

The Greatest Gift

An original design by Gail Tuckett

This project was designed as a gift for my Dad, after I read the lovely motto in a craft shop. The author is unknown.



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Requirements

Craftwood plaque
Sea sponge
Jo Sonja Clear Glaze Medium
Jo Sonja Texture Paste
Spray sealer
¼" flat brush
Fine round brush with a good point or short liner
No. 3 round brush with a good point
Transfer paper
Stylus
Palette knife

Jo Sonja artist paints

Island Sand
Raw Umber
Burnt Umber
Carbon Black
Rich Gold
Burgundy
French Blue
Yellow Oxide

Method

Base coat the wooden piece with one coat of Island Sand. Dry and then sand well, especially the routed edge. Give the piece another coat of Island Sand. Put out puddles of Island Sand, Raw Umber, Burnt Umber and Clear Glaze Medium on your palette. With the damp sea sponge, dab these all over the piece, aiming for a softly mottled, parchment effect. Try to avoid creating too much texture, as this will make your outlining difficult. Dry the piece well.

Transfer the lettering pattern, using transfer paper and the stylus, making sure it is straight and centred.

Using the short liner and black paint, carefully outline the lettering. Paint the shadow areas of the raised letter and the other letters smoothly with Carbon Black and the same brush. When this is completely dry, take a small amount of texture paste from the jar and add some clear glaze medium – a little at a time. Mix with the knife until it is smooth, about the consistency of softly whipped cream. Using the short liner brush, apply the paste smoothly and evenly to the unpainted areas of the letter "T". Allow this to dry overnight. Using the same brush, paint the raised areas with Burgundy. Dry.

Transfer the knotwork patterns as above. Outline as above.

Using the number 3 round brush, paint the knotwork with Burgundy, French Blue and Yellow Oxide, following the coloured photograph. Using the side loaded flat brush, float shading with Burnt Umber where one section of the knotwork goes under another. When dry, touch up your outlining if necessary. Paint the raised letter and the routed edge of the plaque with Rich Gold. Dry thoroughly. *Note – Gild these areas with gold leaf if preferred.*

Erase any transfer lines still showing and sign your work. Dry and then seal with several light coats of spray sealer.

The greatest gift
a man can give his children
is to love their mother.



