

Marbling on Wood

By Margaret Young

Materials

Alum - Jacksons, a Chemist, good garden centres or Ramprie Laboratories in Welshpool.

Ox Gall - Jacksons or artist's supplies

Methyl Cellulose - Jacksons for 100 gram packs or Ramprie Laboratories for bulk supplies.

Alum Mixture - Mix 1 dessert spoon Alum in 1 cup hot water.

Methyl Cellulose Mixture - Using wire whisk, mix 1 rounded dessert spoon Methyl Cellulose with 1 litre warm water. Leave stand overnight. I mix in an icecream container.

Tray or dish for marbling - In size just a bit bigger than the article to be marbled. Must be clean.

Strips of heavy paper or cardboard - to fit marbling dish to be drawn across surface to clear solution for new colours.

Paints - I use small bottles of acrylic from craft section of WA Salvage.

Artists Palette - from WA Salvage, Spotlight (they are the cheapest ~ \$1)

Course combs, forks, knitting needles, satay sticks and the like to swirl into patterns.

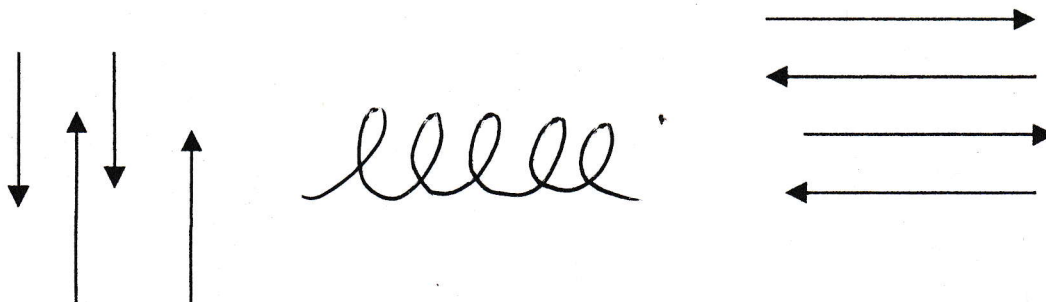
Methods

Turn back of bowl. Reverse but only turn area to be marbled. Sand that area, dampen, dry, then lightly sand to remove raised grain. Sponge the area with Alum mixture and leave to dry.

Get paints ready. Put small amounts of chosen colours in palette. Put one to two drops of water in any that appear to be thick. Put one drop of Ox Gall in each colour and mix with a clean stirrer for each colour. I use broken satay sticks.

Get tray ready. Stir Methyl Cellulose mixture and pour approximately 35 - 40mm depth in tray.

Drop paints on mix. One colour at a time, drop just lightly from the end of a satay stick onto the mix. Wait a moment for it to start spreading. If a particular colour just goes straight to the bottom and doesn't spread at all, put another drop of Ox Gall in that colour and try again. When all your colours are on, take your comb, satay stick or what ever and manipulate gently into a pattern such as:



Dip the article. Make sure you have something to hold the article while you dip. If it has a foot that's fine, otherwise you need to hold it in a chuck, or as I do, hot melt glued to a wooden carrier on a faceplate. Dip at a slight angle otherwise an air bubble may cause a bald spot where it's not wanted. Dip in then out, don't move along the colour.

Rinse. Using a soft spray of water - a watering can is OK if you want rinse until all the goop has gone and only the colour remains. Leave till next day to dry, then finish turning.

I do the marbling in the laundry and use the tap over the trough just running gently.

HAPPY MARBLING!