

Folk Art Christmas Tree Skirt

Project by Doris C. Glover.

Materials:

36" x 36" Fredrix roll canvas

Artistry by Glover folk art holiday stencils

2" sponge brush

compass

pencil

1/4" dauber

Loew-Cornell #7550C 3/4" wash brush

Loew-Cornell #0 #7050C script liner

Loew-Cornell 3/4", 1/2", 1/4" stencil brushes

Americana matte spray

DecoArt Americana acrylics: dark chocolate,

lamp black, buttermilk, avocado, Hauser dark

green, sable brown, sapphire, deep midnight

blue, winter blue, Rookwood red, fawn, Hauser light green, golden straw, pineapple, jack-o-lantern

orange, honey brown, cherry red



Steps:

1. Cut a 36-inch circle out of the canvas or cloth. Locate the center of the round canvas and use the compass to draw a 3-inch circle in the center. Draw a straight line from the center circle to the outer edge of the canvas. Cut along this line to create the slit opening. Cut out the center circle to create the opening for the Christmas tree trunk.
2. Paint on a basecoat of buttermilk.
3. Create a wash mixture of four parts water to one part dark chocolate paint. Using the sponge brush, quickly apply an even coat to the entire surface of the tree skirt. Allow this to dry.
4. To apply the black borders to the outer and inner edges: Adjust your compass to a 2-inch setting for the outer border. Position the metal compass point along the outside edge of the canvas with the pencil point 2 inches in from the edge. Drag the compass around the perimeter of the tree skirt, creating a pencil line at the 2-inch border mark.
5. To create the border at the center, place the metal compass point on the inner edge of the canvas and the pencil point on the canvas 1-1/2 inches. Drag the compass around the interior of the center opening to create a pencil line at the 1-1/2-inch border mark.
6. Using the wash brush, paint both borders lamp black.
7. Imagine the canvas as a clock face with the star motif at 12, the snowman at 3, the moon and star motif at 6 (over the slit opening), and the birdhouse at 9. The pine trees should be centered between these motifs, per the photograph. Mark these locations with a pencil.

8. Lightly pencil in the five snow mounds, which vary in length from 7 to 8-1/2 inches. Using the wash brush, paint the mounds with buttermilk paint.
9. Tape the pine tree stencil into position on the mound just to the left of the slit opening. Using a 1/2-inch stencil brush, stencil the trunk with sable brown and the foliage with avocado. Stencil the remaining trees.
10. Tape the large star stencil in place at 12 o'clock and apply sapphire using a 3/8-inch stencil brush.
11. Tape the snowman into place. Using a 3/8-inch brush, stencil the head and body with buttermilk. Using a 1/4-inch brush, stencil the twig arms with sable brown. The carrot nose will be stenciled in jack-o-lantern orange.
12. Sketch the snowflakes on the canvas with the pencil. Dilute buttermilk with water to a milky consistency and apply the snowflakes with the script liner. Using the wood end of the liner, apply buttermilk dip-dots to the tips.
13. Tape the moon on the left side of the slit opening and the star to the right. With a 3/8-inch stencil brush, stencil the motifs in golden straw.
14. Tape the birdhouse stencil into place. With a 3/8-inch brush, stencil the body and base of the birdhouse with Rookwood red. Using a mask to protect the main structure, stencil the roof in buttermilk using a 1/4-inch stencil brush. Stencil the post in sable brown with a 1/2-inch brush.
15. Remove the stencil and reposition it so that the two holes (the perch and door opening) and wreath are placed in the center of the house. Stencil the door in lamp black, the perch in dark chocolate, and the wreath in avocado using a 1/4-inch stencil brush. Allow the wreath to dry.
16. Form the berries by placing cherry red dip-dots on the wreath.

Applying the Details

The details will be shading and shadowing, highlighting, and embellishing the borders. Now the motifs come to life! Use stencil brushes for most of the shading and highlighting.

1. Reposition the pine tree stencil over the first pine trees you stenciled. Shade the left sides and lower edges (the roots) of the trunk with dark chocolate. Shade lower edges of the branches in Hauser dark green and highlight the right edges in Hauser light green.
2. Tape the star stencil into position. Dry brush the center areas of the star in winter blue. Shade the edges of the star in deep midnight blue.
3. Shade the edges of the snowman's head and body with fawn. Refer to the photograph for details. The lower edges should be darkest. Using dark chocolate, stencil the left and lower edges, as well as the base of the twig arms.
4. Shade the left lower edges of the moon and outer edges of the star in honey brown. Highlight the center of the moon and star in pineapple. Refer to the photograph for placement of these details.

5. Create a mixture of four parts Rookwood red to one part lamp black. Using a 1/2-inch stencil brush, shade the left and lower edges of the birdhouse and base. Create a mixture of three parts Rookwood red to one part buttermilk. Highlight the right edge of the house with this mix. Highlight the right side of the perch with sable brown by tapping on the paint. Shade the roof edges with fawn. Shade the left edge of the support post and just under the birdhouse with dark chocolate. Highlight the center of the post by dry-brushing buttermilk down through the center with a 1/4-inch brush.
6. Embellish the skirt border with stars, dots and snowflakes. Apply only the stars to the smaller, inside border. Stencil the stars as desired in golden straw. The snowflakes are applied to the outside border with the script liner. Add tiny dip-dots to the tips as desired. Load the dauber with buttermilk and place the dots as desired, around the outer border.
7. Seal the Christmas tree skirt with one coat of the matte spray.

Tip: This project was created on artist canvas purchased by the yard at a local art store. For a great, flexible painting surface, try SewPaintable by Fredrix, available at many craft stores.

Designer:

Doris Cast Glovier
Artistry by Glovier
Pocomoke City, MD 21851
Phone: 410-957-2398
Fax: 410-957-3987
Email: glovier@comcast.net
Website: www.artistrybyglovier.com

Resources:

folk art holiday stencils # HD-0002
Artistry by Glovier
Pocomoke City, MD 21851
Phone: 410-957-3987
Email: glovier@comcast.net
Website: www.artistrybyglovier.com

canvas and SewPaintable by Fredrix®
Tara Materials, Inc.
Lawrenceville, GA 30046
Phone: 800-241-8129
Website: www.fredrixfloorcloths.com

brushes
Loew-Cornell
Teaneck, NJ 07666
Website: www.loew-cornell.com