to the back of the piece temporarily.

Use any water-based acrylic paint.

Thin the paint with 25-50% Flotrol (used by painters to level out brush strokes). Available anywhere paint is sold.

In colors other than black and white add a few drops of liquid silicone per 2 oz of paint. You can add some to black and white too but not the paint you will use as a base coat. I get the liquid silicone by spraying a silicone spray into a paper cup then pouring it into a small bottle that can be capped.

Work over waxed paper or something that you can throw away.

Coat the piece you are pouring on with paint that has no silicone in it (I use black or white but you can use any color you like with no silicone added)). This coat is to let the layered colors flow.

Layer colors into a small cup. The color that goes in last will be the one that flows on the top.

While the paint you flowed onto the primed surface is still very wet, turn the wood piece over on top of the cup of colors then flip it back, set it down on something that will raise it off the surface (I use a tall plastic cup) and lift the cup of paint off. If the paint isn't flowing the direction you want, tip it but don't touch the paint with anything. As the paint drips off the edge, keep wiping the drips off...I use a stir stick.

You can use a heat gun or a torch to warm the surface gently which will encourage the bubbles created by the silicone to bubble up through the paint bringing other colors to the surface. The surface will keep changing until it is dry. Drying will take at least several hours depending on how much thickness there is. Let it dry totally undisturbed.

Once the surface is totally dry, I use a vacuum chuck or Cole jaws to make sure the reverse side is clean and then paint it or put a finish on the wood.

You can spray thin coats of clear lacquer over the paint surface after it is totally dry.

If you have questions, send me a note at sallyault@cox.net

