

# How to Make Decorative Plates

notes

Use a light-weight cotton fabric; heavier, stiffer fabrics and patterns with gold threads don't work well. The pattern should be very clear on one side and may show on the back also. If you choose a pattern where centering a figure is important, be sure to get a piece where that figure may be centered. Dark colors tend to become lighter/grayed on the finished plate. Try to get all sizing out (soak, use soap, or vinegar, whatever). Iron.

The most important work you do will be around the edges of the plate 1) getting the material to fit smoothly, without bubbles, and 2) painting the gold edges. Be most careful doing those things.

Care of your finished plate: do not saturate to wash; do not use dishwasher or submerge in water; wipe glass surface with damp cloth, to clean.

You may find it useful to watch this video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ehJhHl2v6Ow>

Supplies

Ceramcoat Sealer (8 oz. for 6-8 plates)  
or Mod Podge  
Satin poly varnish, fast dry  
600 grit ultra-fine sand paper  
Sponge brush (1-1/2 - 2")  
Small regular brush  
Rub 'n Buff  
Glass (clear) plates  
Fabric  
Optional: Goof Off to clean plates

by Delta sealer ([shopcraftworld.com](http://shopcraftworld.com) 800-654-6114)  
at Michael's or other craft stores  
may use glossy if you prefer  
  
For Ceramcoat  
For varnish  
Antique gold or any other accent color  
Any size, without pattern or ridges if possible  
1/3 yard covers 3, 8-9" plate

Have Available

Scissors (very sharp)  
Plastic sheet or paper to cover table  
Hair dryer (if you're in a hurry)  
3-pound coffee can or the like

Also: For cleaning up the front of the glass plate:  
Q-tips, throw-away rags, and mineral spirits

instructions

Cut the fabric larger than the plate, leaving 1 to 1-1/2 inches all around. Be sure it's larger enough to cover.

Turn the plate upside down on the work surface.\*\* Brush the clear plate (including edges) generously with either the Ceramcoat or ModPodge.

Place the material on the back of the plate with the right side facing down. Turn the plate and material over, to be sure the right side of the material is showing through the plate. If the material has a pattern, check the positioning of the pattern.

Then, keep smoothing the material with your hands (mainly palms), stretching the fabric from the center to the outside, removing all bubbles and creases, especially around the edges. This is a most important step.

Use the sponge brush; brush with second coat of ModPodge or Ceramcoat, starting at the center and working out to the edges. Be sure to saturate the edges well also.

Let dry about 2 hours or overnight, or dry with hair dryer.

Use good scissors to trim the fabric to the edge of the plate all around. Cut in such a way as to not lift up the edges, but yet expose the glass edge for later gold painting.

Optional:

When dry add a *light* coat of varnish. This time, no hands are required. You may use the hair dryer again, or let the plate sit for awhile.

When dry, sand *lightly*. The plate will feel smooth to the touch.

Wipe the back with slightly damp cloth, to remove dust. Scrape excess glue off the front (not edges) with your fingernail.

Varnish the back again. Let dry or use hair dryer. Sand until very smooth.

When dry, use your index finger to carefully spread a narrow ribbon of paint on the edge. A little will go a long way. Remember, excess paint can be wiped from the glass, but not the material.

Use a cloth and mineral spirits to get paint off your hands. Use Q-tip and mineral spirits to clean off the front glass.

\*\* Use a three-pound coffee can (or paint can or the like) with its plastic lid on, as a pedestal for supporting and elevating the plate. The plastic will keep the plate from scratching or slipping, and the three-pound can is tall enough to give you room to work on the plate easily.