



Debby's Touch

by Debby Forshey-Choma

Christmas Countdown



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Adding different techniques, however simple or detailed to backgrounds or on top of a finished design, adds interest to the design. The background is a supporting part of the design, but keep it in the background; don't overdo.

Royal Brushes available through www.RoyalBrush.com

#1360 – sm, med Debby Forshey's Texture brushes
#3080 – 1 Oval Wash Combo
#4150 – 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 Majestic shaders
#4160 – 5/8 Majestic angle
#R2114 – small Silk Sponge pkg.

#4170 – 4, 6 Majestic filberts
#4585 – 10/0, 5/0 Majestic liners
#4700 – 3/4 Majestic glaze wash
#M770M – 3/4 Moderna oval mop

DecoArt Americana Acrylics available through www.DecoArt.com

Baby Blue 042	Celery Green 208	Slate Grey 068
Blue Chiffon 193	Evergreen 082	Snow White 01
Blue Mist 178	Fawn 242	True Red 129
Black Forest Green 83	Grey Sky 111	Victorian Blue 039
Black Green 157	Holly Green 048	Wisteria 211
Bleached Sand 257	Honey Brown 163	Yellow Ochre 08
Burnt Umber 64	Payne's Grey 167	

DecoArt Sealers/Finishes

Chalkboard Paint DS90	Faux Glazing Medium DS18
DuraClear Matte Varnish DS60	Multi-Purpose Sealer DS17
DuraClear Satin Varnish DS61	

Surface Source

This design is adaptable to many difference plaque surfaces.

X5 – Chalkboard w/frame (2" x 3") #9112-74 available through Darice, Inc., www.darice.com

Misc Supplies

Chalk
Drill; 1/8" drill bit
3/4" diameter drawer knob of choice

Graph Ruler and Spattering Tool available through www.DebbysTouch.com

3-in-1 Advanced Craft Glue available through Beacon Adhesives; #914.699.3405; www.beaconadhesives.com

Prep

1. Drill a hole in the center bottom of the plaque; for the drawer knob.
Seal the entire plaque with the Multi-Purpose Sealer; using the glaze wash brush.
Lightly sand, wipe off with a lint-free cloth.
Basecoat the surface of the plaque with Grey Sky, achieve an opaque coverage; using the glaze wash brush.

Basecoat the side edges and backside of the plaque with Antique Teal mixture (Black Forest Green + Victorian Blue 1/1), achieve an opaque coverage; using the glaze wash brush.

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Background

2. Transfer the design lines to the surface of the plaque.

Use the graph ruler to aid in the transfer of any straight lines, by dragging the stylus along the ruler's edge. Corner load the angle with Payne's Grey, lightly float shading above the distant snow trees and the backside of the snow hills be sure the float is walked out to be seen above the structures. Mop to soften.

Corner load the angle with Snow White, float a highlight along the front side of each snow drift; mop to soften.

Then randomly chisel float* over each snow land area.

More snow will be added later after the design has been painted.

**chisel float by corner loading the angle, blend off on your palette, lay the bristles of the brush flat on the surface, chisel edge up. Push the paint on the bristles front left to right in a scratching motion, allowing the bristles to pull a broken line that is slightly floated.*

Background Winter Trees

3. Using the silk sponge, dampened with water, pick up Fawn on the bottom portion and Snow White on the top portion blend slightly on your palette.

Pat the trees in working from the horizon up, vary the shapes, don't make the trees to uniform.

Now turn to a clean area on the sponge, pick up Snow White, pounce at the top of the trees; for snow.

With the 5/0 liner and thinned Burnt Umber, sparingly pull branches. Pull from the horizon up, thinning and fading off as they go up. Don't overdo, the trees are off in the distance.

Lighter Background Pines

4. Transfer a center line for each pine along the horizon. Work only on a couple of pines at a time.

Slightly pre-dampen the surface area with clean water; this will help the paint bleed, giving the boughs a softer effect.

Load the 6 filbert with a mixture of Blue Mist across the chisel edge, pull the lighter background pines first.

Up on the chisel edge vertically, slightly pull the top of the pine. Then horizontally, tapping from left to right for the boughs.

Slowly and slightly widening as you work towards the base of the pine.

Allow a bit of the background to show through; so the pine doesn't look like a triangle.

When dry, repeat step with the Blue Mist, randomly tapping on the boughs; to deepen.

When dry, lightly pre-dampen each pine again, load the 6 filbert with Snow White, lightly and randomly dance on the boughs; for snow.

Darker Background Pines

5. Repeat the same steps in #4 with Black Green for the darker front pines; using the 6 filbert.

Background Shrubs

6. With the appropriate size Texture brush and Black Green, dance in the background shrubs. Repeat step randomly with Snow White, for separation and snow.

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For proper use of the Texture brush, use the following method.

Dampen the bristles with water to start the separation of bristles. Tap bristles into the paint on your palette, hold it perpendicular to your palette, pounce it up and down to get some of the paint off – keeping the paint sparse on the brush. Note – this brush can be used on the whole foot or just the toe.

Tap lightly on the surface, dance with the brush up and down, rolling the brush in different directions in between your fingers when it is up in the air (like dancing the twist, light on your feet). Allow some drying time in between dances so the paint sets up and you don't end up with a gloppy or muddy look.

Basecoating Structures

7. Use the appropriate size shaders to basecoat the structures.

The appropriate size liners to pull wall lines.

Use the appropriate size shaders to wash over the shade side walls; corner load the angle to float shade on the opposite wall.

Each numbered step will contain instructions to complete the structure.

Roofs, windows, doors will be completed in a later step.

Refer to line drawing for numbering.

Structure #1

8. Baby Blue + Blue Chiffon 1:1 mixture – basecoat walls

Payne's Grey – pull wall lines, wash over left wall, float shading across top of right wall

Structure #2

9. Wisteria – basecoat walls

Payne's Grey – pull wall lines, wash over left wall, float shading across top of right wall

Structure #3

10. Celery Green – basecoat walls

Payne's Grey – pull wall lines, wash over left wall, float shading across top of right wall

Structure #4

11. Bleached Sand – basecoat walls

Slate Grey – pull wall lines, wash over left two walls, float shading across top of right two walls and down the right side between the two walls

Structure #5

12. Yellow Ochre – basecoat walls

Honey Brown – pull wall lines, wash over left two walls, float shading across top of right two walls and down the right side between the two walls

Roofs

13. Snow White – basecoat roofs

Corner load the angle with Payne's Grey, lightly float shading across the top of each roof.

Double load the 5/0 liner with Payne's Grey + Snow White, pull the side roof lines.

Load the 5/0 liner with Snow White, re-stroke over the side roof lines; to brighten.

Doors and Windows

14. With the appropriate size shaders, pull the –

Slate Grey – grey door

Burnt Umber – brown door

Yellow Ochre – yellow windows

Payne's Grey – dark windows

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Corner load the angle with True Red, float shading across the top and down the left side of the yellow windows.

Following the steps in Background Pines, pull the Christmas trees in the two large windows; using Holly Green and the 4 filbert.

Place dip dots with True Red for the ornaments; using the stylus.

With the 5/0 liner and Slate Grey, pull the window panes and outline the window on structure #4.

With the 5/0 liner and Bleached Sand, pull the window panes and outline the window on structure #5, pull the door knobs and window panes in the windows of the background structures.

Christmas Decorations

15. With True Red and the 0 liner, pull the garland on the appropriate structures; refer to photo for placement. With the appropriate size Texture brush and Holly Green, dance on the wreaths on the appropriate structures; refer to photo for placement.

Using the stylus and True Red, place dip dots on the wreaths; to represent berries.

With the 5/0 liner and True Red, pull bows on the wreaths.

Ground Foliage

16. With the appropriate size Texture brush and Evergreen, dance in the ground foliage; under the structures; refer to photo for placement.

Then with Snow White on the toe of the Texture brush, lightly and randomly dance snow on the shrubs and foliage.

Ground Snow

17. Corner load the angle with Snow White, randomly chisel float* additional snow under the ground foliage, structures and background shrubs; refer to photo for placement.

Window Tints

18. Lightly pre-dampen the area under the yellow windows with water, corner load the angle with thinned Yellow Ochre, float tints on the snow directly under the yellow windows; refer to photo for placement.

Fence

19. Double load the 2 shader with Yellow Ochre + Honey Brown, pull the posts.

Corner load the angle with Burnt Umber, randomly chisel float* shading down the posts.

With the sm Texture brush and Holly Green, dance in the garland on the fence posts.

Using the 5/0 liner with True Red, pull the bows.

Falling Snow

20. With the Spattering Tool and thinned Snow White, spatter over the entire design.

Backside Faux Finish Technique

21. The basecoated Antique Teal mixture edges and backside of the plaque are faux finished.

Read through the steps in faux finishing before you begin.

This particular faux finish is referred to as a subtracted or negative effect. When you apply a coat of paint or glaze to the surface and then manipulate it in some way, you create a subtracted or negative finish.

Because the paint or glaze is taken away in some areas; to achieve the effect.

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First to be able to work easier with the glaze base and have more open time to manipulate the faux finish effect, I applied one coat of satin varnish to the areas to be faux finished. Use the Oval Wash Combo to apply the varnish; it doesn't leave any visible brush stroke marks after the varnish has dried.

Follow the label instructions on the Faux Glaze medium, mix the glaze 1:1 with Blue Mist + water. Then take the silk sponge; which has been dampened with water and squeezed out; then sponge over the area.
The sponge will be picking up some of the glaze mixture allowing some of the background color to show through.

Chalkboards

22. Basecoat the side edges and backside of each chalkboard with Antique Teal mixture; achieve an opaque coverage; using the glaze wash brush.

When dry, follow the instructions for Faux Finish Technique, to apply to the Antique Teal mixture areas of the chalkboards.

Following the label on the Chalkboard Paint, apply to each chalkboard surface.

Transfer the line drawing of the holly to the chalkboard surfaces; refer to photo for placement.

Basecoat the holly with Holly Green; using the 0 liner.

Corner load the angle with Payne's Grey, float shading across the bottom of each holly.

Now corner load the angle with Blue Mist, float highlighting across the top of each holly.

With the 5/0 liner and Payne's Grey, pull a vein in each holly.

With the stylus and True Red, place dip dots; to represent berries.

With the 5/0 liner and Snow White, place highlight strokes in each berry; refer to photo for placement.

Finishing

23. To protect your painted piece, varnish the entire plaque, side edges and backsides of the chalkboards with the matte varnish; using the Oval Wash Combo brush.

This brush doesn't leave any brushstroke marks after the varnish has dried.

Finishing Touches

24. Glue the drawer knob in the bottom center of the plaque; using the 3-in-1 Advanced Craft Glue.

Use the chalk to write the date on the chalkboards to countdown the days to Christmas, then hang on the door knob.

For any questions concerning this design you can contact Debby at debbyforshey@gmail.com or visit her web site www.debbystouch.com, on Facebook or Instagram.

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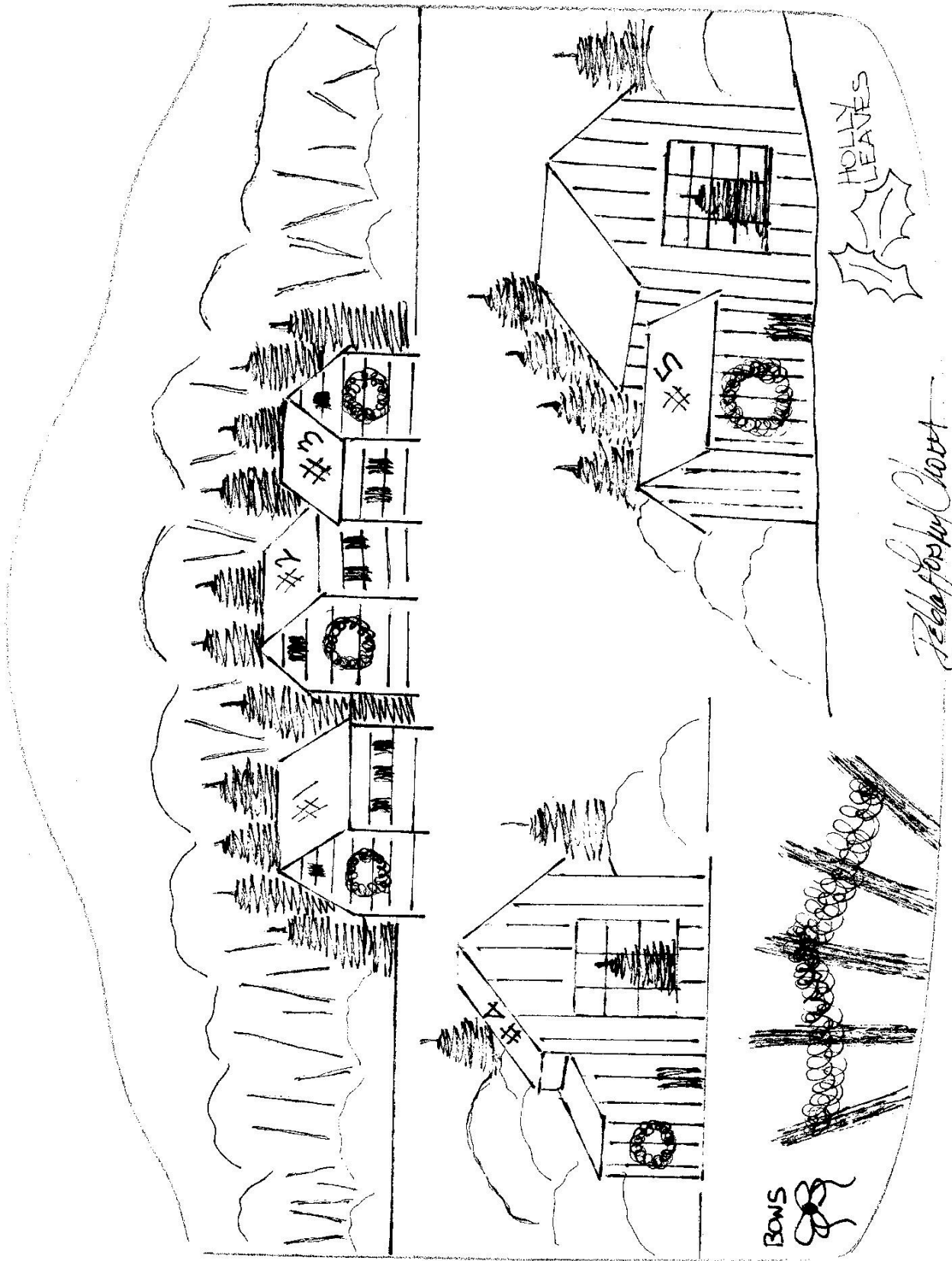
Left Side Close-up Image



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Right Side Close-up Image





HOLLY LEAVES

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BOWS

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