



Dinner set uplift



This project uses napkin decoupage instead of paper, giving you a flexible medium that can be applied to all sorts of surfaces. Soon you'll be tempted to customise almost every item in your kitchen cupboard...

Project and photography by Almie Louis from Grand Recycler (grandrecycler.com)

MATERIALS

- Paper napkins with printed pictures
- A plain dinner set
- Water-based sealant (such as PVA glue or ModPodge)
- Food varnish

EQUIPMENT

- A small pair of sharp scissors or a craft knife
- Cutting mat
- Paintbrushes or sponge brushes
- Damp sponge (optional)

- ♥ **STEP ONE** Make sure that the surface of the dinner set is clean, smooth and dry.
- ♥ **STEP TWO** Remove the napkin layers from each other until you have one thin layer left with the pattern on it.
- ♥ **STEP THREE** Cut around the edge of the image on the napkin with scissors. For intricate patterns, you may prefer to use a craft knife and cutting mat.

- ♥ **STEP FOUR** Decide how you want to arrange the images on the dinner set. Pictures can be in any design and can overlap each other.
- ♥ **STEP FIVE** When you are satisfied with your layout, paint some sealant on the reverse side of your picture. Place it in position, then press down gently and rub over it with your fingers (be careful, as the napkin can tear easily) to smooth away any air bubbles and excess sealant. Repeat this process with each image.

- ♥ **STEP SIX** Allow the pictures to dry overnight.
- ♥ **STEP SEVEN** The beauty of napkin decoupage is that if you do not like your design or layout, you can always re-do it before applying the final layer of varnish. To do this, just soak off the water-based sealant and image by submerging the object in water. Make sure the object's surface is properly dry before you start again.

- ♥ **STEP EIGHT** When you are satisfied with your object, apply the final layer of food varnish over the picture. This serves to protect your decorative work from heat and water damage.

TOP TIP
This is a great way to add a little flourish to an otherwise plain set of china. Simple, understated designs can often be more effective here – try just experimenting with a new emblem to begin with. You can always add more later!

