
Painted Wooden Centerpiece with Courtney Cerruti

Chapter 1 - Painted Wooden Centerpiece

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- Hi, I'm Courtney from Creativebug. And I'm going to show you a few different ways to transform wooden surfaces with a little bit of metallic gold and some neon, and we'll use craft paint and spray paint. These painted wooden rounds will work for a tablescape and I'll show you how to create that, but they'll also work anywhere else in your home to create a little vignette. To make this project you're going to need a little variety of materials. First, our wooden rounds. You can select these larger ones that have still the bark raw edge, or you can do the craft wood in different sizes and shapes, it's unfinished, sometimes it has a beveled edge or a decorative shape to it. All of that will work, I'm going to show you how to bring all of that together. You'll need some scrap paper and stencils. You can find a variety of different geometric stencils in the craft store. Then we're gonna have a field day with our spray paint. You definitely will need some repositionable adhesive spray mount, that we'll use with our stencils. I'm gonna show you a few different techniques using chalk paint, a metallic paint, I'm using gold, and then just a bright colorful paint, this one is a robin's egg blue. I'll show you how to pair some votives with it and add a decorative bit of color with washi tape. If you don't know what washi tape is, I'm gonna school you on it, it's my favorite. You'll need some rubber gloves, brushes, I'll show you how to add some accents with some craft paint and this actually just coordinates with the spray paint colors we've chose. So I've got a neon coral and a couple of blues. And then I'll show you a final variation with chalk and a chalk pen and even these little mini wooden rounds. We'll start by adding our craft paint to this really natural wooden round first, and then we'll add spray paint on top of that, because spray paint pretty much covers anything. I'm using a light coral craft paint here. I've just placed it in a dish so I can work with it. And we're gonna do a color block effect on this piece of wood. So the first use for washi tape is like painter's tape, and this is gonna be kind of a common and familiar thing to use. I'm just gonna lay it out onto the wooden surface. And because we're not using spray paint I don't have to worry about this side, this is the side I don't want painted. This is the side I'm gonna paint with the craft paint and I have control of my brush. So this is just so that we can get a nice clean line here. And washi tape is removable, that's why we're using it. You could use painter's tape if that's what you have. You can use a small brush for this edge and for any detail and then you can switch to a larger brush to paint out this mass here. You'll see that the wood is going to absorb the paint pretty quickly. And I'll switch to a bigger brush for the center. Acrylic will dry just slightly darker. But I like that it's still somewhat transparent, so you still see that edge from the wood. Can immediately remove the washi tape, and you can see what a nice, clean edge that leaves. This works like painter's tape, that's just the first use for washi tape. We're gonna lay down a stencil next and do some spray paint on top. And I have everything sort of prepped so that I can do all my spray paint at once. You want to be working outside or in a well ventilated area. I'm just working in my studio with the window open. The first thing we're gonna do is spray paint the back of our stencil with the spray mount, and it's repositionable so it's not gonna leave a sticky residue on our wood. Give it a little shake. And just a quick, light coating will work. We're gonna place this down, and you can select wherever you want this pattern to fall. You may want the entire thing, in which case I would do something more like this. I may just want to do a portion of this. I think I'm just going to kind of do it at an angle here. Make sure it's making good contact with your wood, and then we need to figure out what to do with

this portion that's exposed, the spray paint will get it if we don't cover it up. And that's where your scratch paper and more washi tape comes in handy. So we'll just add our scratch paper here, and then tape that in place. So we've got everything covered that we don't want painted, and then we've got this open, and you can see it's overlapping our coral area and our raw wood. Give your can a shake and then you're going to lightly cover. I'm just using this brilliant gold, which I really love. Just do enough passes until you have nice, even coverage. With your gloves you're going to remove the stencil. You can wait till this dries, you can do it while it's wet, it doesn't matter. What you do want to be careful of, is that the paint on top of the stencil is gonna be kind of slick and slippery because your stencil's plastic. If you stick your gloves into that then you can get sticky kind of gold fingerprints all over. You can take your gloves off or you can wait till this dries, it's totally up to you. Just be mindful that there is wet paint on the stencil. But you can see that it's absorbed into the wood, it makes this really striking design. And this guy is pretty much good to go. You can let it sit for just a couple minutes but we're gonna move on to other spray paints. Same process for our next one, we're gonna coat this with some repositionable glue. Just a light coat. And this is actually a wood grain stencil, which I think is pretty funny on a wood surface. This stencil covers the entire wooden surface so I don't need to block anything off with scrap paper just to protect it, we're going to paint this whole thing. This time I'm using a light blue color. Just until covered. And I'm gonna peel that away. And you can see I have this really cool kind of faux bois print right on the top of my wooden round. Little bit tongue in cheek but I like that. Last while we have all of our spray paint out we're gonna do chalkboard paint on our little wooden rounds. These are going to become place cards later. You can use chalkboard paint in the same way that we've used all the other spray paint. So if you think you want to chalk something up for maybe some signage on your table, for a dessert table or for Thanksgiving or something, you can do this as well. This is just another technique to add to your repertoire. Spread these out a little bit, we're not using any stencils here so no need for the spray glue. Give this a shake and try to spray this as straight up and down as you can. You don't want to spray from the side. Now that these are dry, I'm going to remove the birch on the outside so I get a really clean edge. And if you weren't working with birch, you can also just use washi tape on the edge here before you spray paint and that will also give you a clean edge. These little wooden rounds with the chalkboard top are now going to be our place settings. So you could write someone's name here, or just their initials, and that's where the chalk pen comes in handy because you can get really fine detail. It's just like a paint pen so you want to make sure that the paint is flowing. For the slightly larger disks you can write a name. You can go over it more than once. If you don't have room for a name on your wooden round you can also just do initials, which is sweet too. My favorite way to use washi tape is actually decoratively. So washi tape is a low tack decorative tape, it's slightly transparent, it comes in a million colors and patterns, and you can use it on almost anything, and it's removable. So windows, glass, floors, walls, and it all comes off without leaving any residue. We're gonna use it on votives to just add some color and a little bit of pattern, and then we can remove it for our next event, and that's totally fine and easy to do. You can tear this tape or cut it, and you can place it anywhere on the votive, and it's removable, so if you don't like the placement, you can peel it up, it doesn't leave any residue and you can stick it again. You can go for perfect stripes or I actually like to layer it and make it at an angle, so that way nothing has to be perfect. And I'm adding in little bits of that coral color like we used on our wooden rounds. Maybe add one small piece on the other side as well. And you can probably guess how addictive the washi tape can be now that you know you can put it on every and anything, which is what I recommend. Now we're gonna take all of our elements and build a really pretty tablescape. I'm gonna start with

my favorite piece in the center, which is the one that we made that has that really bold color blocking with the stencil on top, and then I'm going to start to layer in some other pieces I've already painted there already using all the techniques that we've talked about. I made this round, and you can layer these. You want to think about if they're gonna be at an angle, or just on top of one another. This one's really thin so I feel okay layering this. We can give this one a little bit of space. Here's another wooden round, this one I actually painted with the chalkboard paint. You can see I started, there's a little bit of a pattern here. I started painting with the gold and I didn't like the way it looked, I thought I had too much of this gold so I just did chalkboard paint on top, which gives this really cool effect. And you can use this to say thank you, or welcome, let's do welcome. I always like that for a dinner party. Once you have your wooden rounds in place this is the easy part, you're just going to layer in your votives and any other elements that you might want. Could be some greenery, some really cool branches, maybe you have little party favors you want to add. And I like to place some of the votives on the wooden rounds, some on the table, you may want to cluster a couple of votives together. All we need are plates. This is just to give you an idea. Of course, this is so flexible, and you can really do a lot of different things with it. And then we can add our little place markers. You can put them on the table themselves or just at the top of the plates before you serve your food. You can make any dinner special just by creating these elements and you can always have fine white china or some kind of standard dishware that then you can create a whole look and feel with just by adding washi tape to some votives and painting these wooden rounds in various ways. Especially the chalkboard because you can wipe away your message and create something new. You can always spray paint on top of these. So really there are endless possibilities for creativity. If you're not one for throwing dinner parties that's totally fine too, you can take all of these elements and just create a special space in your home for something like a scented candle, or your favorite piece of artwork.