

Breakthrough

"The Magazine Devoted To The Serious Wildlife Artist"



ONCE UPON A TIME I HAD THE NOTION THAT IT would actually be simple and easy to use a real paint job on a rock for a chick. How difficult could it be to fill a couple of hours through a rock for some leg work? My bright idea turned in four hours' work. \$6.00-\$8.00 (just to make one hole-in-the-head). A hole here, the solution is in that (1/2) inch hole in a real rock for very long. You can imagine how I quickly discovered the demand for using artificial rocks.

Artificial rocks solve all problems you may have with attachment, filling, gluing, etc., and engineering. Whether you are creating a few several pictures or the Calico mountains, the real key to success depends on your abilities in applying surface texture and painting techniques. Have you ever seen an artificial rock that was so good that you had to touch it to determine whether or not it was real? Well, never over Disney World because most good techniques for painting rocks are quite simple and as easy as your own imagination!

It helps if you have some reference to know what you want the rock to look like. As you don't have to be a geologist to paint some great looking rocks, I will feel depressed if a child because I never had over one of those silly rock painting painting kits!

Some rocks can be made out of simple household junk. Rick Karter

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of Louisiana has provided several hours of serious color in which he makes rocks out of things he received as a dumpster diver. When you draw apply composition have rocks that are considered to fit special scenes and poses. Some of them are completely finished, while others have to be returned or painted. You can even create a finished rock when we call your own needs.

Project 1: Coloring Art.Rocks

One of the hottest and most simple to use products comes from the Hills in Art. Rocks. Art.Rocks comes in several sizes ranging from 1/2 inch and small to 1 inch pebbles, and 3-inch rocks. Some color of Rock to

ten birds include their Riverbed Rock, Bass and Sedimentary Rocks.

I recently had a lot of Fun painting some Art Rocks at a seminar I did at the NTA convention in Louisville, Kentucky 2010/2011/12 publisher Larry Hinton had worked some of the seminar and asked me to use the same painting techniques with his subscribers.

In this article, I am relating with a few pounds of small rocks using 16 ounce wood caps. Much larger quantities and sizes of rocks could be done in the same manner except for having to use larger caps. This is a very simple procedure so there are many possible changes that would yield similar results. The rock definitely provides the answer.



● The rocks being used are the Snake River gravel, small Gann River, large Gann River, large riverbed, and small riverbed wall base.



● Place 1 or 2 ounces of acetone into several 16-ounce caps. Waiting—place on a flat surface then using acetone. (Do not overfill as too much evaporates)



● I will create a 16oz "mix," then color the rocks by submerging them. The 6 colors I am using are Polyterracapac Incapsa (FF 142) Tial Yellow (FF 320) Redox Blue (FF 52) Dark Blue Green (FF 204) Green, and FF 301 Chocolate Brown. Place 1 ounce of each of these colors into the

cap of acetone. Pour only about 10 drops of FF 301 Subtle River in a cap. ● For each color used the rocks are thoroughly rinsed.



● Punch several holes into the bottom of a 16-ounce cap. This will be used as a strainer to hold the rocks. Pour the mixture about halfway full of the Snake River gravel.



● Invert the gravel mixture into the 16-ounce caps. The Art Rocks float as you may need to stir them around a while.



● Gently lift the acetone from the mix and allow it to drip for a few moments. Doing the mixture good mix gives a cardboard box.



● Continue rinsing the rocks with each color and dipping them into the same pile on the cardboard box.

● Thoroughly mix all of the colored rocks together and place them in a container you can either keep them in or easily pour them from. I used a large popcorn bucket.



● Pour half of the colored rocks into another bucket and begin mixing. The other half of the rocks colored rocks a second time.



● Repeat the entire mixing process using every color and the second half batch of rocks are all treated, then dumped into together.

● Mix both batches of rocks together again into one bucket. You will now have 252 various colors of rocks that all match and blend.



● Repeat the exact same process as before with the small Great River rocks.



● The large Great River rocks were mixed one at a time because they were almost too large for the cups.



● The same process was used to mix several large Great River rocks.



● When done the different sizes and colors of rocks are mixed together in rocks a very generous and well-mixed amount. The rocks process can be done in less than 30 minutes.

Project 2: Making and Coloring a Rock FROM SCRATCH

This next project is a quick, simple and easy way to make your own rocks. This method is often used to make a wide range of items. It works for making small rocks as well as large boulders.



1 The next project demonstrates a simple staining process used on the top surface of table tops. Begin by brushing a liberal coat of sealer all over the base.



2 I used the stains I already had around. The Chameleon Brown, Mar Sol, Dark Blue-Green, and Sulphur Blue Aero gives me the best results. Turn the stains on in a diagonal direction, and then come back and add additional colors to the large rocks or anywhere you like.



3 The large rounded wall base was painted using the same method. Mix up the colors and create your own effects. If a color dries out on the job, it is easy to wash it back off with acetone and try another.



4 You will need some two-part urethane base, powdered tempera paint and a piece of plywood. Begin by placing the plywood on a piece of cellophane plastic or possibly a vinyl surface to keep the paint from sticking to the table. The wood inside the rock will give some stability and a way to run screws or wires into your rock.



5 Pour equal amounts of urethane base into two cups. A herb goes a long way.



6 Pour any color (I chose the use of powdered tempera paint into just 4 of the urethane and mix thoroughly. I like to color the base because if the rock is ever chipped it is easier to repair and will run there a little.



7 Pour the two urethane components together and mix. Be sure to



■ Repeat the same technique using white paint until the rock has a grainy effect. The rock could now be painted with light grey paint and then with green paint to make it look old and aged with moss.

This entire process could have been done to any color or any size rock. Use your imagination and don't be afraid to experiment with new ideas. ■

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