elements

canvas for home décor

Project Idea: *Autumn Leaf*

What an easy and affordable way to create original art for your home! Add some color to these canvases and they will transform your living space.

Follow the instructions in the project sheet to create the design shown here, or let your imagination be your guide. The sky is the limit!
You can use the suggested colors, or choose your own. Remember, it's your choice, so have fun with it. First, evaluate your space for colors, shapes and existing style. Next, choose a color scheme that compliments the room. Finally, pick up the project materials and start your home décor project.

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Project Materials

Acrylic Colors

Small tubes, at least 2 oz. (60ml) of these acrylic colors:

- Burnt Umber
- Metallic Gold

Other Supplies

- 1" - 2" brush
- Color mixing cup(s) or palette
- Palette/mixing knife
- 3/4" Masking or Artist Tape
- Paper Towels or Rags

Project Difficulty Level: EASY

Complete instructions on reverse

elements project: Autumn Leaf

Project Concept

PROJECT TIME: Approximately 1 HOUR (plus drying time)
PROJECT DIFFICULTY LEVEL: EASY

The goal of this project is to create a design on canvas using a technique called masking. With this technique, you'll use removeable tape to temporarily cover, or *mask*, areas of the canvas to shield them from the application of a color. Removing the masking tape reveals the underlying color and design.

Part 1: Base Colors

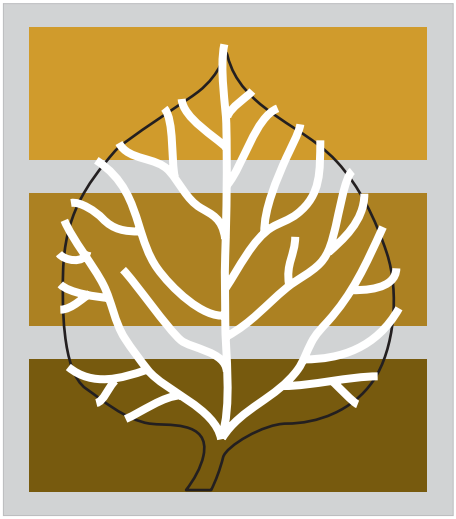
Create a base of color on each canvas. The following color mixing instructions will get you started. Modify them to achieve precisely the colors you want.

Burnt Umber
Metallic Gold

Canvas 1: Mix Metallic Gold and a smaller amount of Burnt Umber for light bronze tinted brown. Paint the surface and sides of the first canvas.
Canvas 2: Mix Burnt Umber and an equal amount of Metallic Gold for a medium bronze tinted brown. Paint the surface and sides of the second canvas.
Canvas 3: Mix Burnt Umber and a lesser amount of Metallic Gold for a deep bronze tinted brown. Paint the surface and sides of the third canvas.
Apply two coats if necessary to completely color the canvases. Set the canvases aside to dry.

Mixing & Application Tips:
Thin acrylic color with a little water to make it spread easier. Don't worry about mixing the color to the extent that it becomes completely uniform. Some variation in color and brush stroke texture will add character to your art. Wash the brush thoroughly with water between each application of color. Never allow acrylic color to dry on the brush.

Part 2: Masking the Design



Once the canvases are dry, arrange them on a flat work surface in the same vertical arrangement and with as much space between them as you intend to use when you hang them. Use a pencil or some chalk to lightly draw the outline of a leaf across the surface of the canvases.

Mask out the veins of the leaf by placing strips of 3/4" masking or artist tape as shown above, or use your own arrangement.

Part 3: Secondary Color Layer

Use the Metallic Gold color to fill in the leaf shape, painting over the masking tape. Apply two coats or more if necessary.

Allow the canvases to dry completely. Remove the tape strips, and your décor canvas project is complete and ready to hang. Congratulations!