

## GRAINING SUGGESTIONS

Tools used:

Turkey feather - strong wing feather. Soak in vinegar to remove oil

Putty (Too soft? Knead in rottenstone or pumice) blot off excess that forms as you work, with a towel.

“Walk” it around to form a “shell” or a “fan.”

Cardboard - cut irregularly

Old brushes - cut irregularly

Shingle - notch irregularly

Corn cob (cow corn cob) - vacuum off lint before using

Sponge

Metal graining combs

Rubber graining tools

## GRAINING WITH ACRYLICS

Jo Sonja™ are the paints I have grained with, and so can give you a formula which was successful for me. You will need the pigments plus three of the mediums and they are: sealer, kleister and retarder.

First mix the mediums together: 1 part sealer to 2 parts kleister to 3-4 parts retarder. Now add the pigment. It should measure 1 + 1/2 the amount of the combined mediums. Apply to the floor, or floorcloth, one side at a time (which you will isolate using 3M™ automotive tape – burnish the edge well and remove while the paint is still wet). Apply with a large brush and “mottle” it with a large, barely damp, sponge. Apply your graining tool to create the desired effect. While still wet, you can soften the effect of the grain using a large, VERY soft brush which is passed back and forth on the diagonal barely “kissing” the grain. Work opposite sides to allow drying time before taping over grain. A hair drier can aid you in this.

I credit Linda Lefko with giving me this formula. She says it will work over oil as well as acrylic.

## GRAINING WITH OIL GLAZES

Several major companies put out glaze coats. Oil glazes give a lovely transparent look which has yet to be achieved with acrylics. This will work over latex or oil base coats. If you try this, follow their guidance.

## VINEGAR GRAINING WITH POWDERS (OLD TIME METHOD)

This is the historic method, but modern substitutes create the appearance with a greater likelihood of success. This works on a latex or oil base background. Sand the background very smoothly (oil base backgrounds especially), and wipe back with vinegar before attempting to grain.

Supplies:

Graining powders

White vinegar

Karo™ corn syrup } or stale beer

Formula:

1 cup dry graining powders }

2 cups white vinegar (scant) } This makes about 1 pint

1 Tablespoon Karo™ corn syrup }

Mix at least 3 hours before using. This lasts well – up to three years, if tightly covered.

Wipe on with a brush sparingly but to cover. Allow a moment to “dull,” and then apply graining tool. If “crawling” or beading, wipe off with vinegar, dry and try again.

## REFERENCE BOOKS

The Art of Wood Graining, Stuart Spence, Macdonald Orbis, London, 1989

Graining Ancient and Modern, William E. Wall, revised by F.N. Vanderwalker, Drake Publishers, Inc. NY. 1972 . Out of print (has been reprinted)

Parry's Graining and Marbling, Brian Rhodes and John Windsor, Collins, London 1987

Professional Painted Finishes, Ina Allen and Robert Marx, Watson Guptill, NY. 1991



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