

create original art for your home!

canvas décor

project sheet



Project Idea: Décor Minis

Follow the instructions in the project sheet to create the design shown here, or let your imagination be your guide. You can use the suggested colors and shapes, or choose your own. Remember, it's your choice, so have fun with it.

Project Materials

Stretched Canvas _____

Nine square canvases, 4" x 4"

Suggested Acrylic Colors _____

Small tubes of these colors:

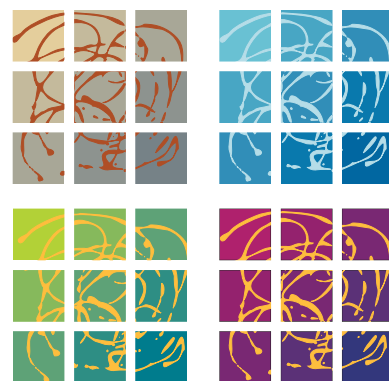
- Cadmium Yellow Medium
- Cadmium Red
- Titanium White
- Burnt Sienna

Other Supplies _____

- 1" Brush
- Art Alternatives Disposable Paper Palette Pad, or other mixing surface or cup
- Palette/mixing knife
- Squirt bottle (2 oz. or more)



To create your own color scheme, choose mixing colors of your own. You'll probably need two foundation colors, an accent color and white to create a variety of tints.



Important Note: Not all colors are created equal, therefore mixing results may vary. Some pigments are better for mixing than others. Test mix small amounts before applying to all the canvases. If you don't like the results, you can always start again by simply painting over the dried color.

Project Difficulty Level:
EASY

canvas décor project: Décor Minis



PROJECT TIME: Approximately 1-1/2 hours (plus drying time)

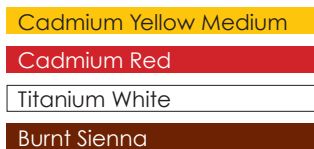
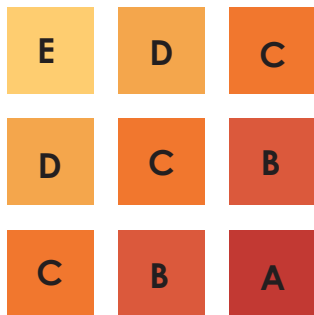
Part 1: Foundation Colors

The goal is to create a blend of color from the upper left to lower right canvas. Mixing color is fun! The formulas will get you started. Modify them to achieve precisely the colors you want.

Mixing Tips: Count out “parts” of color by dispensing dabs that are equal in size. Mix colors in the order suggested. Cadmium Red is a strong color – add it incrementally and adjust the formula as you go. Work the palette knife back and forth over the mixing surface, folding color into itself.

Application: Apply color to the canvas using your brush, or directly with the palette knife by spreading on the color, just as you would frost a cake. Start with the sides, and finish with the front. Don't worry about making the color completely smooth. Some texture will add character to your art.

Wash the brush or knife thoroughly with water between each color application. Never allow color to dry on the brush.



After painting each canvas, set it aside on a sheet of palette paper and allow the paint to dry completely.

Color mixing formulas:

- A.** 3 parts cadmium red
1 part burnt sienna
The result is deep red.
Paint one canvas.
- B.** 5 parts cadmium yellow
3 parts cadmium red
1/2 part white
1/2 part burnt sienna
The result is deep orange.
Paint two canvases.
- C.** 5 parts cadmium yellow
1 part cadmium red
1 part white
1/2 part burnt sienna
The result is medium orange.
Paint three canvases.
- D.** 3 parts cadmium yellow
2 parts white
1/2 part cadmium red
The result is pale tangerine.
Paint two canvases.
- E.** 3 parts cadmium yellow
5 parts white
1/2 part cadmium red
The result is pale yellow-orange.
Paint one canvas.

Part 2: Accent Design

The goal is to create a visually interesting accent design by squirting thin lines of color from a bottle onto the canvases in an unstructured, random pattern.



1. Lay out the dry canvases, edges touching, as shown.
2. Mix accent color in a squirt bottle: 7 parts white, 1 part cadmium yellow and 1 part burnt sienna. The result is off-white.
3. Add water (and optional gloss medium) until the mixture is thin enough to squirt out in a controlled line. Test it on a piece of paper first. (You'll need about 2 ounces of color.)
4. Squirt color on the canvases in a loose, overlapping circle motion, to create a pleasing pattern.
5. Separate canvases and let dry before hanging.

Accent Design Alternatives

Instead of circles, try applying the accent color in zig-zags, criss-crosses, diagonals or any pattern you like. Or, try these other techniques:

Sgraffito: Mix accent color on a palette – don't add water. Apply the color thickly with the brush in interesting shapes. Then, scrape away lines in the wet color with your palette knife to create texture and motion, revealing the foundation color below.

Splatter: Use a splatter brush or stick to fling and splatter accent color onto the canvases.

Alternative Arrangements

Try any of these other arrangements for displaying your décor minis.



Finally, hang your completed artwork. Arrange them as shown or in another pleasing configuration. Nice work!

We'd love to see your completed masterpieces! Send us a photo on our Facebook page, where you can also view inspiration from other artists. Visit www.Art-Alternatives.com for other project ideas.