

# elements

canvas for home décor



**Nine mini canvases make one big design impact.**

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. You can also create a single image that “explodes” into nine separate pieces for an unexpected result. Think of it as a triptych squared!

## Here's a project idea to get you started.

First, evaluate your space for colors, shapes and existing style. Next, choose a color scheme that compliments the room. You can use the suggested colors,

or choose your own. Remember, it's your choice, so have fun with it. Finally, pick up the project materials and start your home décor project.

**Complete project instructions are on the back of this sheet.**

**To create one of these alternate projects,** choose mixing colors like those you see here. You'll probably need two foundation colors, an accent color and white to create a variety of tints.



**Important Note:** Not all colors are created equal, therefore mixing results may vary. Some pigments are better for mixing than others. Test mix small amounts before applying to all the canvases. If you

don't like the results, you can always start again by simply painting over the dried color, or covering the canvas with a fresh coat of white acrylic gesso.



## Project Materials

### Acrylic Colors

You'll need at least 2 oz. (60ml) of these acrylic colors:

Cadmium Yellow Medium

Cadmium Red

Titanium White



And the smallest tube that you can find of:

Burnt Sienna



### Other Supplies

- Art Alternatives Nylon Palette Knife
- 1" Craft Brush
- Art Alternatives Disposable Paper Palette Pad (or other mixing surface)
- Squir Bottle (at least 2 oz.)
- Acrylic Gloss Medium (optional)
- Paper Towels or Rags



For more design ideas and patterns visit our Web site:  
[www.Art-Alternatives.com](http://www.Art-Alternatives.com)

**Complete instructions on reverse**

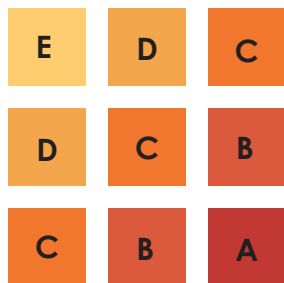
# elements project: minis



PROJECT TIME: Approximately 1-1/2 hours (plus drying time)

## Part 1: Foundation Colors

The goal is to create a blend of color from the upper left to lower right canvas. Mixing color is fun! The formulas will get you started. Modify them to achieve precisely the colors you want.



### Color mixing formulas:

- A.** 3 parts cadmium red  
1 part burnt sienna  
The result is deep red.  
Paint one canvas.
- B.** 5 parts cadmium yellow  
3 parts cadmium red  
1/2 part white  
1/2 part burnt sienna  
The result is deep orange.  
Paint two canvases.
- C.** 5 parts cadmium yellow  
1 part cadmium red  
1 part white  
1/2 part burnt sienna  
The result is medium orange.  
Paint three canvases.
- D.** 3 parts cadmium yellow  
2 parts white  
1/2 part cadmium red  
The result is pale tangerine.  
Paint two canvases.
- E.** 3 parts cadmium yellow  
5 parts white  
1/2 part cadmium red  
The result is pale yellow-orange.  
Paint one canvas.

**Mixing Tips:** Count out "parts" of color by dispensing dabs that are equal in size. Mix colors in the order suggested. Cadmium Red is a strong color – add it incrementally and adjust the formula as you go. Work the palette knife back and forth over the mixing surface, folding color into itself.

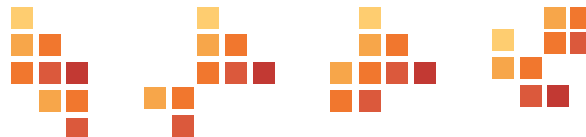
**Application:** Apply color to the canvas using your brush, or directly with the palette knife by spreading on the color, just as you would frost a cake. Start with the sides, and finish with the front. Don't worry about making the color completely smooth. Some texture will add character to your art.

Wash the brush or knife thoroughly with water between each color application. Never allow color to dry on the brush.

**After painting each canvas, set it aside on a sheet of palette paper and allow the paint to dry completely.**

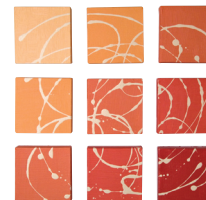
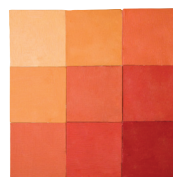
## Alternative Arrangements

If you prefer the simplicity of the color blend without an accent design, stop after Part 1 foundation colors are dry, and try any of these other arrangements for displaying your décor minis:



## Part 2: Accent Design

The goal is to create a visually interesting accent design by squirting thin lines of color from a bottle onto the canvases in an unstructured, random pattern.



1. Lay out the dry canvases, edges touching, as shown.
2. Mix accent color in a squirt bottle: 7 parts white, 1 part cadmium yellow and 1 part burnt sienna. The result is off-white.
3. Add water (and optional gloss medium) until the mixture is thin enough to squirt out in a controlled line. Test it on a piece of paper first. (You'll need about 2 ounces of color.)
4. Squirt color on the canvases in a loose, overlapping circle motion, to create a pleasing pattern.
5. Separate canvases and let dry before hanging.

## Accent Design Alternatives

Instead of circles, try squirting the accent color in zig-zags, criss-crosses, diagonals or any pattern you like. Or, try these other techniques:

**Sgraffito:** Mix accent color on a palette – don't add water. Apply the color thickly with the brush in interesting shapes. Then, scrape away lines in the wet color with your palette knife to create texture and motion, revealing the foundation color below.

**Splatter:** Use a spatter brush or stick to fling and splatter accent color onto the canvases.