



Painting Instructions

ALL PETITSIN PIECES ARE READY FOR PAINTING

*From Lenna: We constantly receive phone calls asking: "What kind of paint do you use?" Through the decades that I have been working in ornament I have tried every paint that was ever made to find which made the ornament come alive. In the past decade we have only evolved to the use of ONE paint: **WHITE PIGMENTED SHELLAC**.*

Shellac is an old paint that has its origins in history. That is not why we use it but it is testimony to its longevity. Shellac has always been known as a "**super sealer**". Commonly we are more familiar with clear or orange shellac that is equivalent to a varnish. Shellac comes in another form: **WHITE PIGMENTED SHELLAC**. That is what I use on ALL of my jobs, both for wall coloration and for ornament. The white pigmented form also has that same ability. It can be tinted to any color as can any other paint i.e. lacquer, oil base or water base. Shellac is both the sealer and the finish coat.

Shellac is not a commonly known paint today and may be a little difficult to find. It is worth the effort and should be available through any major city. Any paint store that carries any of the common canned spray shellacs should have it available through their distributors.

If this product is difficult to find . . . paint your walls with your choice of paint. Spray your "Petitsin" pieces only with the tinted shellac and mount them on the pre-painted walls. We use the white shellac exclusively for all plaster mouldings that are a part of our work.

The characteristics that make it ideal:

- **SHELLAC** is an alcohol based paint that must be sprayed and cannot be dissolved by any of the other common paints. Shellac is not a thick paint and sprays like lacquer. Thus it does not fill the fine carvings with thick paint for loss of detail; it will dry as quickly as lacquer. Use a succession of light coats to prevent runs. It finishes with a nice matte finish that reflects light and shadow bringing out the detail of the ornament.
- **GLAZING** is an EXCELLENT BASE for subtly wiping the glaze without affecting the ground color. Most of our ornament is ultimately "glazed" or "antiqued" to some degree. The glazing liquid is a base that will not dissolve or attack the shellac.

POLYCHROMATIC WORK: Pre-spray "Petitsin" before installation.

Many times an ornament of one color is desired on a different background. "Petitsin" is designed to be pre-colored in one color and then mounted on a different color background. This procedure can save thousands of dollars in time and money.

SUMMATION: Naturally this may be new to some and it must be experimented with. It works and of all the techniques that I have tried this is the fastest and the ultimate in quality.
LTK

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