

## DIY AGED FRENCH POTS PROJECT



### SUPPLIES:

Terracotta pots

White milk paint OR acrylic paint OR chalk paint

Brushes

Mod Podge

Scissors

Cardstock paper

Ink or laserjet printer

Oval French labels

### OPTIONAL:

120 or 180 grit sand paper

Grey or brown milk paint OR acrylic paint OR chalk paint

palette knife

matte finish spray

disposable plates

## PHASE 1 – AGING THE TERRACOTTA POTS

You can use any one of the paints mentioned in the supply list to age the pots, I've tried them all on several occasions and achieved very similar results.

I choose acrylic paint this time and, in terms of colors, I ended up using only white! I initially thought that I would need a second color (brown or grey) to add more depth and create texture on the pots, but that was not the case. I kind of took advantage of their natural color, I'll show you in a second what I'm talking about.

The dry brushing technique is quite easy and I just LOVE how much freedom you get when using it!

You basically dip the tip of your brush into paint and you dab away the excess until you have removed almost all the paint from the brush. I used a disposable plate for dabbing the excess paint, but you can also use paper or a cloth.

Just make sure you dab the excess paint BEFORE brushing it to the object.

Then you can paint long irregular brush strokes all around the pot, applying not too much pressure.

Don't insist too much in the areas where you want the color of the pots to show from underneath – the margins, the edges or any other places that you think would normally be aging in time.

I found it easier to leave large unpainted areas at first (like in the picture above) and then go back to paint and 'fill' those areas, applying more or less pressure (like in the picture below).

You will primarily brush long horizontal paint strokes (if you keep your pot in front of you, on the table), but you can also brush on some smaller vertical or diagonal lines. This will create texture and will add character and dimension to your painted object.

Just remember, every time you dip your brush into the paint, you dab the excess on the disposable plate BEFORE applying it on the pots! Quite easy, right?

It was almost love ... at first brush! 😊

This perfectly imperfect technique allows you to get really creative with every brush stroke and paint some truly unique pieces

Because we are using a little amount of paint on our pots, they will almost instantly dry.

### NOTE:

If you are not happy with the results or if you feel like maybe you applied too much paint in one place, you can use a damp cloth to remove some of the paint or to blend it in (and give it a more washed look). You can also use sandpaper to give the pots an even more aged look.

### OPTIONAL:

If you feel like adding another color, now it's the perfect time to do it. Follow the same steps (dip and dab) and brush the new color here and there, trying to blend it in.

As I mentioned before, I only used white paint.



## PHASE 2 – FRENCH DECORATING THE POTS

For this step I decided to go with a super simple method. I printed the French labels on cardstock paper (using my laser printer) and just adhered them to the pots using some Mod Podge.

<https://thegraphicsfairy.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/oval-french-labels-for-pots-by-Dreams-Factory-for-The-Graphics-Fairy.pdf>



TIP: If you want to try any other technique, you can also check this article: [12 Easy Image Transfer Methods](#).

Then the labels got a special treatment too, because I felt I needed to help them blend more in, so they would go well with the whole aged look that I was looking for.

So I dry brushed some white paint on the labels too, especially on the areas that were not covered with graphics. I deliberately cover some of the writing too, so that the labels don't look 'too perfect'.

Here is an example – the label from the left is just simple cardstock paper without any white paint and the label from the right has a little bit of special treatment applied on ☺

As you can see, the left label kind of pops in when you look at the pot and the one from the right sorts of blends it better. You can also use tea, coffee or highly diluted brown paint (like I did with the DIY [Vintage French CD Coasters](#) or with the [French Hat Boxes](#)) to give the paper a more antique look. So you have a few options here and depending on your preferences, you can choose your favorite method!



Optional, to give your pots and your labels a little more depth, you can apply more paint in some of the areas, or even some gesso. I used a palette knife to create irregular textures here and there, but you can also use your brush for this.



### PHASE 3 – SEALING THE POTS

After the pots are completely dry you can take them outside (or in a well ventilated are) and seal them with a matte finish spray.

I skipped this step (for now) because is still cold outside, but I will do that as soon as the good weather settles in.

If you want to only seal the labels, you can use Mod Podge to brush a generous layer on top of each label.