GLASSHOUSE REGIONAL GALLERY

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Colourful
Geometric Coasters
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Colourful Geometric Coasters

These brightly coloured and patterned coasters are a great way to brighten up the dinner table or simply to be used for decoration on dressers or walls. They are also a lovely tactile object for children to paint on and play with.

They use masking tape to create straight edges and geometric shapes, and look great with pastel colours and some of the natural wood colour showing as well. This technique can also be applied to other surfaces such as canvases and terracotta pots as a great way to bring some colour and pattern into the home.

The coasters used for the example are made of MDF and are from Kmart, however plywood also provides a good base to paint on. The pre-made coasters can be purchased online, or from other craft retailers. Acrylic paints can also be purchased from a variety of craft/department stores, as can paint pens.

Please note – to make the painted coasters fully functional, a coat of sealer or varnish will need to be applied to make them waterproof.

TIME: 2 hours

Have a go experimenting with colour combinations and patterns, and have fun!

Materials

» Wooden coasters

These are available in sets of 6 at Kmart or other craft stores.

» Masking tape/Washi tape/painter's tape

Any of these softer tapes work as they pull off easily. 1–2cm width tape works best on the smaller coasters, but if you only have thicker tape, it can be cut to a smaller width.

» Acrylic paints in a range of basic colours (red, blue, yellow, black and white)

These will give you a good range of colours to mix.

» Paint pens or markers

These are great for easily adding small details and provide a great pop of colour. The same technique can be created with a fine paintbrush if you don't have paint pens/markers.

» Paint brushes

A range of fine to small paintbrushes (1cm max brush head width) with soft smooth bristles, and a mix of flat and round brush heads will give you the best result.

» Paint palette (or a plastic lid/plate)

» Water jar, paper towel/cloth for washing and wiping brushes

» Scrap paper for testing paint colours and patterns, and laying coasters on while painting

» Sealer/spray varnish if you want the coasters to be functional and waterproof

Step 1.

Lay coasters flat on some scrap paper with some space between them.

Take a roll of masking tape and cut numerous strips of tape. You can vary the widths and lengths of the masking tape.

DESIGN TIP: On some coasters you might only use 2 pieces of tape, others you might use 4 or 5. The more pieces of tape and shapes you create, the more colours you will be able to apply to each coaster.

Step 2.

Place the tape across the top flat side of each coaster in opposing directions and at different angles. Try to create a variety of shapes and patterns, and ensure the tape reaches the outside edge of the coasters.

Press the tape down onto the coaster so it is completely flat. This will help make the painted shapes have smooth straight edges when you lift the tape off. If there are any small bubbles along the edge of the tape, paint can get underneath.

Step 3.

Choose a colour palette/range of colours that you like and think will complement each other. There is no limit as to how many colours you can use, however mixing a range of 3-5 colours is a good start. Pour a small amount of each coloured paint that you want to use onto the paint palette. Start with a small amount about the size of a 5 cent piece – you can always add more if needed.

Pour some white paint onto the palette in a few areas as well in 5 cent piece amounts. This can be used to mix pastel colours.

COLOUR TIPS: Pastel colours work beautifully on these coasters, use white to mix with pure colours to create some bright pastel colours, called tints **(see Colour Mixing tips here).** However you can also use darker colours or a combination of both.

Step 4.

Choose sections of the exposed wood on your coasters to paint these colours onto. Use a flat bristled paintbrush if you can, and use smooth even strokes, trying to smooth over any brush marks. You can go over the edge of the tape, and also paint over the edge of the coaster.

PAINTING TIPS: If the paint feels too thick or clumpy, dip your brush into the water and add a tiny amount to the paint to achieve a smooth consistency. However, you don't want the paint to become runny. Rinse your brush out well between each colour and dry it on the paper cloth/towel. Get fresh water for rinsing your brush when the water becomes a muddy colour.

As the paint dries, you may like to do a second coat of each colour for a completely opaque look, and if some of the colour of the wood is showing through.

Step 5.

Once the paint is completely dry, slowly peel the masking tape off the coaster to reveal the wood.

Step 6.

The sections of exposed wood can be left exposed or painted/coloured in with paint or paint pens. Any rough edges where the paint may have leaked under the tape can also be touched up to create nice smooth lines. The underside of the coaster can also be painted or left as it is.

Step 7.

Use the paint pens or markers to fill in some of the shapes with different patterns such as spots, polkadots, stripes, wavy lines, zig zags – it's up to you!

TIP: Test some patterns on scrap paper to try different sizes and thicknesses. Each coaster can be different, and you can mix and match patterns too.

Step 8.

When all the colour and patterns have been added, and the coasters are completely dry, a varnish or sealer can be applied to seal the paint to make them waterproof and fully functional.

Enjoy your new one-of-a-kind decor!

Don't forget to share your creations with us through social media and most importantly, have fun!

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TIPS FOR COLOUR MIXING:

Red + Yellow = Orange

Blue + Yellow = Green

Blue + Red = Purple

Black + White = Grey

HUE: Pure Colour

TINT: Hue + White

TONE: Hue + Grey

SHADE: Hue + Black

For more information about the colour wheel click here

+ = **Tint**
Adding white to a colour (eg adding white to red to make pink), will make pastel colours

+ = **Shade**
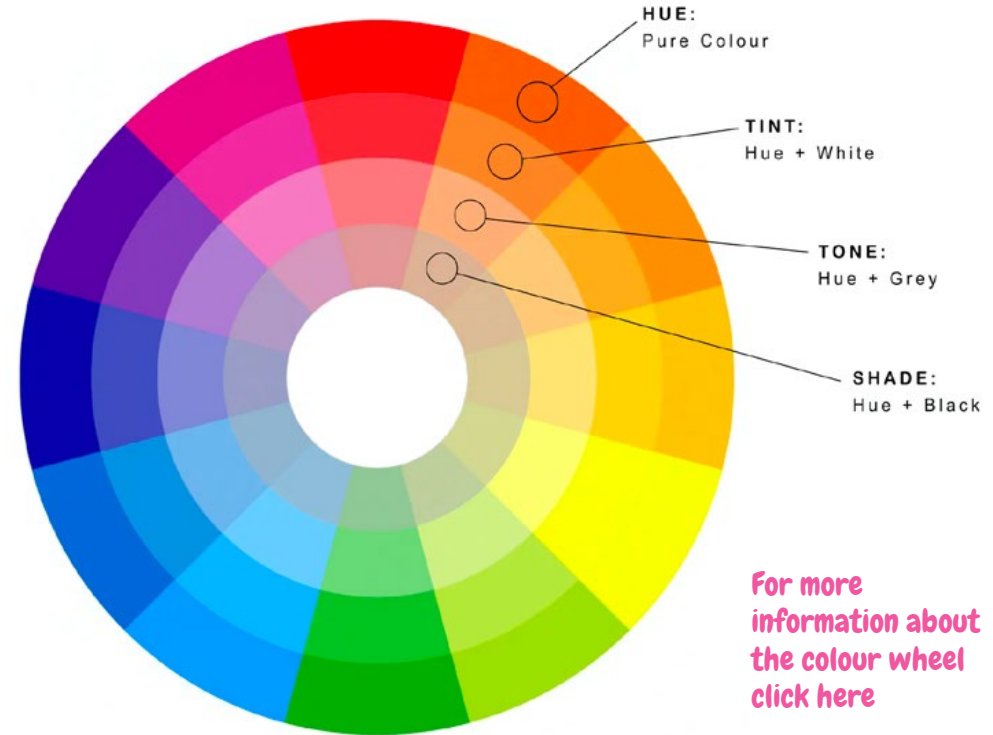Adding black to a colour

+ = **Tone**
Adding grey to a colour

When mixing colours, it's better to add dark into light gradually than the other way round. You will use less paint and achieve your desired colour faster.