



## *Silver Tray, Ready for Serving Drinks*

*The silver tray is well worth the amount of work put into it. There are three different techniques you need for completing this project, the first one being gilding, followed by decoupage and varnish. The tray is a wonderful object that you can use or even give away as a special gift.*

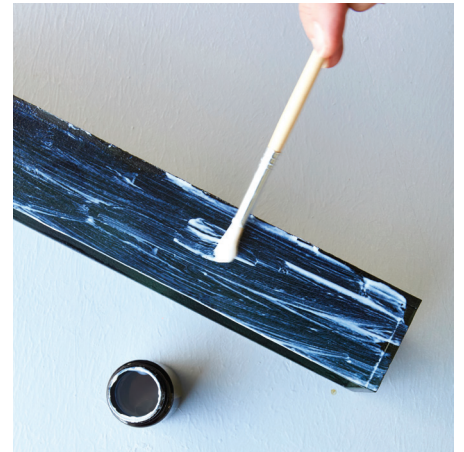


## *You will need the following items for gilding:*

- Wooden tray to gild
- Sponge brushes
- Universal undercoat
- Black acrylic paint for top coat
- Sheets of silver leaf
- Water-based size (glue for gilding)
- Cotton gloves
- A pair of scissors
- Good quality artist's paintbrushes
- Small piece of velvet fabric
- Modge podge

## *How to gild your tray:*

1. Make sure that the wooden tray is clean. Apply universal undercoat using a sponge brush. Allow the universal undercoat to dry before applying the black paint.
2. Ensure that the black paint is completely dry before attempting the next step. Apply the water-based size using a sponge brush. Stroke it on evenly and thinly across the inside and border of the tray.
3. Allow the water-based size to dry, (refer to the manufacturer's instructions on the container). Do not touch the size as this will leave marks. The best way to check if the size is dry is to use the hair on the back of your hand, if you feel a slight pull, it is dry.
4. Make sure your work space is draught free and that you wear cotton gloves. Do not attempt the next step without either of the above – as silver leaf is very delicate to work with.
5. Gently pick up a sheet of silver leaf along the tissue border. Lay the silver leaf foil against the surface of the water-based size. Very gently and slowly stroke your fingers over the back of the tissue. Remember it is extremely fragile. Repeat this process until the entire water-based-size area is covered. Cut smaller pieces of silver leaf for smaller areas or to fill any gaps.
6. Should you notice and creases, use a paint brush to gently brush them away.
7. To achieve a bright surface, dab your foil-covered tray lightly with a small piece of velvet fabric.
8. Seal the gilt with a layer of podge before you start with the decoupage.
9. See the step-by-step instructions for general gilding.



***You will need the following items for decoupage and gloss varnishing:***

- Images you would like to use
- Clean cloth
- Water-based sealant (modge podge)
- Small pair of sharp scissors
- Paintbrushes or sponge brushes
- Liquid glass varnish

***How to decoupage and varnish your tray:***

1. Buff your newly gilded tray with a clean, soft, dry cloth to make sure that the surface is clean, smooth and dry.
2. Before you cut out your image(s), coat them with sealant and leave to dry.
3. Once dry, cut around the edge of the image with a pair of sharp scissors.
4. Arrange your image(s) on the tray to your liking.
5. When you are satisfied with your layout, paint some sealant on the reverse side of the image. Place the image in position, press down gently and rub over it with your fingers to smooth away any air bubbles and excess glue.
6. If you are completely happy with your layout, apply another layer of podge and allow to dry. This serves to protect the surface.
7. Prepare the liquid glass varnish according to the manufacturer's instructions and spread the mixture onto the inside of the tray. Leave it to dry on a level shelf in a dust-free cupboard for about 48 hours.



*Enjoy serving your guests with this masterpiece!  
Don't be surprised when they comment on its beauty.*