

SHABBY CHIC EFFECT:

You will need:

- 500g Ivory Powertex (0037)
- Bister 250ml (0046)
- Easy Coat Glossy (0007)
- Board or canvas
- Latex Gloves
- Kebab sticks or skewers
- Scissors, Paper Towel & Alfoil
- Cutting mat & Plastic Bowl
- #12 round synthetic brush

Optional:

- Easy Varnish 100ml (0012)
- Colourtrix Blue Lustre, Flashing Green & Silver
- Bister Colours
- Powercotton (0048)
- White Paper Deco (0094)
- Mixed Fabric: Lace or doilies



SETUP:

Powertex is an extremely versatile art medium that can be used experimentally in your artwork. As a textile hardener Powertex will adhere to anything that is NOT plastic e.g. metal, ceramic, wood, fabrics, etc... and it does its job extremely well!!! When you're setting up your studio to work with Powertex you need to establish some good work habits. Things to consider:

1. Cover your floor with a tarp or wipe up drips immediately
2. Cover your table with plastic
3. Wear an apron and remove any loose jewellery.
4. Set up a wet area for wash up: Fill a bucket with warm soapy water (place it in the sink if you wish) & have an empty bucket (for dirty water). Once water is dirty tip it on the garden to avoid drainage issues.
5. Ensure you have all the materials for your project close at hand and set yourself up to work. Plastic salad bowls from the \$2 shop are perfect for working with Powertex. You can cover them with a plastic shopping bag and tie a knot at the base of the bowl - this saves you a lot of cleanup time!!! Disposable shower caps from the supermarket also fit perfectly over the top of the bowl, which allows you to have a break without the Powertex drying out!! FANTASTIC!!!
6. Use latex gloves when you're dipping fabric into the Powertex to keep you hands clean... Wash up is done with warm soapy water, which makes Powertex extremely easy to use... it's also non toxic so you don't have to worry about ventilation or getting it on you skin!!!
7. **STIR Powertex well before use** & then shake. Stir until it is an even consistency....
8. After opening Powertex cover the bottle with plastic wrap so that it's easy to get the lid off when you go to use it next time.

TO BEGIN:

Peel napkin layers apart: start in one corner and work apart carefully between thumb & forefinger. Put aside and attach the photo onto the board or canvas using Easy Coat Glossy (napkin art glue). Press down well. Paint another thin layer of glossy over the photo and lay a layer of white napkin on top. Press napkin into wet Easy Coat Glossy and then, working quickly, paint another layer of easy Coat Glossy onto the napkin so that the photo comes through... this will give the photo an antiqued, muted look. Tear away the edges of the napkin from around the board. You may choose to cut & collage elements of the coloured layer onto your piece. **TIP:** *Be careful not to touch the napkin, especially over the photo, before the Easy Coat Glossy is dry or it will peel away.*

ADDING TEXTURE:

Before you begin working with Powertex lay out all the pieces you'd like to use in your artwork... pre-cut them & play with the arrangement of shapes & textures. Once you're happy with your ideas place all materials to the side and paint around the photo and the edges of the board with Ivory Powertex. Add textures by placing them on the wet Powertex and then paint the top surface of the textures so they're totally coated with Powertex. **TIP:** *if the surface is really wet & shiny you have used too much... if it looks dry you haven't used enough.* Build the textures up in layers beginning with the largest surfaces and finishing with the finer details. Powertex works most effectively with natural fibres e.g. T-shirt material, cotton, etc...

CREATING TEXTURE with FABRIC:

You may wish to use some fabric to create your "Shabby Chic" effects... in this instance it may be easier to dip the fabric into the Powertex rather than painting it on. Simply pour some Powertex into a bowl, dip the fabric and rub it in, ensuring it penetrates the fibres... DO NOT saturate the fabric - if it looks really shiny then you've used too much Powertex... To remove any excess take your next piece of fabric and rub it with the saturated strip... this will transfer any excess Powertex onto the next strip. Drape desired fabrics onto your artwork to achieve texture... allow the fabric to fall naturally and adjust gently with a kebab stick...

TIP: *ensure the Powertex on the surface is still wet where you are draping the fabric so that you're joining wet to wet.* Experiment with some other materials such as Powercotton & other natural fibres to create different textures...

BISTER:

Bister is a water soluble patina paint. We are going to use it to give our image a gorgeous antiqued look. Using a piece of Alfoil mask your photo, hold your artwork upright & spray it with Bister. You may need to spray some areas you missed, if any Bister goes onto the photo you can **gently** remove it with a damp chux wipe. **TIP:** *Always hold the Bister spray bottle upright otherwise it won't spray properly and will 'blob' on your artwork. If you do get 'blobs' use the capillary action of a paper towel to remove the Bister. If you spray Bister onto wet Powertex and then heat it with the hairdryer the most amazing crackle effects can be created.* NEW Bister is now available in a superb range of colours... they are awesome!!!

EMBELLISHING: "SHABBY CHIC EFFECT":

For best results allow your artwork to touch dry after spraying the Bister and then embellish. To embellish your artwork you can use a dry brush technique with:

1. Ivory Powertex, putting a small amount of the Powertex onto a pallet & using it like paint, or...
2. Colourtrix (metallic) Pigments can be applied using Easy Varnish. To do this, measure a small amount of pigment using the end of a pallet knife and place a your choice of colours onto some Alfoil (see some of the recommended colours on the materials list), put out some Easy Varnish (the size of 10c piece). Pick up a small amount of Easy Varnish on a dry brush then mix it with the pigment and apply to your artwork highlighting the top of the textures.

CONGRATULATIONS

You have successfully completed your "Shabby Chic" artwork!

NB. Allow Powertex to dry and harden for at least 2 weeks before varnishing or exposing to the weather.
To see practical demonstrations go to the Powertex Australia Channel on YOU TUBE & watch some of our project videos!