



GENERAL OIL GILDING PROCEDURE

The following are steps to the preparation of a fiberglass ceiling for gilding. We assume the ceiling in question is fiberglass.

A. Clear the fiberglass surface with a solution of ammonia and water to remove dust and oil. An approximate ratio of 1/3 to 2/3 water is suitable. If the surface is extremely smooth and like glass, it should be abraded lightly with sand paper. The dust from this sanding should be cleaned away with the same ammonia and water solution. Allow surface to dry very well before proceeding with the next step.

B. Apply a primer base paint to the clean fiberglass surface. An oil based paint is recommended for a base to the oil size. If silver leaf is used, tint the primer a medium color grey color. If a 22Kt gold leaf is used, tint the primer a yellow ocher or raw sienna color. Allow primer to dry properly before the next step.

C. Apply Quick or Slow oil size to the primer base color. The oil size can be thinned (if necessary) up to 10% with GUM TURPENTINE. The oil size can be sprayed or brushed. This step requires a considerable amount of expertise and sensitivity. The coating must be consistent and even without any drips. It must be a fine mist. Use very sparingly. The quality of this layer is visible in the final out come of the gilded surface.

D. Apply gold or silver leaf to the sized surface ONLY when it has arrived at "PROPER TACK". When testing for tack, make sure the surface of the size is strong enough to make a squeaky sound when

rubbed with the back of the hand. The surface of the size should not be sticky nor should it leave the impression of finger prints when pressed. When the proper tack has been determined, it is time to lay all the leaf. Cover the entire surface with the leaf before dusting away the "Over lapping Excess" called skewings. Use a high quality squirrel mop when gilding with genuine gold leaf. Use a goat hair mop when dusting imitation or aluminum leaf.

The quality of the tool used to dust the skewings and buff the leaf into the surface of the size is the last material to touch the finished leafed surface. Whether it is softly buffed or aggressively scratched, this texture remains on the leaf and will show through the clear coating which follows as the last step in the process.

Clear coating is not required for genuine gold leaf unless the surface will be touched or cleaned or possibly scratched. Samples of all materials should be prepared and tested prior to application on the final surface.

This instruction sheet has been put together according to the latest technical and research information available, but is not binding. You must make your own experiments with these products. In any case the rules of the craft of gilding have to be strictly observed when working with these materials. Personal advise does not establish a contract.

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