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Winter Magic Wall Shelf

Designed by Linda Morley



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Paint this whimsical winter lamp shelf to display throughout the winter season!

Supplies

- *The Artist's Club* Wall Lamp Shelf, No. 62469 (6-1/8" x 12" x 4-1/8")
- *DecoArt*
Americana Acrylic Paint: Avocado, Burnt Sienna, Burnt Umber, Canyon Orange, Cool White, Deep Midnight Blue, Fawn, French Grey Blue, Golden Straw, Jade Green, Lamp Black, Light Buttermilk, Napa Red, Oxblood, Soft Black, Tangerine
Acrylic Sealer/Finisher, Matte (spray)
Multi-Purpose Sealer
- *Chroma* Archival Oils: Burnt Umber
- *Loew-Cornell*
Maxine's oval mop 1/4" and 3/8" (Series 270)
Assorted Natural Hair & Synthetic 1/8" and 1/4" deerfoot stippler (Series 410)
- *Maureen McNaughton Arts* #4, #6, #8, #12, and #20 flat; #3 round; #5/0 short liner
- *Rust-Oleum* Varathane Diamond Wood Finish, Satin
- *Miscellaneous*: cotton swabs, double-ended stylus, fine sandpaper, newspaper, old toothbrush, paint palette, paint thinner, painter's tape, paper towels, pencil, plastic margarine lid, rubber gloves, stain applicator (cloth or rag), tracing paper, transfer paper (graphite and white), water basin

Preparation

Note: Follow all manufacturers' label instructions for proper product usage.

1. Sand the entire piece and wipe clean. Apply one coat of Multi-Purpose Sealer. Let dry. Sand again and wipe clean.

2. Use the #20 flat to basecoat the inside back, edges, and bottom with French Grey Blue. Let dry. Tape the front edges of each side and over the bottom edges to protect while basecoating the back and sides. Base the back of the piece, underneath the base, and the sides with Fawn. (Refer to photo.) When

finished, remove the tape. If paint has seeped under the tape onto the blue basecoat, remove it with a damp cotton swab. If it has dried, paint over it with French Grey Blue.

3. Trace the design. Position the snowman in the center of the piece. *Note:* Use the large snowflake as a guide. Use white transfer paper to trace the snowman, scarf, arms, star, and large snowflake. The tree and details will be added later. The falling snow will be freehanded using the pattern as a guide.

Painting

1. *Snowman.* Starting at the bottom of the body and use the 1/4" deerfoot stippler to stipple or pounce Deep Midnight Blue onto the snowman. When loading the brush pounce it on a clean, dry paper towel to remove any excess paint before moving to the project. Continue toward the top to create a snowman shape, avoiding the scarf area. Pounce over the arm areas where they attach to the body. Reload the brush as needed (Fig. 1).

Wipe off excess Deep Midnight Blue on a clean paper towel. Reload with Cool White and pounce off excess paint on a clean paper towel. *Note:* This next step can be done while the paint is still wet; this will add to the dimension of the color. Stipple the Cool White over the Deep Midnight Blue, allowing some of the dark background to show through (Fig. 2). Keep the white application on the left side heavier. This gives the snowman more dimension. Continue toward the top, making sure to keep some Deep Midnight Blue visible between the bottom and middle section, where the arms will attach to the body, and under the scarf area for

shading and separation. Let dry. Use Cool White to stipple over the same areas, applying more heavily to the left side. Use the 1/8" deerfoot stippler when stippling the head. Let dry and reapply Cool White, stippling here and there to create further dimension (Fig. 3).

2. *Star.* Use the #4 flat to base the star with Golden Straw. Use the #6 flat to shade with Burnt Sienna and then highlight with Light Buttermilk. Use the 1/4" mop to clean and soften the edges of the floats.

3. *Arms.* Use the #5/0 short liner with Burnt Umber to apply the twig arms and fingers. Use the #4 flat with Soft Black to shade the inside of the arms.

4. *Scarf.* Use the #6 flat with Jade Green to base the scarf (Fig. 1). Using the #8 flat, shade and create the folds with Avocado (Fig. 2), and highlight with Light Buttermilk (Fig. 3).

5. *Snowman and star shadow.* Use the #12 flat with Deep Midnight Blue to shade along the outer edge on the right side of the snowman. Begin with the head and work toward the bottom. Use the 3/8" mop to clean the edges. Use the #6 flat with Deep Midnight Blue to shade around the star.

6. *Facial features.* Transfer the facial features and crown with graphite transfer paper. Use the #3 round to base the nose with Canyon Orange, starting at the base and working outward. Once at the tip, switch to the #5/0 short liner and complete the swirly end (Fig. 1). Use the #6 flat to shade with Oxblood (Fig. 2) and highlight with Tangerine (Fig. 3). Repeat the highlight with Golden Straw to lighten (Fig. 3). Use the small end of the stylus with Lamp Black to dot the eyes and mouth. When dry, highlight with a tiny dot

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of Cool White. Use the #5/0 short liner with Lamp Black to line the eyelids.

7. Shading the snowman. Use Deep Midnight Blue for this step. Deepen the shadow at the waist using the #8 flat. Use the same brush to shade around the base of the arms. Use the #6 flat to shade under the scarf and switch to the #4 flat to shade under the nose.

8. Twig crown. Use the #5/0 short liner with Soft Black to add the twig crown. Use the #5/0 short liner and begin to add the needles with Avocado. With the same dirty brush, pick up Jade Green and repeat. Be careful not to cover all the Avocado needles. Lastly, pick up some Light Buttermilk and add just a few needles for highlights. Add the berries with the large end of the stylus and Napa Red. Let dry and use the small end of the stylus with Cool White to add the highlights to the berries.

9. Ground snow. Use the #20 flat with Cool White to float the snow. Keep the color concentrated at the top and lighten as you work toward the bottom. Use the 3/8" mop to soften and clean up the edges.

10. Tree. Transfer the pattern for the tree. Apply the tree trunk and branches

with the #5/0 short liner and Burnt Umber. Use the #4 flat to shade the left side of the trunk with Soft Black and highlight the right side with Fawn. Follow the instructions for the needles and berries in step 8.

11. Large snowflake and snow. Use the #5/0 short liner with Cool White to apply the snowflake (Figs. 4 and 5). Dot the ends and middle with Cool White (Fig. 6). Randomly dot the falling snow surrounding the snowman using both ends of the stylus to achieve various-size flakes.

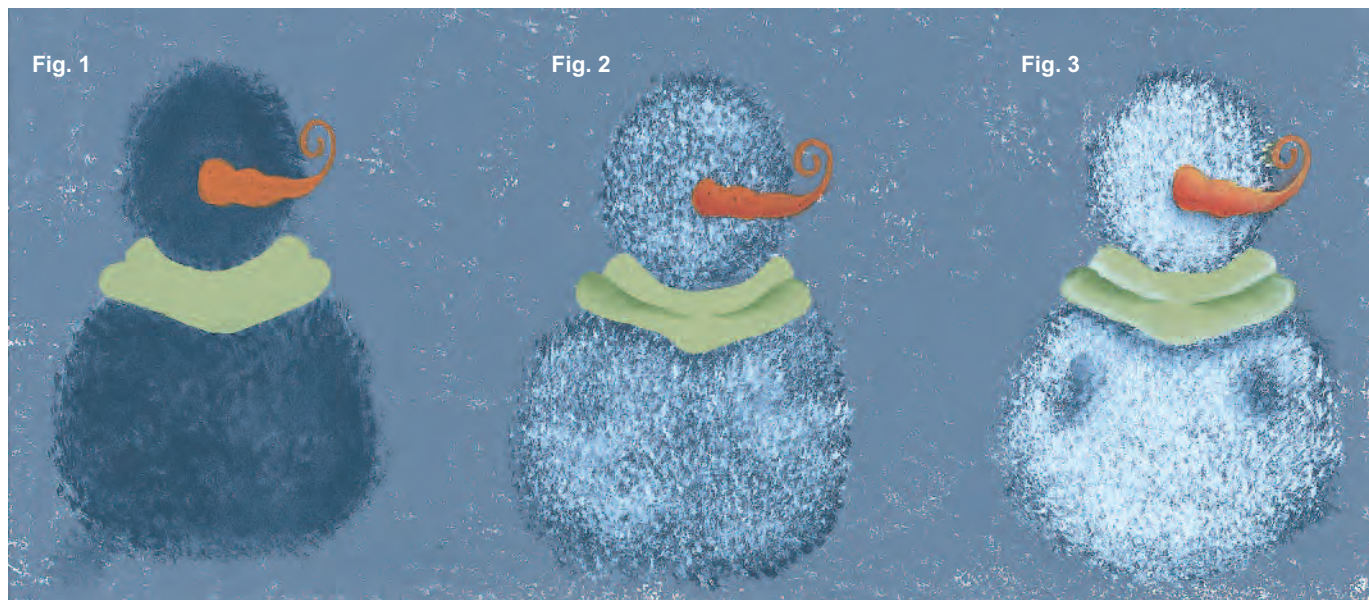
12. Base vines. Use the #5/0 short liner with Soft Black thinned with water to an inky consistency to add the vine around the base. Use the same brush to highlight with Fawn. Add the needles and berries following the instructions in step 8.

13. Antiquing. Before antiquing, tape off all blue edges, including the bottom lip. Squeeze out a dab of Burnt Umber oil paint onto the inside lid of a margarine container and add a small amount of paint thinner. Wearing rubber gloves, dip the cloth into the oil paint and thinner. Softly rub onto the Fawn sides and back of the piece, working on one side at a time. (Don't forget the very bottom!) Using a

clean part of the cloth, start in the center and softly wipe out some paint to lighten the area. If the effect is darker than desired, simply pick up some thinner on a clean part of the cloth and rub over area until you are happy with the result. Once the antiquing is finished, apply a very light mist of Acrylic Sealer/Finisher to dry the oil. This can be done immediately after antiquing.

Note: Before painting the snowy sky, apply one coat of Varathane Diamond Wood Finish over the French Grey Blue areas. This will allow for easy cleanup of unwanted flakes that may drip out of the toothbrush.

14. Snowy sky. Tape off the very bottom of each Fawn side to avoid having snowflakes drop there when working on the base section. Dip an old toothbrush in clean water, gently squeeze out some moisture, and then dip the brush into Cool White. The brush cannot be too dry or the snowflakes will be minuscule, and if the brush is too wet, the snowflakes will be blobs! Gently rake your thumb over the head of the toothbrush to spatter snow onto the surface. Practice on a piece of newspaper before attempting the project



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and to determine how much water is in your brush. Should a snowflake need to be removed, simply wipe it off with a dampened cotton swab. Let dry.

Finishing

1. Seal the entire project with one or two coats of the Varathane Diamond

Wood Finish. Allow the first coat to dry before applying the second coat.

Sources:

Loew-Cornell, Inc.: www.loew-cornell.com

DecoArt: www.decoart.com

The Artist's Club: www.artistsclub.com

Chroma, Inc.: www.chromaonline.com

Maureen McNaughton Arts:

www.maureenmcnaughton.com

Rustoleum: www.rustoleum.com



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