

# STENCILING INSTRUCTIONS

## PREPARE THE SURFACE

**Walls:** Make sure walls are free of dust and dirt. Using a level and a light pencil or chalk, mark a continuous line on the surface to align with the bottom of the stencil. (FIG.1)

**Upholstery:** Fabric should be prewashed and ironed. Align the center of the stencil with the center of the selected surface.

## SECURE THE STENCIL PATTERN

Align the bottom edge of the stencil with the level line on the surface. With the matte side of the stencil facing the wall, adhere the stencil to the wall with painters tape at each of the four corners. (FIG.2)

For more delicate patterns, repositionable spray adhesive is recommended. Set the stencil on a piece of cardboard with the matte side facing up. In a well-ventilated room, spray an even coat of repositionable adhesive on the stencil and position on the wall. The adhesive should allow repositioning up to three times. Thoroughly wash and dry the stencil between adhesive applications.

## APPLY THE PAINT

Always start with a clean, dry brush. Pour a small amount of paint into a shallow container. With a straight-down motion, dab the stencil brush into the paint. Off-load excess paint by tapping the brush on a clean, dry cloth—this allows only a small amount of paint on the brush and will prevent bleeding. Apply paint to the stenciled area with a tapping motion.

## MOVING THE STENCIL

Using a light pencil or chalk, mark the preset guides (▲) at the corners of the stencil. Carefully reposition the stencil to align with the guide markings as you move along the wall. (FIG.3)

## STENCILING TIPS FROM THE PROS

- Test your choice colors on plain white paper before you start stenciling.
- A two ounce container of acrylic paint works for stenciling a typical size room.
- Begin stenciling in the least noticeable corner of the room and work left to right.
- Remove paint buildup on your brush with a paper towel as too much paint makes a sloppy looking stencil.
- If paint builds up around the stencil cutouts, you should wipe it dry or clean the stencil before continuing.
- Have limited time to stencil as a Weekend Warrior? You can save paint-filled brushes in a plastic bag in your freezer. When you're ready to get back to business, just thaw the brush before stenciling again.
- Clean your stencil often and gently. Use warm water and a mild abrasive pad.
- Consider applying a clear matte or clear satin sealer to protect the stencil design. This will also allow it to be washed.
- If you want to paint over old stencil designs, be sure to use two coats of paint.

## ASSEMBLE MATERIALS

*These items can be found at local craft or hardware stores:*

Tape measure

Level

Pencil or chalk

Painters tape or spray adhesive

Stenciling paints

Stenciling brushes

Shallow container

Clean, dry cloth

