How to Wax Canvas with CBTV Live

Chapter 1 - Chapter 1
Waxed canvas
(upbeat music) ^- Hey everybody, welcome to Creativebug. ^We're coming at you live like we always do ^on Tuesdays and Thursday. ^And it's almost back to school time ^which is one my favorite times of year. ^It's also a dreaded time of year ^because it means there's more traffic. ^But I love back to school ^because it means you get to buy ^a whole new set of creative supply. ^You might be getting a new backpack. ^And if you're super-crafty ^and have a little bit of extra time, ^you can actually make something as well for back to school. ^Now if it's long since you were in school ^and maybe you don't have any kids who are in school, ^it never hurts to refresh your wardrobe ^and maybe make yourself something new and fun and shiny. ^And one of the things that I thought would be ^a cool technique to show you as we head into the fall, ^is how to wax canvas. ^So this works really nicely for a store bought item ^like a backpack or a lunch bag. ^It works great on a coat ^to add a little bit of water resistance, ^but you can also pre-wax your canvas or other fabric ^before you actually head into your sewing project. ^So I was gonna show you how to wax fabric. ^There are two methods. ^One that takes a little bit longer, ^but is a little bit safer, ^and one that's kinda wild and crazy ^but really effective and quick. ^And you can use whichever method suits your needs. ^Remember we're live, which means you can write in ^and ask me questions as we go. ^So I have a pretty heavyweight canvas in front of me. ^It's already stiff. ^But the reason that you might want to wax this ^in addition to adding a little bit body, ^is that actually will help you repel water. ^So this is a great thing to do for, ^like I said, anything already bought, ^like a backpack you might take out into the elements, ^a lunch bag, even a pencil case, ^because it always gets really messy and dirty ^with all your art supplies. ^It doesn't hurt to add a layer of wax ^because then it's an extra protect against ^any kind of debris, dirt, et cetera. ^So the way I'm gonna show you first, ^is just by using a little bar of wax. ^And you can pick up a really large pound of wax. ^I know Jacquard makes a pound of it. ^You can buy that at your local JOANN. ^You can cut your own little bar off. ^You can also use 100% beeswax candle ^if you happen to have one of those. ^You can often find those at your local grocery store as well ^or you can look at your local bead shop, ^craft store as well. ^So all you do, ^and hopefully you can see this because it's pretty subtle, ^is you're just going to rub the surface ^with your beeswax bar. ^And after you give it a few good, clean swipes, ^you want to actually set the wax into the fabric ^either using an iron or a heat-gun. ^I like to use a heat-gun, like an embossing-gun. ^Now I'm sure one of you is going to ask, ^can I use a hairdryer, and you could. ^But the advantage of using a heat-gun or embossing-gun ^is you have much higher heat with less force. ^So a hairdryer blows out a lot of air ^but it's much softer in the heat category. ^But this is gonna give you higher heat and less force. ^And it is subtle at first, ^but hopefully you guys can see ^the wax sinking into the fibers. ^And I'm working on a piece of newsprint as a scratch paper. ^At this amount of wax you don't really have to worry ^about it going through to the other side. ^As you build up layers and if you have a really thick layer, ^you definitely are gonna wanna consider that. ^And you can probably hear the heat-gun, it's nice an loud. ^- [Man] Some Patsy is asking, she joined late, ^and what fabric are you using? ^- Hi Patsy, welcome. ^It's always a fine time to jump in and see what we're doing ^on Tuesdays and Thursdays. ^I'm working on a canvas, but you could use any fabric ^for this method of waxing. ^Canvas is great because it's already a utilitarian fabric ^but you could do this on something like a home deck weight ^would work nicely.

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^Now while that's kind of warm, ^we're gonna put on a second layer. ^The act of waxing fabric is gonna create ^a slightly modeled look that's part of the look ^of waxed canvas. ^If you've ever seen anything commercially made ^that is made with waxed canvas, ^it's usually really stiff and it shows a lot of crinkles, ^sort of like a leather would, like on a nice, old sofa. ^And I'm just using a little block of beeswax. ^This is 100% beeswax. ^I don't recommend using paraffin for this. ^That is a petroleum-based product. ^You want something natural. ^And we're gonna heat it up again. ^And you can see as I go through these layers, ^the canvas is going to darken in color, ^much like when you oil a piece ^of really thirsty wood furniture. ^You're gonna get that really nice waxy kind of deeper patina ^as you go through. ^- [Man] Alright, does wax dissipate if you wash it? ^- Great question about washing. ^So one of the points of waxing canvas ^or whatever fabric you're working with ^is that this will repel dirt and it will repel water. ^So it's gonna keep your items much cleaner. ^It's kind of like when you Scotchgard a leather bag ^or a suede bag, or a suede sofa or something. ^So this acts as a protective layer, ^which means you wouldn't need to wash it. ^If you do in fact wash something that you've waxed, ^it's still washable but it is going to break down the wax ^over time. ^So the more you wash it the less waxed your canvas or fabric ^will be. ^So you want to avoid washing. ^It's kinda like all the guys in our office ^who buy these really dark denim jeans ^and then they never wash them ^because it ruins the indigo look. ^I've heard actually that you can put them in the freezer, ^if you're looking for your denim, ways to treat your denim. ^- [Man] Tracie is asking, she's a little late, ^is that a mini-heat gun? ^- Hi Tracie, welcome. ^We're actually using an embossing gun, so yes, a heat tool. ^You can use a heat tool from the hardware store as well. ^These are great for embossing and other crafts. ^They work really well for this. ^You can use a hairdryer but this actually works better ^because it's higher heat and less force ^and the hairdryer does the opposite. ^So you're gonna go back and forth with this process ^over and over and over until you have a nice patina. ^I would say like three or four passes. ^And remember I'm just doing this on regular yardage, ^but you can do this on an already bought and made product ^like a pencil case that's clear canvas or plain canvas. ^You could do it on a backpack. ^You could even do this on a coat. ^Now the other option is to use liquid wax. ^So this is a little bit trickier. ^This is a very safe and easy way. ^You can throw this bar into a drawer ^and then just have it on hand whenever you want to add wax ^to something to help protect it ^and to help make it water resistant. ^I have my Grandma's old deep fat fryer from the 70s. ^This thing has come across country with me. ^It's gone everywhere because I use it ^for my beeswax collage class, ^which is also here on Creativebug. ^You can see, hopefully you can see, ^I already have 100% beeswax melted in this pot. ^You can do this in a crockpot over time. ^Do not do this on your stove, ^because wax has a very low flashpoint, ^which means it can catch on fire. ^If your wax is smoking you need to turn it off or unplug it. ^It needs to not smoke. ^Just like when your cooking with oil, right? ^If your oils got to the point where it's smoking, ^you need to turn it down before you add your veggies. ^So make sure it's not smoking. ^You want to have it just melted ^and then you want to use a hardware store brush. ^You can see that for when I take this to class, ^I have dedicated brushes for this. ^You don't wash them. ^You just put them back into the pot and the wax melts ^and then it re-solidifies. ^And that's really how you would use this pot also. ^And never take the wax out of this. ^It just re-solidifies. ^When I'm ready to use it again, I heat it up. ^So this is dedicated to my wax crafting. ^You may not want to go to that length just yet ^which means this is the way you're gonna do it, ^is just with the bar. ^But if you have a pound of wax, ^which like I said you can get at JOANN, Jacquard makes it, ^you can try this method. ^And I'm just using a one inch hardware store brush ^and I'm just putting that beeswax directly onto my fabric. ^Oh, I'm working on newsprint so it's a bit ^moving around on the table a bit. ^I'm just gonna

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do a little section ^and before I hit it up with the iron, ^actually I'm just gonna use my heat tool ^to really immerse the wax into the fibers of this. ^And you can see, you can even use a combo with your brush ^if you have any really thick spots. ^And you can see how deeply it penetrates the fabric ^because it's really changing the color. ^Now there's nothing wrong with this or this. ^Having a lighter touch of wax ^versus a really deep saturated touch of wax. ^Either is fine, it depends on what your product is, ^what the look and feel of it is that you're going for. ^Both will give you a really nice patina ^and like I said the wax helps to resist dirt and water. ^It doesn't make it waterproof ^but it makes it water-repellent. ^So you can do this to existing yardage ^or you can do it to something that's already been sewn up ^or purchased like a pencil bag ^or backpack, lunchbox, et cetera. ^- [Man] Melanie asked why not just dip the fabric ^in melted wax and blot the excess? ^- Excellent question Melanie. ^Why would you not just dip this in. ^There are a couple of reasons. ^This is really hot and a running around liquid wax ^can easily burn you. ^So also most things are gonna be much larger than this ^and it would be hard to get all of that into the pot. ^You could try. ^I have done image transfer projects where I've taken ^a tiny little scrap and dipped it in ^but then you really have to heat it ^and melt all the excess off. ^You're really going for a very fine layer of wax ^so this method's a little bit safer. ^It saves you a little bit more wax ^and a little bit more time. ^I wanted to show you when something ^has a really heavy application of wax. ^Like this guy and hopefully you guys can see that. ^So this is a decorator weight fabric we got from JOANN. ^This side is un-waxed and this side is waxed ^and if you can just see how floppy that side is ^versus how stiff that side is. ^When you crumple it it's gonna leave these wrinkle marks ^and some lightness. ^That is traditional and expected ^for something that's been heavily waxed. ^So if you're out there in the world, ^you see those really hot, cute backpacks ^that are already waxed, ^this is kind of the look that they're going for ^and that's been commercially done ^before the product is made. ^It has probably been dipped in vats ^on a much higher commercial level. ^But if this is a little to much for you, ^because we're using 100% beeswax, ^you can see where my grays and whites have become ^a little bit yellowed because the color of the beeswax. ^You can actually iron some of this out. ^And it's similar to if you've ever done any batiking. ^The way you get the wax out of the batik ^is you just iron, iron, iron until it's gone. ^So I was gonna show you that. ^I'm working on just a pressing cloth here ^and a pressing cloth on top so I don't ruin my iron. ^It's on a really high heat but it does not have steam. ^We don't want to introduce water into this. ^And this does take a minute. ^- [Man] Reann asked if I paint a canvas using acrylic paint ^do you think you could use this to seal them? ^- Hi Reann, welcome and that is a good question. ^The wax would probably go over the acrylic paint. ^The problem is when you want to get excess paint off, ^you don't want to melt your, ^sorry, when you want to get the excess waxy off ^you don't want to melt your paint as well. ^And using a heat gun or an iron ^on something like acrylic paint is gonna cause it to bubble ^and peel back, so you have to be careful. ^You could try just rubbing the bar directly onto your shoes. ^But this would be a great use, ^let's say you did Sharpee or alcohol inks onto your shoes, ^waxing on top would be an awesome way to preserve them. ^You can see that my pressing cloth is darkening ^because that excess wax is coming up, ^so you can dedicate just some extra pieces ^of canvas or muslin ^and it's gonna help disperse more evenly ^the wax that's there. ^And it's gonna give you a slightly finer ^but really even coat of wax once it dries. ^So this is pretty thick and still very stiff. ^And this is a little bit more flexible ^but still really saturated with that wax. ^It's gonna give you a really nice waterproofing. ^So I wanted to show you, if we spray. ^Now this canvas is already pretty heavy ^and it has sizing on it so it repels water a little bit ^but you can see just by spraying it, ^it absorbs pretty rapidly into the canvas. ^Whereas this that's been waxed, if I spray, it beads up. ^So it's a nice

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repellent for water. ^It's something like I said that you can do ^with a pre-made good like a pencil bag or a backpack, ^but you can also do it to existing yardage. ^And if you guys come back on Thursday ^for our next live shoot we're gonna show you ^what we're gonna do with our waxed canvas ^and we'll see you then. (energetic music)

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