

Gilded Angel Shadowbox

by Steve Cohen

This shadowbox presentation was made with just a few simple items and a minimum of shop time. The same technique can be used with any number of small memorabilia items your customers bring to you to have framed.

For this piece, I took an old business card box and used a brush to apply a layer of gesso to the inside. Once the gesso was dry, I painted this "impasto" layer with satin black lacquer. The final step was to apply to it the same wash that is used on the moulding that frames the piece. This creates a consistency to the overall design: the texture echoes the surface design of the moulding and the color draws the viewer's eye in with no break from moulding to frame interior.

The angel was painted a clay red with lacquer and prepared for metal leafing. I leafed it and allowed it to dry for two days. After that, I painted it with a tinted lacquer and again applied the wash on the moulding and frame interior to the angel. Finally, I hot glued the angel into the frame interior.

Once the frame was joined, the glass was put in. The business card box (the frame interior with the angel already in place) was hot glued in place and also holds the glass in place.

The complete process took just five hours labor time and three days drying time. ■

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