

From our workshop to yours...

# Knot too shabby **PAINTING TIPS** for Chalk Paint® decorative paints by Annie Sloan\*

\*These tips are based on our own best practices. There are many different ways to use Chalk Paint® to achieve a variety of styles. For additional techniques, we recommend taking one of our popular Chalk Paint® Workshops!

## Step 1-**Prep**

Shake can of paint. Lightly clean furniture if needed.

## Step 2-**Paint**

Paint your furniture, no sanding or priming required before hand. We recommend the medium size Annie Sloan paint brush for the greatest coverage with the least amount of paint. Most colors only require one coat. If needed, apply a light second coat when paint is dry. For a smooth finish, the Annie Sloan synthetic fiber flat brush is ideal.

## Step 3-**Distress**

When paint is completely dry, begin the distressing process. You can use a damp washcloth, baby wipes, wet or dry sanding block or fine sand paper to distress. We recommend a damp, fine sanding block as it captures the dust without any mess. Should you choose sandpaper, we recommend 220 grit.

## Step 4-**Wax**

**Clear Wax:** To preserve the color from the can, use clear wax as your final top coat. Aggressively brush on the wax using a natural bristle wax brush. You can apply the wax with a multi-directional brush stroke. Apply the wax as though you would apply lotion on your body; meaning massage it throughout the furniture until it is completely spread out and saturated. Immediately wipe off the wet wax with a lint free cloth until it is no longer "waxy" feeling. Work in small sections at a time. Allow the wax to harden overnight then buff with a soft cloth (t-shirt, old sock, etc.).

**Dark Wax:** Dark wax should always\* be applied with clear wax unless you are painting with Graphite. For a blended antique finish, mix a 50/50 ratio of clear wax and dark wax together.

Apply the blended wax mixture in the same method as mentioned above. If areas are too dark, apply clear wax by itself which will act as an eraser. If it isn't dark enough, add more dark wax to the mixture and re-apply in desired areas (It is best to test an area on the back side of your furniture so that you achieve your desired coloring).

\*there are some exceptions to using dark wax without clear wax, but you should always complete a small test area to ensure that you like the color results. Dark wax should be applied directly over Graphite to achieve as close to a black finish as possible.

## Step 5-**Curing**

All paints require several weeks to "cure." The curing process is the chemical change that the paint undergoes as materials in the product evaporate. The paint will not achieve its full strength until it is completely cured. It will be easier to scratch or stain. Typically, paint will be about 80-90% cured within a few days and completely cured within a couple of weeks. During this time of curing, you should treat your furniture with extra care.