

plaster-inspired wall texture

WITH JENNI YOLO

TIME: 2 to 3 days
(including drying time)

YOU WILL NEED:

- 1 5-gallon bucket of all-purpose drywall mud
- 1 quart of paint
- 1 8" drywall spatula
- 1 squeegee knife
- 1 drywall mud pan
- 1 5-gallon bucket
- 1 power drill with mixer attachment
- 1 sheet of 150-grit sandpaper
- 1 drop cloth or paper to cover floor
- 1 paint pan
- 1 paint stick

MIX THE MUD AND PAINT

1. Take about half of the drywall mud and add it to your empty 5-gallon bucket. Add one cup of water to thin it, then add ½ cup of your paint. Mix thoroughly with a drill mixer. Add ½ cup more of your paint and loosely mix it with your paint stick to create a marbling effect.

APPLY A FIRST COAT OF MIXTURE TO THE WALL

2. Pour several cups of the mixture into your paint pan, and use your spatula to start applying it to the walls. Begin by focusing on a 4'x4' area to work on your technique. Do a criss-cross movement to get the marbling effect of a plaster wall. We like to think of it as the old "wax on, wax off" technique. When you get near an edge, start at the edge and move the mixture to the center. Move to another 4'x4' area and keep applying until your entire wall is covered. If you see any really tall ridges, go ahead and knock those down with your squeegee. Allow to dry overnight before starting a second coat.

TIP: Be careful not to overwork the plaster. You want to see the strokes and have some ridging texture. The mixture will dry lighter than it looks, and you'll have an opportunity to tweak your formula for the second coat.

APPLY SECOND COAT OF MIXTURE TO THE WALL

3. This second coat is really for fixing trouble areas, adding more texture, or adjusting the color if you want to do that. Use the same technique you used for your first coat to apply a second coat where desired. You may not need it in all places. Allow the second coat to dry overnight.

SAND ANY TALL RIDGES

4. Once the second coat is dry, look for any tall ridges and knock them down with your sandpaper.