

Tech Theater – Lesson 2

The Fundamentals of Scenic Painting with Jimmy Nguyen

How to Create Realistic Looking Bricks:

Tools

- Regular latex house paint (at least 3 brick colors and a grout color. In this tutorial, 4 brick colors and a grout color were used)
- 2 large flat or angled paintbrushes
- 2 small 3-inch rollers
- 1 small-tipped brush
- 2 sea sponges
- Extra paint containers
- Optionally, it's smart to keep a squirt bottle nearby to control how wet your surface is.
- Some polycrylic water-based sealant
- 2 buckets of water

Steps

1. Start by laying down your different colored paints onto the brick board in varied spots and begin to scumble with your large brushes, blending the edges of each color together in a “figure 8” motion.
2. Once dry, take a small 3-inch roller and ever so gently, barely adding any pressure to the surface, skim each brick with all the various colors.
3. Dilute all the brick colors with water (2-part paint to 1-part water) in some small containers.
4. Soak your sponge and ring out all the water. Dip your sponge into the containers with diluted paint and start sponging the surface of the brick board.
 - Remember to change the angle of how you sponge to prevent repeating patterns and to keep each brick looking unique and varied.
 - Spray the surface with a squirt bottle if the brick board surface becomes too dry.
 - Sponge in that blue color to instantly make the bricks darker.



5. Once dry, with those containers of diluted paint, take your large brushes and wet it, then dry it off until it is just damp. Dip it into the containers and flick the brush so the paint spatters across the surface with droplets.
 - Much like with sponging, changing the angle of how you flick will create varied and different results and helps make your end result look more naturalistic.
6. Mix in that diluted red paint with that diluted blue paint. With that mixture, pour it into a separate container with some polycrylic water-based sealant and stir that mixture – this is your glaze.
7. Brush that glaze onto the surface to tone down the color and tie all your bricks together.
8. Once dry, paint in grout lines with your cream or grey color.
 - Optionally, you can dip your paint into some water, then back into your grout color and spatter the surface, adding another layer of dimension and texture to the brick.

Definitions

Trompe l'oeil

- A French term that translates to “trick the eye”. It is a technique that scenic artists use to enhance the theatricality of a set piece.

Scumbling

- Scumbling is the process of using two or more opaque paint colors on a surface and blending the edges of those colors together.

Sponging

- Sponging is the process of using a damp sponge (typically a natural sea sponge), soaking it in water, ringing it out until it is just damp and dabbing it on the surface with either opaque paint or paint diluted in water.

Spattering

- Spattering is the process of diluting your paint with water until it is thin (like skim milk) and using a dampened brush to dip in the paint and flick droplets across the surface you are covering.

Glazing

- Glazing is the process of making a glaze by mixing some paint with some sealant (and optionally diluting that mixture with a bit of water) and brushing that on the surface to tone the surface. A glaze is categorized by any thin, translucent coat of paint applied to a dry undercoat of paint.



Creative Extensions:

- Create a portfolio or digital collection of your ideas for a scenic design. List what materials you would use and your budget.
- Discuss the different things a scenic design can communicate to the audience, such as the play's given circumstances. Can a scenic design communicate a mood or feeling? How?

