

### **Darken the cast shadow to the left of the plate:**

Stronger Lamp Black in the darkest portion of the shadow.

### **Darken final resting shadows:**

Lamp Black + a touch of Mix #1

Lamp Black

### **Frame Notes**

Apply color to the frame with a combination of side loaded color and modified dry brushing. Dampen the surface with water, or if you feel you need more time, you may use a scant application of Drying Time Extender. Work one area of the frame at a time. Mop the colors together with the largest round mop. The frame colors are the same that you applied to the plate in Stage 2 of the painting, but they are not applied as heavily. Keep them soft and muted.

**Colors Used:** Mix #1, Mix #1 + a touch of Neutral Grey, Mix #1 + more Neutral Grey, Neutral Grey, Neutral Grey + a touch of Dove Grey, Dove Grey

Allow this step to dry and repeat to strengthen colors or add colors not yet added. If extender is used, be sure and allow a little extra drying time, before painting in an area again.

If you feel a little warmer accent is needed on the frame, you may add touches of Traditional Burnt Umber.

### **Red Striping**

Make a mixture of Cadmium Red + a touch of Deep Burgundy. Apply two red stripes that are approximately 3/8" from the inside opening and the outer edge of the frame. Apply these with the ruling pen.

Ruling pen instructions are attached.

When applying the stripe on the one curved portion of the frame, mark the line with a pencil, and use your little finger placed inside the curve to keep the distance uniform. Curved stripes take a little more practice, but be patient and you will get the hang of it.

### **VARNISH THE PROJECT**

Apply 8 to 12 coats of Americana DuraClear matte varnish. Stir the varnish with a tacked spoon and a lifting motion. Apply thin, even coats, allowing each coat to dry as directed on the product. Wipe the surface with a tack cloth before applying each coat. If in spite of careful tacking, impurities occur in the varnish coats, you may gently wet sand after 3-4 coats of varnish. After the last coat of varnish, apply one coat of Americana Decor Clear Creme Wax.

## **USING A RULING PEN**

The ruling pen is a wonderful tool for painting perfect straight lines of varying widths. It takes only

a bit of practice to become an expert in it's use. The more you use the pen, the more confident you will be with loading and using it.

### **Practice surface**

Always keep a practice surface at hand for testing paint consistency for line width, and for "starting" the paint flow.

### **Paint consistency**

Proper paint consistency is the key to successful use of the ruling pen. The paint must be thinned to a good flowing consistency, but must also retain some "body." Thin acrylic paints with water for use with the pen.

### **Loading the pen**

You may load the ruling pen with a palette knife. Open the slot slightly and lay the paint in the slot with the palette knife. Do not overfill the pen. Fill it to a line approximately ½" from the point. Wipe any excess paint from the flat surface sides of the pen with a paper towel.

### **Testing the pen**

Stroke a few test lines on the practice surface. If the paint does not immediately flow, touch it to your fingertip or a damp surface. If it still will not flow, the paint needs further thinning.

A line that "skips" may also mean the paint is too thick. You may need to slow down the pull of the stroke. Surface texture will affect how quickly or slowly the lines may be pulled.

### **Painting the stripes**

Place the flat side of the pen against the edge of a raised metal edge ruler. Use a cork back flexible metal ruler. Hold the pen at about a 45 degree angle, then pull the stripe. Hesitating at the beginning or end of a stripe may give a "blob". Take a "running start" at the beginning of the pen stroke and lift off quickly at the end.

### **Cleaning the pen**

Throughout the painting process, you may need to clean the pen periodically. The edges of the acrylic paint may dry in the pen point and impede the flow. Simply swish the pen in water and use a toothbrush to clean any dried edges. Before reloading and resuming painting, dry the pen. Shake and tap against a paper towel to remove any water from the upper pen and screw area.

For final clean up, use a toothbrush and a little alcohol and clean the pen well. If the paint has gone up as high as the screw, disassemble the pen and clean all parts thoroughly. Dry, and then air dry thoroughly before inserting back into case.

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