

Faux Finishing 101

Why paint a faux finish? First of all, faux painting can create a beautiful look on any wall. Secondly, is not difficult. And thirdly, faux painting is MUCH less expensive than creating a wall with the actual materials. Sometimes you want more than just a boring solid color on the walls. Faux painting allows you to be creative and give any room a one-of-a-kind design. You can add a dramatic effect or just a subtle one that will give any room the character it needs.

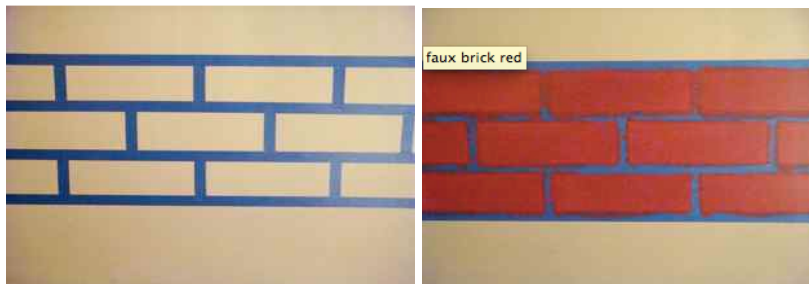
First things first: Prepping your wall

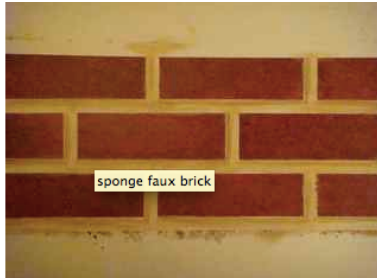
1. Inspect your wall for holes, dents, scratches and repair them as needed.
2. If your walls have wallpaper, the wallpaper on the wall needs to be removed. If you can't remove it, you can prime over it
3. Use a primer before you faux paint if:
 - A. If you are putting your finish over a new wall that has never been painted
 - B. If you are working on a wall that has a glossy surface
 - C. If you are painting or finishing over existing wallpaper
 - D. If your wall has been skimmed or extensively patched

BRICK FAUX FINISH

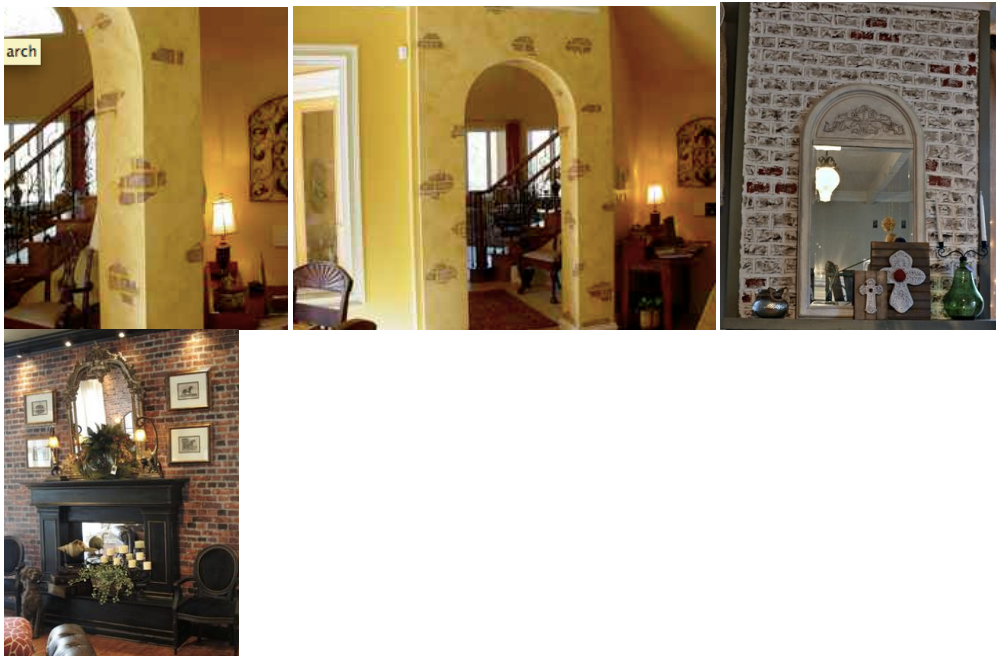
Brick Step-out:

A brick look will require a couple of different layers of paint, but it will be worth it! You can choose the traditional brick color of a deep reddish/brown. Here is a simple example of a brick faux finish, which would probably be easiest for people to do at home:



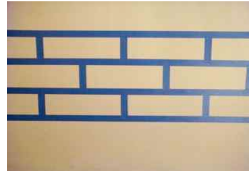


This is probably the simplest of the brick faux finish. More in-depth brick finishes look like these below. You can also do a light grey, a Tuscan-style pale yellow, a mixture of colors including reds and blacks, or really any color combination that you like. You can do an entire wall in this pattern, or mix it with plaster to recreate the look of an old building. You can add them as an accent piece, add them to a fireplace, or add them to an entire wall.



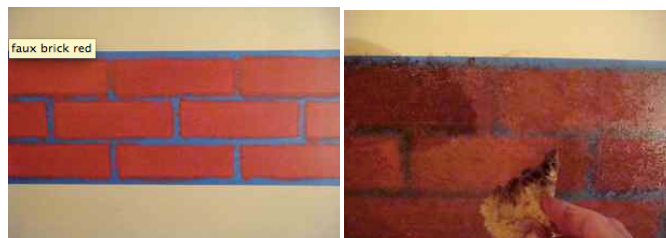
We will need either three foam core boards painted with primer or a flat paint (or wall), preferably a tan-ish color. I will refer to these as Brick Boards 1, 2, & 3.

Brick Board 1: Top half of board blank, bottom half of board with blue tape only, outlining the brick layout. Talking points – we talk about laying out the size of brick that you want. We will lay out a 6” wide by 2.5” high brick pattern similar to this:



We can add one line of bricks just to show people how to do it. On the bottom of the board, we start by rolling out our bottom color of red. Then we move on to board #2.

Brick Board 2: The top half will be pre-painted red over the blue tape. The first step of red must be completely dry before you add the second color. Then I will start adding the next layer of paint – a sort of deep brown color. You can do this with a sponge, a rag, or a brush. (I will practice the night before and see which method looks the best.)



Brick Board 3: The top half will still have the tape on it, completely dry. The bottom half will already have the tape removed, revealing the brick pattern. We can start to remove the top half so we can show how easy it is. You just remove the paint and voila! You have bricks! In this picture, they have added an additional color as the grout between the bricks, but we should have the base color already painted and dry so that when you remove the tape, it will be done.



SUEDE FAUX FINISH

For the suede finish, you actually need the suede paint, and you can get that at any paint or hardware store. I've used the Ralph Lauren suede from Home Depot before and LOVED the results! My favorite colors are the Clay Red Suede and the Canyon Road Suede.



\$49.98 /each

Ralph Lauren 1-gal. Clay
Red Suede Specialty Finish
Interior Paint

Model # SU110



\$49.98 /each

Ralph Lauren 1-gal. Canyon
Road Suede Specialty Finish
Interior Paint

Model # SU118

Suede Step-out:

1. Buy the desired color of the suede paint that you want, and keep in mind that 1-gal. will cover approximately 150 sq. ft
2. Roll on the paint on the wall in a "V" formation until the entire wall is covered.
3. Take a 3" brush and brush on the second coat in "X" formations. This is very important! Only work on 3' sections at a time. Be sure to blend the "X's" into one another.
4. Continue until the entire wall is covered.

FAUX LINEN/CHEESECLOTH/GRASSCLOTH EFFECT



Faux Linen Step-out

1. Pick the color that you want for your wall, with a lighter color underneath.
2. Mix equal parts of paint (preferable eggshell) and artist's glaze.
3. Roll the paint on the wall in 3' sections
4. Drag a fanned-out whisk broom lightly in a vertical direction across the newly painted section to add texture until achieving a look you like.
5. Repeat until the entire wall is finished.

FAUX MARBLED EFFECT



Faux Marble Step-out

1. Pick a color that you like for your walls in an eggshell finish.
2. Mix equal parts of paint (preferable eggshell) and artist's glaze.
3. In 3' sections, roll the paint onto the wall.
4. Immediately press plastic wrap onto the wall in random patterns

TEXTURED EFFECT



This is a good “up-cycle” technique that uses old plastic bags to create the desired effect.

1. For a textured look to any wall, all you need is a base coat and a glaze coat and some old plastic grocery bags. In this picture, Lowe’s brand base coat in Yellowstone and Lowe’s glaze in Gold were used.
2. Apply the base, let dry.
3. Then take some glaze pour on a paper plate and “dab” on the wall with a plastic grocery bag. Yes, it’s that simple.... And you don’t need to purchase any special faux painting tools. Do as much or as little as you want – there is no set pattern. *(Tip: Make sure you don’t use the side of the bag that has colored writing. The ink can come off on the wall.)*