A fresh coat of paint does wonders in a room, but to really breathe new life into plain walls and tired furniture, try giving that fresh coat a little something extra. Eye-catching patterns and surface textures are surprisingly easy to create yourself, and you can see the beautiful results of your project in the space of a single weekend.

This booklet give you step-by-step instructions for producing a dozen professional-looking effects, including graphic stripes, rich textured linen, and my favorite “faux bois” wood grain. All you need are some easy-to-mix tinted glazes—you’ll apply these on top of a base coat of Martha Stewart Living™ Paint—and a few simple tools to manipulate the glaze (included in our Paint Finish Tool Kit).

Practice your technique on a smaller project first, like an old chair or a nondescript headboard, or even on a small piece of drywall, then try your hand at decorating a wall. Once you’ve discovered how easy it is, you’ll see that the creative possibilities are endless!
PREPARING THE SURFACE

Whether you’re decorating a small furniture piece or an entire room, each technique requires that the surface be prepared and painted with an undercoat of satin-finished paint. This is called the base coat, and it should coordinate with the glaze color.

1. CLEAN THE SURFACE with a pre-mixed TSP (trisodium phosphate) or TSP-substitute (TSP-PF), especially if it has a glossy finish or is extremely dusty. If it is relatively clean, simply wipe it down with a damp sponge.

2. PATCH HOLES with a spackling paste or patching product like Drydex. Apply a small amount to the hole using a putty knife. Smooth the product over the hole and allow it to dry (Drydex will be pink when applied and will turn white as it dries). Once it has dried completely, lightly sand the area to a smooth, even finish.

3. TAPE OFF AREA. Mask off moldings, switch plates, etc. with Blue Painter’s Tape. Pull tape off the roll a few feet at a time and press down with your fingers as you apply it; avoid stretching the tape, which can cause it to lift or break. If the surface is highly textured, seal the tape edge with the existing base color to prevent seepage under the tape.

4. PRIME THE SURFACE if you are painting over a dark color, stains, or existing wallpaper. In most situations, a latex primer will do; in order to cover water-based stains, however, you will need to use an oil-based primer.

5. PAINT THE BASE COAT using satin-finished Martha Stewart Living latex interior paint. Allow at least 24 hours for paint to dry completely.

6. DIVIDE WALLS into even, workable sections, using a level to draw light pencil guidelines from floor to ceiling every 18” (use a colored pencil similar to your glaze color). These will help keep vertical lines and strokes from straying too much.
HOW TO MAKE A GLAZE

The secret to the decorative paint techniques in this booklet lies in the glaze, a luminescent, translucent layer that allows a base coat of opaque paint to show through. It’s easy to create simple, beautiful glazes in whatever colors you like. Just purchase the latex or acrylic glazing liquid of your choice, then mix it with your selected Martha Stewart Living paint color according to the manufacturer’s instructions.

USING PRACTICE BOARDS

To make sure that you feel comfortable with a skill and happy with the result, it’s a good idea to test any paint technique on a small board before starting on your furniture or wall. Purchase a 2’ x 2’ drywall board, available at The Home Depot, then mix mini-batches of glaze using Martha Stewart Living Tintable Testers or Martha Stewart Living Pre-Tinted Testers in our “Martha’s Picks” colors. This is also a good opportunity to test combinations of colors and choose those that work best before making your final paint purchase.

* TIPS FOR CREATING COLOR EFFECTS

* There should be enough contrast between the base coat and the glaze color to make the glaze visible, but not a jarring contrast.

* Most often, a glaze that is a slightly darker or deeper shade of the base coat color works best to create a sense of harmony and depth.

* For a more powerful look, try using colors that are next to each other in the spectrum, such as green over blue.

* Another approach, known as a scumble, uses a lighter color over a deeper base.

Visit homedepot.com/marthastewart for more paint ideas.
OUR FAVORITE TECHNIQUES
BASKET WEAVE

Resembling a large checkerboard, basket weave is a beautiful way to add dimension and a sense of movement to a plain wall.

FOR THIS TECHNIQUE, USE THE GRAINING COMB, EVEN SIDE

Before beginning, complete the base coat according to instructions on page 3.

1 TAPE OFF SURFACE
Start at the center of your surface and mark out the grid so that partial squares appear only at the edges (or if possible, divide your wall into a whole number of sections that leave no partial squares, such as 2’ squares on a 12’ x 12’ wall). Tape off alternating squares so that the tape from one square doesn’t overlap another. (A) Burnish the tape with your finger to remove any wrinkles or bubbles. Pencil a light mark or note in each square to remind yourself to alternate the direction of the combed stripes.

2 MIX GLAZE
Prepare your glaze according to the manufacturer’s instructions.

3 APPLY GLAZE
Using a 3” bristle brush, apply a thin layer of glaze to one square, in strokes parallel to the direction the stripes will run (vertically for vertical squares, horizontally for horizontal squares). (B)

4 CREATE VERTICAL SQUARES
Drag the even-toothed side of the Graining Comb through the glaze from top to bottom, maintaining firm pressure so the striations are clean and crisp. (C) Start each pass with little or no overlap to the previous. Use a balled-up paper towel to remove excess paint from the comb. When the square is filled, carefully remove the tape around that square. Clean away any large areas of seepage under the tape. Repeat Steps 3 and 4 for all vertical squares, then let dry completely.

TIP: If you’re concerned about damaging the effect by removing the tape when wet, let the surface dry completely, then remove the tape. You’ll need to touch up any dried seepage with paint.

5 CREATE HORIZONTAL SQUARES
Use 1-inch painter’s tape to cover the edges of the finished squares. Repeat Steps 3 and 4, this time dragging the comb horizontally through the remaining squares.

YOU’LL ALSO NEED: 3” BRISTLE BRUSH + PAPER TOWEL + 1”-WIDE LOW-TACK PAINTER’S TAPE

Visit homedepot.com/marthastewart for more paint ideas.
FAUX BOIS

French for “false wood”, faux bois mimics the look of wood grain, and it’s one of our favorite motifs. With a few simple tools, you can paint a realistic cathedral oak pattern that is elegant yet natural.

Before beginning, complete the base coat according to instructions on page 3.

1 MIX GLAZE
Prepare your glaze according to the manufacturer’s instructions.

2 APPLY GLAZE
Working in small sections that run the length of the wall, apply a thin layer of glaze using a roller with ¼” nap (use a 3” bristle brush on small surfaces). (A)

3 CREATE THE EFFECT
Hold the Wood Grain Rocker firmly and, while maintaining pressure, drag it vertically through the glaze, gradually rolling the tool once from tip to end by the time you reach the bottom. (B) The speeds at which you drag and roll will determine the distance between the arched lines of the cathedral grain. Use a balled-up paper towel to remove excess paint from the tool. Flip the rocker in the opposite direction (to change the direction of the grain) and repeat the process to create a second panel next to the first.

4 ADD STRAIGHT GRAINS
For a more realistic look, drag the uneven edge of either the Graining Comb or the Wood Grain Rocker alongside the previous panel. Alternate 2 or 3 rows of cathedral grain with 2 rows of straight grain. (C)

REPEAT STEPS 3 AND 4 until you near the end of the section, then apply glaze for the next section and continue. Allow finished wall to dry thoroughly.

YOU’LL ALSO NEED:
- 9” ROLLER, ¼” NAP OR 3” BRISTLE BRUSH
- PAPER TOWEL

Visit homedepot.com/marthastewart for more paint ideas.
See Gingham instructions on page 9.
GINGHAM

A cheerful gingham pattern can be a sweet choice for a kitchen or a child’s bedroom, and a simple two-directional combing technique makes it very easy to accomplish.

Before beginning, complete the base coat according to instructions on page 3.

1 MIX GLAZE
Prepare your glaze according to the manufacturer’s instructions.

2 APPLY GLAZE
Working in small sections that run the length of the wall, apply a thin layer of glaze using a roller with ¼” nap (use a 3” bristle brush on small surfaces). (A)

3 CREATE VERTICAL STRIPES
Beginning at one edge of the section, drag the Stripe Comb through the glaze from top to bottom. (B) Maintain firm pressure so the stripes are clean and crisp. Use a balled-up paper towel to remove excess paint from the comb, then begin the next pass with little or no overlap to the first. Repeat until you get to within a couple of inches of the end of the section, then apply glaze for the next section and continue. (For narrow room spaces, such as between walls and door frames, or for curved furniture surfaces, switch to the smaller Flexible Stripe Comb, which has teeth the same size as the wider comb.) Allow finished surface to dry thoroughly.

4 CREATE HORIZONTAL STRIPES
Repeat steps 1 through 3, this time dragging the comb horizontally across the surface to complete the gingham pattern. (C) If painting a wall, start at the top to avoid dripping on finished work.

YOU’LL ALSO NEED:
9” ROLLER, ¼” NAP OR 3” BRISTLE BRUSH + PAPER TOWEL
This strié technique uses coarse steel wool, which causes the paint to pool in small, irregular formations resembling the slubs that are characteristic of raw silk. To enhance the illusion, try using iridescent paint when creating your glaze.

Before beginning, complete the base coat according to instructions on page 3.

1 MIX GLAZE
Prepare your glaze according to the manufacturer’s instructions.

2 APPLY GLAZE
Working in small sections that run the length of the wall, apply a thin layer of glaze using a roller with ¼” nap (use a 3” bristle brush on small surfaces). (A)

3 CREATE THE EFFECT
Unroll the Coarse Steel Wool and ball it up loosely so that you have a large piece without sharp edges. Beginning at one edge of the section, drag the steel wool through the glaze from top to bottom. (B) Maintain firm pressure so the striations are clean and crisp. Use a balled-up paper towel to remove excess paint from the steel wool (C), then begin the next pass, slightly overlapping the first. Repeat until you get to within a couple of inches of the end of the section, then apply glaze for the next section and continue. Allow finished surface to dry thoroughly. Note: You will need extra steel wool to complete large surfaces.

YOU’LL ALSO NEED:
- 9" ROLLER, ¼" NAP OR 3" BRISTLE BRUSH
- PAPER TOWEL
See previous page for Raw Silk Instructions.
Plaid involves creating stripes in two colors and in two directions. The uneven side of the Wood Grain Rocker gives the stripes an irregular width.

**Before beginning,** complete the base coat according to instructions on page 3.

1. **MIX GLAZE**
   Prepare your glaze according to the manufacturer’s instructions.

2. **APPLY GLAZE**
   Working in small sections that run the length of the wall, apply a thin layer of glaze using a roller with ¼" nap (use a 3" bristle brush on small surfaces). *(A)*

3. **CREATE VERTICAL STRIPES**
   Beginning at one edge of the section, drag the Stripe Comb through the glaze from top to bottom. *(B)* Maintain firm pressure so the stripes are clean and crisp. Use a balled-up paper towel to remove excess paint from the brush, then begin the next pass with little or no overlap to the first. Repeat until you get to within a couple of inches of the end of the section, then apply glaze for the next section and continue. Allow the finished surface to dry thoroughly.

4. **CREATE HORIZONTAL STRIPES**
   Repeat steps 2 through 3 with your second glaze color, this time dragging the Wood Grain Rocker horizontally across the surface to complete the plaid pattern. *(C)* If painting a wall, start at the top to avoid dripping on finished work.

**YOU’LL ALSO NEED:**
9" ROLLER, ¼" NAP OR 3" BRISTLE BRUSH + PAPER TOWEL

Visit homedepot.com/marthastewart for more paint ideas.
Alternating stripes made up of perpendicular striations create the classic herringbone texture commonly found in twill fabrics. Careful taping is the secret to a successful herringbone technique.

1 TAPE OFF SURFACE
Affix a strip of 1-inch-wide painter’s tape down the length of the surface, starting at the center. Affix two more strips on either side of the first, then remove middle strip. Continue taping off, using the middle strip as a spacer, until surface is covered with strips of tape 1 inch apart. (A) Burnish the tape with your finger to remove any wrinkles or bubbles.

2 MIX GLAZE
Prepare your glaze according to the manufacturer’s instructions.

3 APPLY GLAZE
Using a 3” bristle brush, apply a thin layer of glaze in strokes at first parallel to the strips of tape, and then with a final stroke on a 45-degree angle to them.

4 COMB IN FIRST DIRECTION
Drag the even-toothed side of the Graining Comb along this same 45-degree angle to the tape, maintaining firm pressure so the striations are clean and crisp. (B) Start each pass with little or no overlap to the previous. Use a balled-up paper towel to remove excess paint from the comb. When finished, carefully remove the tape and clean away any large areas of seepage under it.

5 REPEAT IN SECOND DIRECTION
Use 1-inch painter’s tape to cover the finished stripes (you won’t need spacers). (C) Apply glaze at first parallel to the tape, and then with a final stroke PERPENDICULAR to the previously painted stripes. Drag the Graining Comb along this same new 45-degree angle, and proceed as in Step 4.

★ TIP: If you’re concerned about damaging the effect by removing the tape when wet, let the surface dry completely, then remove the tape. You’ll need to touch up any dried seepage with paint.

YOU’LL ALSO NEED:

| 3” BRISTLE BRUSH | + | PAPER TOWEL | + | 1”-WIDE LOW-TACK PAINTER’S TAPE |
Curly Maple

Curly maple features a striking pattern of thin waves or stripes and is famously used on musical instruments and fine furniture. Our Wavy Graining Brush lets you create this characteristic figuring effect for yourself.

For this technique, use the Wavy Graining Brush

Before beginning, complete the base coat according to instructions on page 3.

1 Mix Glaze
Prepare your glaze according to the manufacturer’s instructions.

TIP: This effect often works better with a slightly thinner glaze. Test it on your practice board, and if necessary, thin the glaze with water.

2 Apply Glaze
Working in small sections that run the length of the wall, apply a thin layer of glaze using a roller with ¼" nap (use a 3" bristle brush on small surfaces). (A)

3 Create the Effect
Hold the Wavy Graining Brush at an angle to the surface. Starting at one edge of the section, pull the brush down through the glaze in short, abrupt motions about ¼ to ½ inch long. Lift the brush off the surface at times to create a higher-contrast stroke, and occasionally twist the brush a bit to keep strokes from becoming too regular. (B) Continue this motion for the length of the surface, then start a new row, overlapping the marks slightly so the rows merge together. Use a balled-up paper towel to remove excess paint from the brush.

4 Blend the Strokes
When you’ve finished the section, blend the figuring with a dry soft-bristle brush to create its soft, watery effect: hold the brush perpendicular to the surface and brush very lightly across and then down. (C)

Repeat steps 3 and 4 until you get to within a couple of inches of the end of the section, then apply glaze for the next section and continue. Allow finished surface to dry thoroughly.

You’ll also need:

- 9" roller, ¼" Nap or 3" bristle brush
- Paper towel
- Additional dry soft-bristle brush

Visit homedepot.com/marthastewart for more paint ideas.
LINEN

Creating the illusion of a linen weave is as simple as applying a “strié” technique in two directions with a long-bristled brush called a Linen Dragger. The resulting lines or “striations” in the glaze coat resemble the fabric’s warp and weft threads.

FOR THIS TECHNIQUE, USE THE LINEN DRARGER

Before beginning, complete the base coat according to instructions on page 3.

1. MIX GLAZE
Prepare your glaze according to the manufacturer’s instructions.

2. APPLY GLAZE
Working in small sections that run the length of the wall, apply a thin layer of glaze using a roller with ¼” nap (use a 3” bristle brush on small surfaces).(A)

3. CREATE VERTICAL THREADS
Beginning at one edge of the section, drag the Linen Dragger through the glaze from top to bottom.(B) Press down to use the full length of the bristles, and maintain this firm pressure so the striations are clean and crisp. Use a balled-up paper towel to remove excess paint from the brush, then begin the next pass, slightly overlapping the first. Repeat until you get to within a couple of inches of the end of the section, then apply glaze for the next section and continue. Allow finished surface to dry thoroughly.

4. CREATE HORIZONTAL THREADS
Once your vertical coat is completely dry, apply a thin layer of glaze on top of it as you did in step 2, but this time work in horizontal sections (starting at the top of the wall to avoid dripping on finished work). Repeat step 3, dragging the brush horizontally across the surface to complete the woven effect.(C)

* TIP: Test the second coat of glaze on the same practice board where you first tested your linen technique. If it appears to cover too much of the first coat, thin the glaze slightly with water.

YOU’LL ALSO NEED: 9" ROLLER, ¼" NAP OR 3" BRISTLE BRUSH + PAPER TOWEL + 1"-WIDE LOW-TACK PAINTER’S TAPE

Visit homedepot.com/marthastewart for more paint ideas.
SPONGE-ON

Applying glaze with a natural sea sponge is a simple, effective way to give a plain wall added texture and depth. Depending on the number of glazes you use and how you apply them, the possible variations are endless.

1 MIX GLAZE
Prepare your glaze according to the manufacturer’s instructions.

2 CREATE THE EFFECT
Dampen the Painting Sponge in water and squeeze out the excess. Pour a small amount of glaze onto a paint tray. Dip the sponge into the glaze and blot off excess along the edge of the tray. (A) Dab the sponge onto the dry, painted wall; be sure to vary your pattern by twisting and turning sponge with each dab. (B) Use a small piece of sponge or cotton swabs to get into corners and tight spaces. Try to keep the pattern consistent and even; step back frequently to judge its uniformity.

3 USING MULTIPLE GLAZES (OPTIONAL)
A good way to achieve extra depth is by using several tones of the same color. If you plan to use more than one glaze color, sponge the entire surface with the first color and let it dry, then proceed to the next color, using a clean tray and sponge for each one. (C) Remember that the last color you apply will be the most visible one.

SPONGE-OFF

You can also remove glaze with the sponge rather than applying it. Working in small sections, apply a thin layer of glaze using a roller or bristle brush. Dampen the sponge in water and squeeze out the excess. Dab the clean sponge onto the wall to lift away the glaze from the undercoat, twisting and turning with each dab as in the Sponge-On technique. Rinse out the sponge periodically. Continue until you get to within a couple of inches of the end of the section, then apply glaze for the next section.

YOU’LL ALSO NEED:

- PAINT TRAY
- COTTON SWABS
- 9” ROLLER, ¼” NAP OR 3” BRISTLE BRUSH (FOR SPONGE-OFF ONLY)

Before beginning, complete the base coat according to instructions on page 3.
Prepare your glaze according to the manufacturer’s instructions.

2 APPLY GLAZE
Working in small sections that run the length of the wall, apply a thin layer of glaze using a roller with ¼” nap (use a 3” bristle brush on small surfaces).(A)

3 CREATE THE EFFECT
Hold the Stripe Comb firmly and drag it vertically through the glaze, maintaining pressure so lines are clean and crisp.(B) Use a balled-up paper towel to remove excess paint from the comb.(C) Repeat until you get to within a couple of inches of the end of the section, then apply glaze for the next section and continue. For narrow spaces, such as between walls and door frames, or for curved furniture surfaces, switch to the smaller Flexible Stripe Comb, which has teeth the same size as the wider comb. Allow finished surface to dry thoroughly.

*TIP: For this and other stripe techniques, use a small artist’s brush to touch up lines that are not well defined.

You can create irregular stripes by following the same application steps above. Simply use the uneven-toothed side of the Wood Grain Rocker instead of the Stripe Combs.

Visit homedepot.com/marthastewart for more paint ideas.
Listed below are the Martha Stewart Living™ paint colors used throughout this brochure, so you can easily find your favorites at The Home Depot.

**COVER**

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