



Painting Technique: Scraffito

Difficulty: Intermediate

SUPPLIES:

Scratching Tool
Pencil
Med Round Brush
Small Round
Brush

PAINT COLORS

Your Choice!



Scraffito comes from the Italian word “to scratch”. This is a very ancient technique used by roman artisans and is still used to this day. We will be scratching paint to reveal either bare bisque or a layer of underglaze color. This process can be used on any You’re Fired bisque item, with any combination of colors.

Although the paper clip with its sharp edges is our favorite, just about anything can be used as a scraffito tool: A pen, back of a paintbrush, a toothpick, a burnishing tool, clay tools, knitting needles and the list goes on; Experiment and see what works well for you.

For our project technique example:

1. Use a pencil to draw big flowers. Draw half flowers on the edge to add interest.
2. Paint medium blue in the background using a medium size brush. Create strokes in different directions. No need to have a solid, simple background here. Apply second coat to background. Try to match direction of your original stroke. This can be loose and fun. Allow background to dry halfway. This layer will not be shiny but not chalky either. If it dries too much, take a clean brush with clean water and brush over color so it is damp again. Take a scraffito tool and begin scratching designs. I like small straight lines in pairs. Vary the direction to add interest. You will see the lines are white because you have just scratched down to the bare bisque. The next step we will be scratching through to a layer of color.

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3. Paint flower petals two coats of solid yellow. Allow each layer to dry completely.
4. Paint center of flowers two coats of purple. Allow each layer to dry completely.
5. Now paint the flower petals again using orange. Allow first layer to almost dry, then apply second coat of orange. Allow to dry half way. Take your scraffito tool and begin to scratch through the orange color until you see the layer of yellow. This requires a light touch. Scratch near the edge of petal to create a highlight.
6. Stamp a leaf using one coat of medium green color.
7. Outline flowers in two coats of black using either a liner brush, or a black writer. Outline center of flowers with whichever method you prefer. Have fun with this outline. It's okay if the line extends beyond the shape of the petal. Make fun swirl shapes inside the center of flowers.
8. Finally, add purple dots using the back of your brush or use a purple writer pen.