

*AirSick
Stencils*

WOOD GRAIN

**A QUICK EFFECT
WITH INCREDIBLE RESULTS**
BY SEAN CAHILL



Hello All,

With so many colors available and a multitude of techniques to choose from, there are endless possibilities when it comes to painting a realistic wood grain effect. In this tutorial we give you the very basics for achieving a realistic design using only two colors (WICKED YELLOW OCRE AND BURNT UMBER), a red ScotchBrite pad and an airbrush.

STEP 1



Starting with yellow ochre in the brush I begin laying out a pattern of parallel wavy lines and spirals that will later become knots in the wood. (STEP 1)

I continue the lines all the way across the panel from left to right. Although the pattern is random, I try keeping each line running as parallel to each other as possible without overlapping (STEP 2).

STEP 2



STEP 3



I've added Burnt Umber to the yellow making about a 50/50 mix. I go over most of the lines that I've just made. I spray a little heavier in the spirals and give the paint a second or three do dry. I then use my finger to smear the paint both upward and downward.

STEP 4



I do the same thing to the other knots in the painting, but this time using the broad part of my thumb to smear the paint. I know this may look odd, but what I'm doing is giving the painting a little texture that I will build on later.

STEP 5



STEP 6



Here I've added more Burnt Umber to the mix giving me about a 70/30 mix of brown to yellow. I come in and continue following my lines from top to bottom and darkening things up a bit. I also fog a very light coat of paint over the entire design (STEP 5).

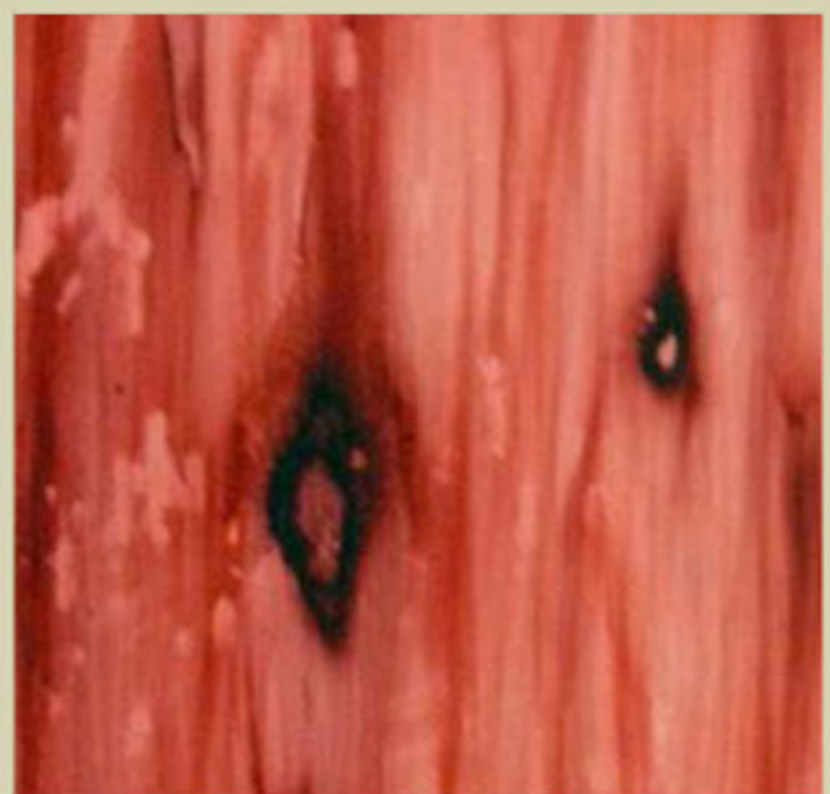
As you can see I'm still using my thumb to smear the paint I fogged in over the knots (STEP 6). The streaks you make with your thumb and fingers will overlap and give you some really nice random effects, almost as if the wood was burnt while being cut.

In the final step I'm using a red ScotchBrite pad to create a little texture (STEP 7). I work in the direction of the grain and scuff the surface from top to bottom. I may lightly fog brown over the entire painting again and scuff a few more times to really bring out the texture.

STEP 7



STEP 8



In the final shot, you see that with very little effort we can achieve a really nice effect. Like I said before, this is only the basics of a simple wood grain effect. I encourage you to try new colors and as many techniques as you can get your hands on. The picture in the bottom right was done using the same exact techniques, I simply changed up the colors and went a little heavier with the Scotch-Brite. So try your hand at some wood grain... good luck.

**PRINTER
FRIENDLY**



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