

Antique mirror tabletop

Take any old mirror for this craft project and turn it into an antique-style tabletop for your bedroom or dining area. This project uses a rust activator to achieve a vintage look...

Project by Almie Louis, photography by Meyer and Rene Photography

MATERIALS

- An old framed mirror
- Set of table legs (I used the legs of an old butler's tray)
- Water and soap
- Rust activator (such as Rust It)
- Enamel paint

EQUIPMENT

- Protective gloves
- Paint stripper
- Paintbrush
- Plastic scraper
- Small glass bowl
- Sponge brush

♥ **STEP TWO** Decant some rust activator into a glass bowl, then apply a very thin, even layer with a sponge brush to the rear surface of the mirror. As a mirror tends to age from the edges inwards, replicate this by starting from the edges. The rust activator works in a matter of seconds and you need to be quick to rinse it off, thus neutralising the reaction. I find it easiest to have a bucket of water and a sponge close at hand. Leave to dry.

♥ **STEP THREE** Now paint must be reapplied to the back of the mirror. The colour you choose will be visible through the gaps created by the rust activator. I used black and gold enamel paint. Apply the enamel to the entire rear surface and leave it to dry.

TOP TIP

Ensure that your working area is well ventilated and that you wear protective gloves when working with chemicals.

♥ **STEP ONE** Carefully remove the mirror from its frame as you will still need the frame later. Place the frame, face down, on a flat surface that is covered with newspaper. Apply paint stripper generously to the back of the mirror and leave it for a few hours, or until the paint can easily be removed with a plastic scraper. It is not necessary to remove all the paint. When the paint has been stripped, wash the mirror with water and soap and leave to dry.



♥ **STEP FOUR** Insert the mirror back into the frame and secure it. Paint the frame if necessary and position the 'antique' mirror on the legs to become a table top.



This project is taken from *From Drab to Fab* by Almie Louis, published by Struik Lifestyle RRP £10.99