

Limestone Blocks

Student Version

MATERIALS LIST

Primer

PAINT COLOR SAMPLES

White Latex Eggshell

Acrylic Glazing Liquid

1/4" Black Masking Tape

Whizz Fabric Roller

Foam Brushes (4)

Quart Containers (4)

Soft Charcoal Pencil

Medium China Marker

Cheesecloth

4' Level

18" Level

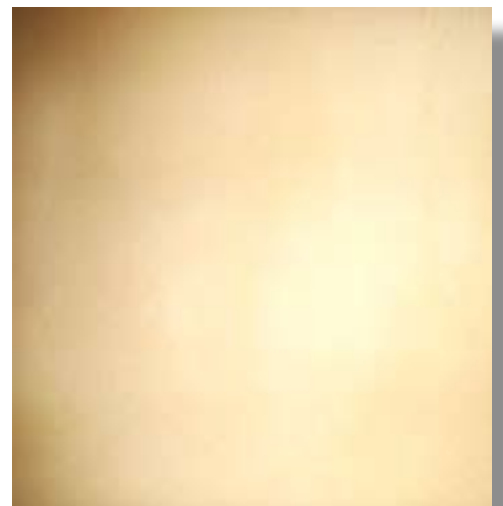
Wallpaper Burnisher - Flexible

Measuring Tape

Paper Towels

I thought you might like to see an actual finish created by a student following my instructions. This will show you that it is indeed possible to achieve good results following my step by step formula. It must be pointed out that Agustin is a professional painting contractor, however he had no experience with Faux Finishing until taking my classes.

STEP ONE Prepare your surface as you would for any wall glazing project, paying particular attention to matching the existing texture of the surface when patching any holes. Apply the primer with a roller for an even coat. Let dry for the



recommended time on can. Prepare your basecoat (see photo right) by pouring the lightest color and the white paint together in a can. Mix very slightly. Pour into roller tray. You want to achieve a look that has several shades all mixed together. Let dry. Whatever look you end up with is probably going to be OK.

***TIP** The Whizz Roller will create a textured basecoat that could add an interesting element to the overall look of your wall and it can be done in one coat instead of two.*



STEP TWO After the basecoat has dried to a beautiful “textured” finish you are ready to start your layout. The blocks should be twice as long as they are high. For example, a block 10” high and 20” long is a great size for an interior stone. Work out the layout on paper so you can get the right size for your particular wall. It is best to come up with a size that will leave a half of a block on each end and close to a full block top and bottom. Use a level to get a straight horizontal line approximately ¼” from the ceiling. (Don’t forget to tape off your ceiling). If this line only has one “straight edge” that’s OK, it will serve as a natural mortar line perfectly. Run your tape so that the bottom edge is one the line you just drew. Now measure down 10 ¼” from the bottom of the tape and draw a mark that will be the start of your second tape line. Use your level to draw another horizontal straight horizontal line across the surface of your wall. When you have done this run your tape with the bottom edge on the line you just drew. Continue this all the way to the bottom of the wall. If you have a short block and there is no wood work to conceal it you should work it out in the initial layout so that it is in the place, top or bottom, that shows that least.

STEP THREE When you have taped all the horizontal lines of your wall/s it is time to do your vertical taping. Again this is done with a measuring tape, level and

charcoal pencil. Now you have the choice of running your tape top to bottom and then cutting out the blocks you don't need or my preferred way is to use a level that is 18" and tape each individual block. There is less waste of tape and once you get the hang of it, it takes very little time. Mark your vertical lines starting with the first row and layout whole blocks all the way across. If you've done your initial layout correctly you'll end up with a whole block (20") or a half block (10") plus your mortar line at the end of the wall.



TIP Don't forget to add the 1/4" mortar line in all your measurements.

Your second row should start with a 1/2 block followed by whole blocks to the end of the wall. It's OK to have 1/2 blocks on each end of a row. Your next row starts with a whole block and so on down to the bottom.

TIP Use your level to line up blocks in each row after the 2nd row to save the need for measuring out each block. Just line up your level to the line you are following and follow through.

When you have the wall taped completely go back and burnish your tape with the wallpaper burnisher or the edge of a stiff piece of cardboard. The burnisher works best.

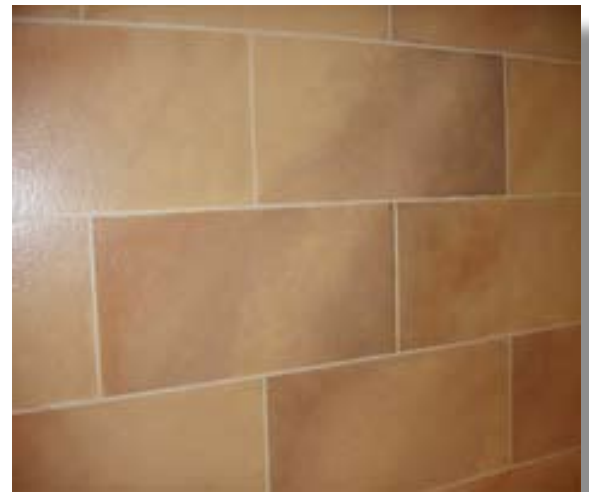
STEP FOUR– MIXING GLAZES Open your containers and mix the 4 colors in the following formula: 1 part paint: 2 parts glazing liquid: 1-2 parts solvent (water or mineral spirits). You will add solvent according to all of the conditions mentioned in the text on mixing glazes. The examples here suffered from having to work on an unusually humid day in February without the benefit of air conditioning, so we thinned the mixture as much as possible without reaching the runny stage and worked fast. If you find the mixture setting up too quickly you might add more glaze and less paint. In the case of limestone blocks you could go to a mixture of 2:5:3-4 and still get the correct coloring for each block.



STEP FIVE Begin painting your blocks in the upper corner working your way across and down. After a couple of rows you will be able to work from the floor. The goal in painting should be that the overall look is the same while each individual block has its own characteristics. Keep in mind that your colors flow in a directional manner, but should be blended together so that there are no hard lines. You can have variation in each block but try to feather out the edges so the color flow into each other. Also try to arrange your blocks in such a way as to vary with your darks and lights. It will make for a more interesting wall. Continue painting

until wall is finished.

STEP SIX Remove the tape to reveal the basecoat. This should be done as soon as you are finished painting the wall so that there is less chance of pulling up any of the glaze coat you just applied.



STEP SEVEN Determine your light source. Unless you feel that any windows in the room will dominate the lighting you can base your shadow on artificial light sources in the room. This will usually result in a light source that is up and to the right or left. With your China Marker in hand start drawing a small shadow around the 2 sides of your block that would be

created by your light source. (You may want to let the blocks dry a bit so you can rest your hand on the wall as you draw). Complete the wall.

STEP EIGHT - Mortar Mix In a small container mix your artists' acrylics to a color that is light gray with a tint of burnt sienna. Add glazing liquid in an amount equal to the paint. Thin a little but be very careful that you avoid drips. I recommend using either a flat angled artists' brush approximately 1/4" wide or an 1/8" round artists' brush for better control..

STEP NINE Start painting the mortar. Keep the flow and appearance even. There is little variation in color for the mortar. Stay within the lines as much as possible, being careful not to paint over the china marker line. This doesn't mean the lines have to be perfectly straight. In fact a little wavy is OK. You can even round off a few corners slightly for added character. Let dry overnight.



STEP TEN (Optional) Apply a protective finish to the surface to prevent any accidental wearing away of the finish or to protect it from grease or water in a bathroom or kitchen. Any good water-based poly will do. A satin finish is best. Do not use oil-based polyurethanes because they will yellow over time and can drastically change the appearance of any faux finish.



THE FINISHED WORK

Not bad for a student's first try! There are certain corrections that should be made in future attempts, but that will come with practice. Look closely at the texturing and see if you can see what needs to be corrected.