

Stencil a Floor

step-by-step instructions

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PORCHES

Materials

Cutting surface
Four 10 x 10-inch stencil
blanks or sheets of
acetate
Low-tack masking tape
Thin-tipped black permanent
marker
Ruler
Craft knife and extra blades
Chalk line or T square
Exterior paint primer (if paint-
ing over an oil-based paint,
use a gripping primer)

Stain killer (prevents any
previous stain or varnish
from bleeding through and
changing paint colors)
Exterior paint for base color
of rug
5 colors of acrylic paint
(2-ounce bottles sold in
craft stores)
Pie tin
Stencil brush
Fine-tipped paintbrush
Nonyellowing polyurethane

1. Enlarge design on photocopier to a 9-inch square or desired size. Ask at copy shop to use their proportional scale to figure out the size of enlargement you will need to fit the area you are planning to use for the rug. Make two copies. (**Figure 1**)
2. On cutting surface, tape one copy of design down and tape a piece of acetate over it. Make sure design and acetate are straight and square. Using a permanent marker and ruler, draw all small squares from design onto acetate. Remove acetate and cut out each square with craft knife.
3. Tape second piece of acetate over design and draw all the leaves. It is important to make registration marks. Draw two squares from each corner using dotted lines. Do not cut out these squares; they will be your placement guide when you start to overlay the stencil.
4. Tape third piece of acetate over design. Draw flower petals. Following the procedure in Step 3, use the four sets of corner leaves for registration marks. Remove acetate. Cut out petals.
5. Tape fourth piece of acetate over design and draw center of flower. Use the flower petals for registration marks; remove acetate and cut out center of flower.
6. To paint floor, measure area you want to cover, leaving a 2-inch border on all sides and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch between squares. Decide how many squares will fit across and lengthwise

on the floor. Mark the length and width with a pencil and connect the lines with a chalk line or use a T square to make the outline of the rug straight and even on all sides. Place low-tack masking tape next to lines.

7. Paint floor with one or two coats of primer. Let dry between coats. If you are working on a floor that has been previously stained, apply one or two coats of stain killer in place of primer. Let dry between coats. Do not let paint dry completely with tape still down, or some of the paint edges might be stripped when you remove the tape. The masking tape should be removed 15 minutes after each coat of paint. Put new tape down for each new coat of paint.

8. Roll on two coats of base color. Let dry.

9. Starting at lower left hand corner, place stencil with squares 2 inches up and 2 inches over from corner, making sure it is straight. Secure in place with masking tape. Pour paint for squares into pie tin. Dab brush in paint and blot on paper towel. Stencil squares. Remove stencil carefully and position so squares for next block will be $\frac{1}{4}$ inch away. Repeat process until entire rug area is covered. Let dry completely.

10. Using registration marks, secure leaves stencil in place and stencil leaves inside center of first block of squares. Repeat for all blocks. Let dry completely.

11. Position and tape stencil with flower petals in center of first block. Stencil flower petals. Repeat for all blocks. Let dry completely.

12. Position and tape stencil with flower center on first block. Stencil flower center. Repeat for all blocks. Let dry completely.

13. Using fine-tipped paintbrush, paint dots in center of each flower. Paint small lines on each end of rug to resemble a bound edge. Trace tassel pattern onto floor or draw a row of 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch-long tassels on each end of rug with primer. Let dry. Using fine-tipped brush, draw different-color strands through each tassel. Let dry completely. (**Figure 2**)

14. Cover with four or five coats of nonyellowing polyurethane, letting dry completely between each coat. Cover each tassel separately with polyurethane.