

# Texture Techniques

Painting has a long history in theatre. Because shows take place in distant, often imaginative, locations, it is impossible to create or recreate these places using real materials such as brick, stone, etc. The use of various painting techniques allows the scenic artist to recreate locations using common, light-weight materials.

Here are six techniques, most commonly used in scenic painting.



Scumbling



Stippling



Dry brush



Stencils



Splattering



Wet blend

# Color Tips

## Base

The primary color your project will be painted with.

## Tint

A lighter version of the base that is used for creating highlights.

## Tone

A grayed out version of the original base color.

## Shade

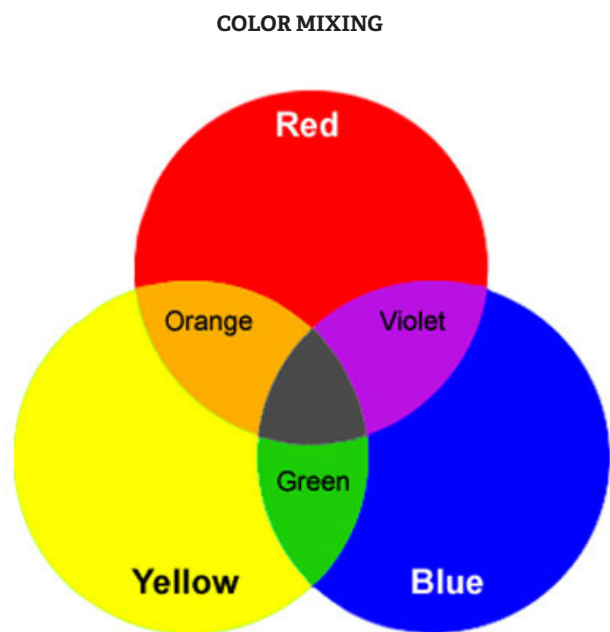
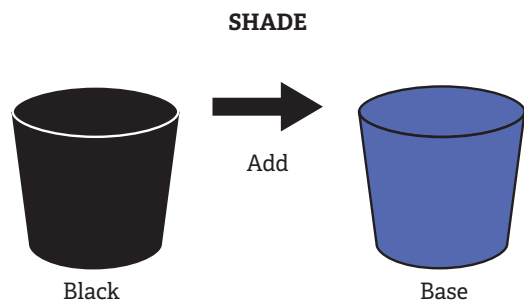
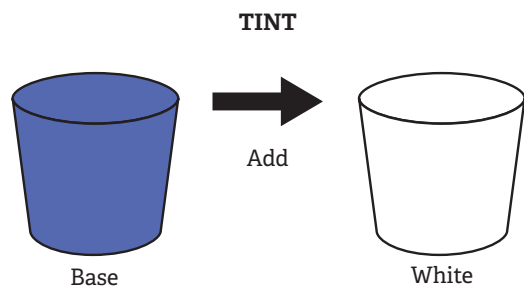
A darker version of the base that is used for creating shadow.

## Wash

Paint that is heavily diluted with water to be used as cast shadow or to add a little extra color to an area of your project.

## Please note:

For best painting results you should not strictly use black and white as a tint or shade. you should mix these with the base color.



# Marbling

Marble can be found in a wide range of colors and textures. If there is a particular style you wish to achieve, select the colors you like and follow the steps below.





### Step 1. Wet canvas

Marble is typically a wet bled technique that requires watered down paint to achieve the look.

Start by painting the canvas with water.



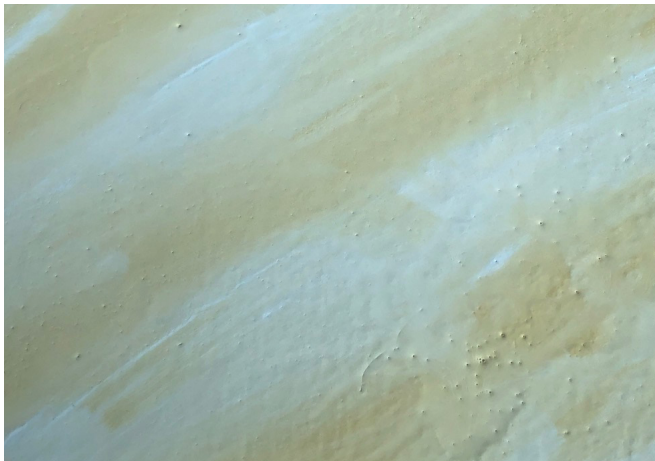
### Step 2. Lay-in

Quickly lay in an area with your base. With another brush apply irregular striations of tint and shade. blend



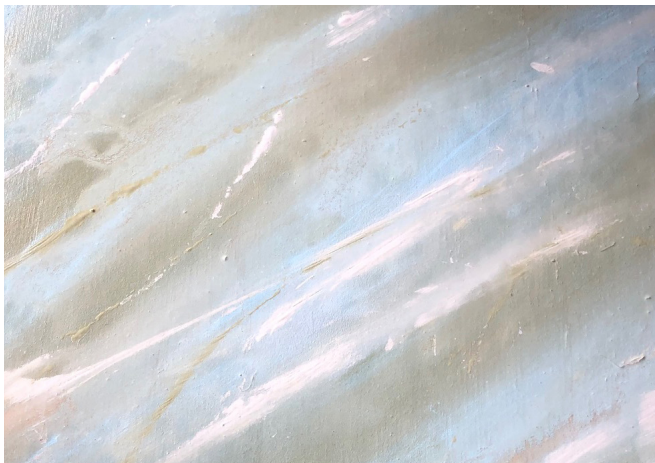
### Step 3. Water spray

Immediately after laying in the paint from step two, spray a mist of water over the surface of your canvas. This will create a mottled effect. **Do not overdo.**



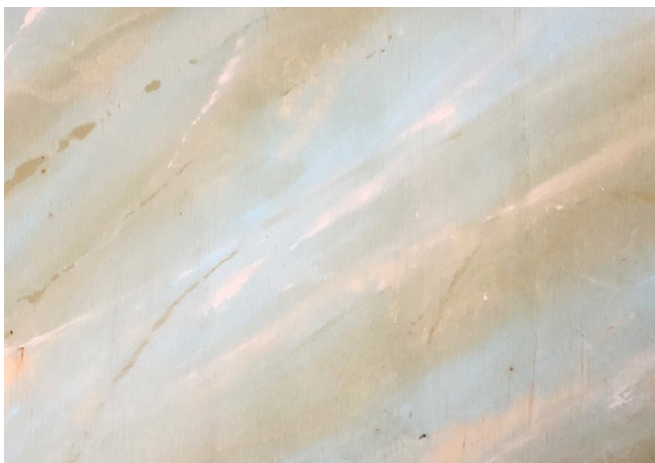
#### Step 4. Color spatter

Sparingly spatter the base, tint and shade on top of the wet canvas. Vary areas from heavy to fine but do not cover the entire canvas.



#### Step 5. Veining

This can be done with either a thin brush, a feather, or twine. wait till your canvas has dried a little then dampen twine, squeeze out any excess water, and dip it into your tint or shade. Remove any extra paint. then either flog or lay the string onto your canvas in the same direction as your lay in. Repeat several time.



#### Step 6. Detail

Repeat misting or veining as needed to get the look you wish to achieve. once dry, you can also use a damp brush to lightly blend any areas that stand out too much. A clear glossy coat can be applied to give your marble that extra sheen.

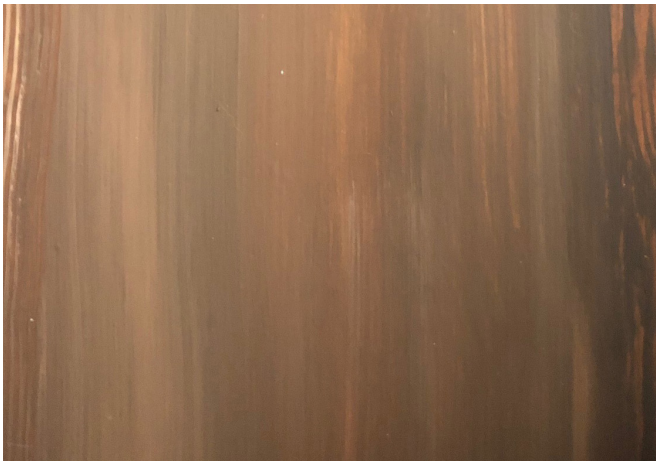
# Wood Grain

There are many tools you can use to make wood grain. I have brought several types for you to experiment with. Try more than one to see the different results you will get.



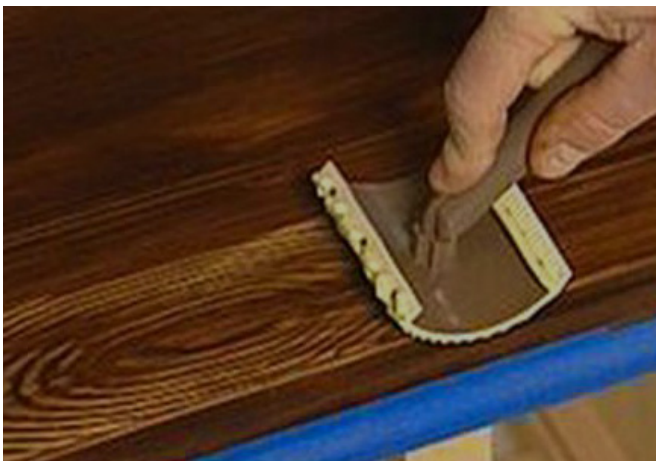
## Step 1. Neutral Base

Base the canvas with two shades of color. The colors should be similar to the final wood look you wish to achieve. Make sure your paint strokes are in the same direction.



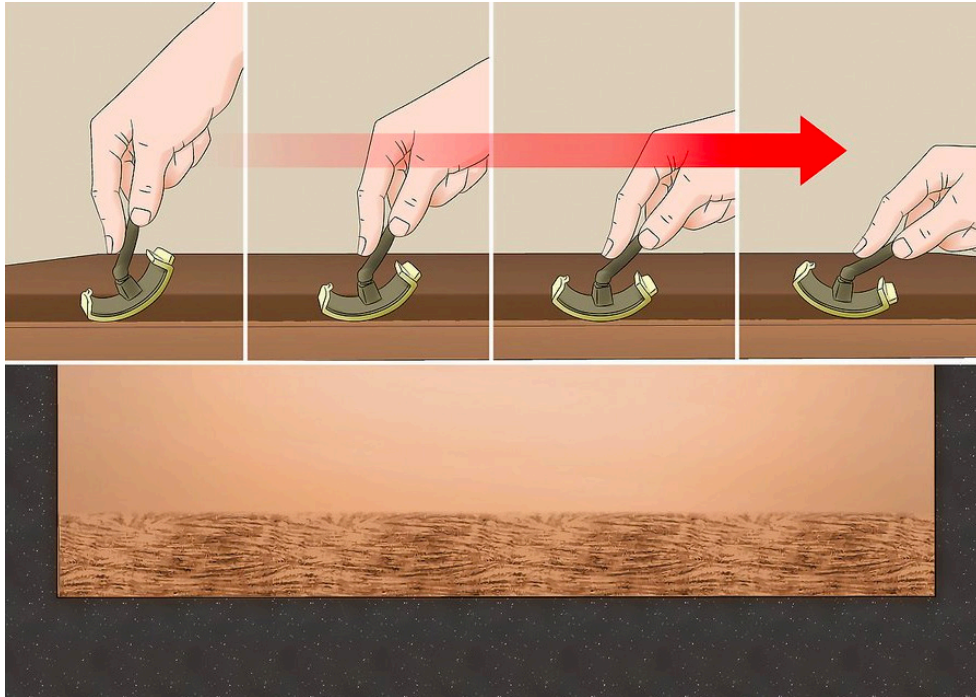
## Step 2. Lightly blend

Immediately after laying in the paint, lightly blend the two colors together while the paint is still wet. **Make sure not to overdo.**



## Step 3. Graining

Once your canvas is dry, use a damp brush and dip it into a darker shade of brown paint on top of the neutral base. Then while it's still wet, use one of many wood graining tools. Start at the top of the canvas and scrap downward in a single motion. Some tools are curved which will create knots when rotated. Whip excess paint from the tool after each stroke as needed.



Wood roller process



Wood grain tools

# Brick

There are several ways of painting brick. Each will require multiple steps that will require the previous step to dry before moving on.



## Step 1. Lay in

Use a mixture of base, shade, and tint to scumble the paint together till you have a rough blending.



## Step 2. Spatter

When your happy with the lay in, let it dry.

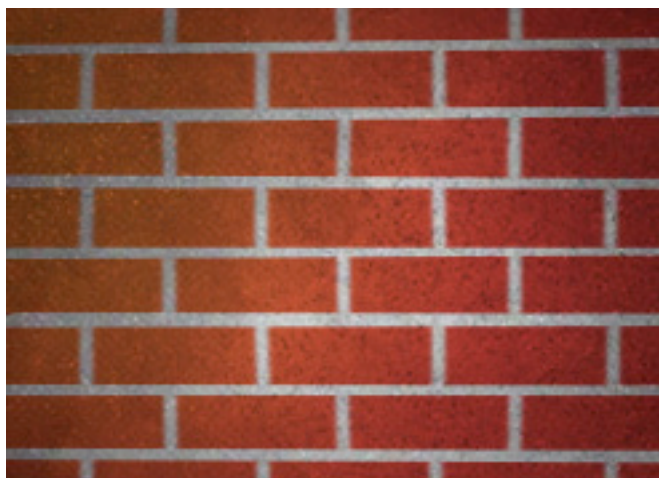
Then use all three colors again to create a spatter effect. to do this use a damp toothbrush, dry it off and dip it into the paint. Flicking the bristles will create the spatter effect. repeat for all three colors.



## Step 3. Mortar

Now its time to add the mortar. Use a strait piece of wood and a thin brush. Use gray mixed with a little brown, to paint several horizontal lines about 3 to 4 inches apart. Make sure your painted lines are about 1/2 inch thick. Repeat this till all of the horizontal lines are evenly painted from top to bottom.





#### Step 4. Mortar part 2

Choose one section and paint vertical lines 6 inches apart. Skip the next section and paint your lines in the same place as the first section. Repeat this all the way to the top of your canvas.

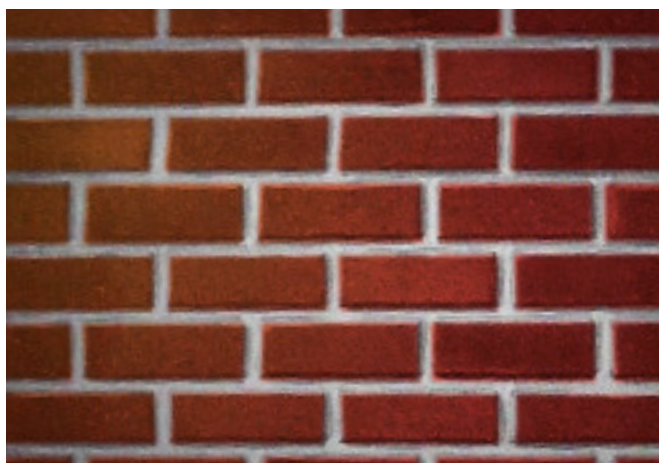
Then go back to the sections you skipped and paint the mortar in the center of the bricks above and below them. repeat this every 6 inches.



#### Step 5. Brick Lining

To get a 3 dimensional look, apply highlight and shadow on each brick. Start with a tint of you brick color and paint a thin line on the top and left side of one brick.

Then paint a shade of your brick color on the bottom and right side of the same brick. repeat this step for all the bricks.

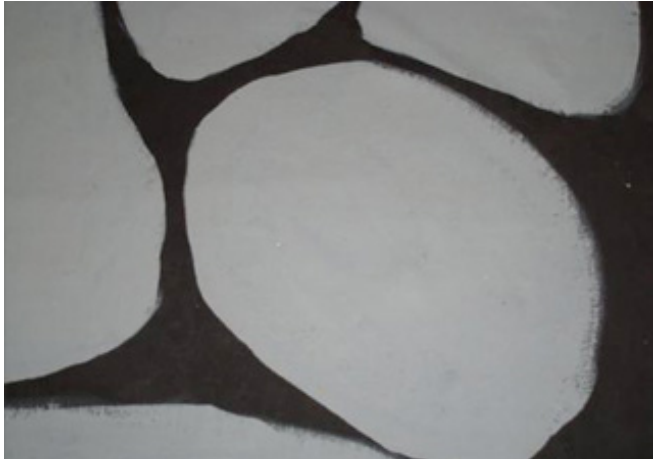


#### Step 6. Shadow wash

Once the bricks are dry, mix some of your brick shade paint with water to make a wash. this should be very thin. Apply this on the mortar on the bottom and right side of each brick. Its ok to overlap the dark edge of brick.

# Stone

Unlike the brick tutorial, with stone you start with the mortar first. There are many different shaped stones but the same principles apply.



## Step 1. Stone lay in

Paint your canvas with flat black. Then paint the basic shape of the stones with flat gray.



## Step 2. Stone detail painting

Keep in mind what direction you would like to simulate your lighting to come from. I typically go from top left.

Once dry, mix some flat black with water and start to add the shading.



## Step 3. Stone detail blending

Before it dries, use a paper towel and blend upward and to the left into the gray area.



#### Step 4. Stone detail blending 2

Continue to blend until it reaches a look you are happy with.



#### Step 5. Repeat

Once one is completed, continue the steps for the next stones. Make sure your lighting is coming from the same direction.



#### Step 6. Finish stones

When all of the stones are painted, step back and see if you need to add any more shading or blending to make the stones more consistent.

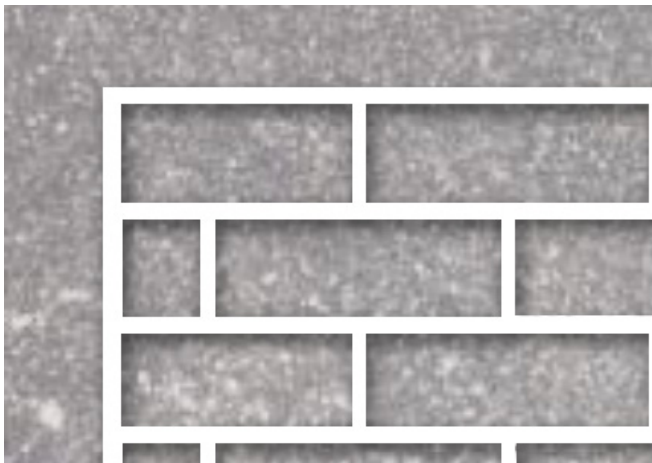
# Stencils

Painting brick and stone may be a little intimidating to some people. If you choose, I have an alternate way of making them that uses a stencil.



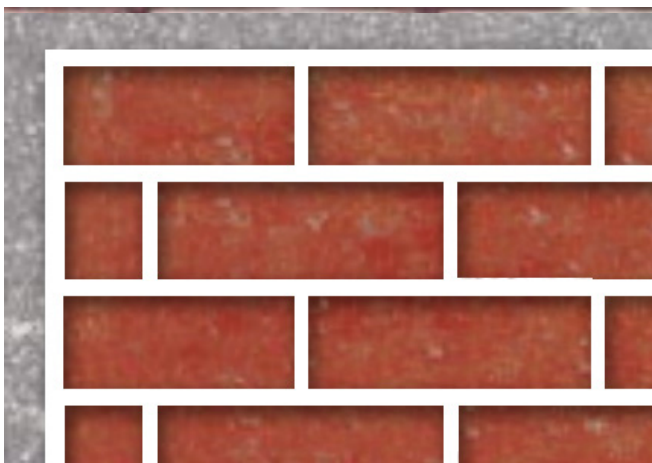
## Step 1. Mortar base

Paint gray base on your canvas. Then use a shade, and tint of that gray and spatter on top of the base.



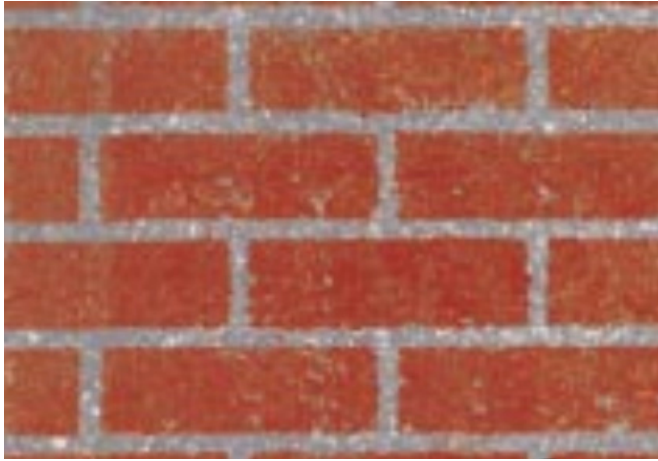
## Step 2. Stone lay in

Once your mortar is dry, place a stencil on top of your canvas. Then mix the brick color you would like to use



## Step 3. Stone texture

Use a sponge or brush to stipple in a blend of brick colors.



#### Step 4. Stone texture 2

When your happy with the brick texture, remove the stencil.



#### Step 5. Stone lay in

To get a 3 dimensional look, apply highlight and shadow on each brick. Start with a tint of you brick color and paint a thin line on the top and left side of one brick.

Then paint a shade of your brick color on the bottom and right side of the same brick. repeat this step for all the bricks.



#### Step 6. Stone detail

Once the bricks are dry, mix some of your brick shade paint with water to make a wash. this should be very thin. Apply this on the mortar on the bottom and right side of each brick. Its ok to overlap the dark edge of brick.

Also add more color to random stones to make them different from each other.