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## **Furniture Refinishing: A 4-Part Series** with Barb Blair

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### **Chapter 1 -**

#### Series Overview

- A lot of people don't consider a furniture painter as an artist. It never bothered me though because I consider what I do art. It was just kind of a gradual process. I came into discovering what truly brought me joy and what I truly enjoy doing. Hi, I'm Barb Blair, founder of Knacks Studios and author of Furniture Makeovers. I'm a furniture designer and my passion and joy is taking pieces of furniture that look like this and transforming them into masterpieces. I'm gonna show you guys how to look for a piece of furniture and what to look for in a piece of furniture. Most of the prep work that we do is pretty universal. We're gonna always wood-fill, sand, and wipe down and vacuum each piece before we paint. You have so many options when choosing paint for furniture but over the years as I've developed my techniques, I've kind of narrowed it down to the few options that I love and one of those options is latex paint. I also love milk paint. Shaken never stirred, right? One of the keys to creating a seamless look with wallpaper is keeping the background color of your furniture piece the same background color as your wallpaper. So I'm gonna show you how to apply wallpaper to furniture and get that really seamless and beautiful look. I'm gonna show you how to measure a tape off a geometric design, paint with three different colors, and then my signature finish of stain over paint. I think a lot times people are really intimidated by this process. My goal is to make it accessible and people to say, "Hey, I can do this". And for it to be a lot more intentional than just I'm gonna slap some paint on this thing. We're actually going to design this and put some time into it and make it something that we really enjoy and that we're proud of. So how do you want me to say that? - [Woman] Just like you just said it. (laughing)

### **Chapter 2 - Furniture Refinishing: Sanding and Prepping**

#### Part 1 Overview

(cheerful music) - Hi, I'm Barb Blair, founder of Knack Studios and author of Furniture Makeovers. I'm a furniture designer, and my passion and joy is taking pieces of furniture that look like this and transforming them into masterpieces. (cheerful music) I'm going to show you guys how to look for a piece of furniture and what to look for in a piece of furniture and most of the prep work that we do is pretty universal. We're going to always wood fill, sand, and wipe down and vacuum each piece before we paint. It's not about slapping paint on something and finishing a project in one day. It's about being intentional. It's about finding joy in what you do, and it's about creating something that you're going to be proud of at the end of the day. (cheerful music)

#### Materials

- This is a little night stand or side table that I picked up at my local Goodwill, and we'll also be talking about a coffee table as well. Most of the prep work that we do is pretty universal. We're gonna always sand and wood fill and wipe down and vacuum each piece before we paint. So in order to do each of those steps, we're going to use these tools that we have here, and most things you should have on hand. One of the tools that we're going to use for this project is a drill with a screwdriver bit. And also you'll need a drill bit to drill the new hardware hole, and depending on the size of your hardware, just choose the drill bit that works best. And then we will use Frog Tape for taping off all of our drawers and runners so that we have nice, clean lines. There's nothing worse

than sloppy paint lines, so I'm really particular about using tape to tape off all of the sides of your drawers, all of your drawer runners, and anything that you don't want to get paint on. Also, I'm gonna be wearing gloves when I sand, just to protect my hands and make it a little bit neater. And I always have a craft knife on hand because you never know when you'll need it, but mostly for cutting tape and making sure you have some really clean lines. And then we have a putty knife because we're gonna be using that with the wood filler to wood fill the old hardware holes as well as any big dings or scratches in the wood that we want to make sure are nice and smooth before we start to paint. And then always have plenty of shop towels on hand because you always, always, always need lots and lots of shop towels to keep your hands clean and to wipe the surface with. Just make sure that whatever you use as far as shop towels or cloths is always lint free. Because you don't want to create any type of dust or anything in your paint surface. So just make sure you're always lint free there. Since we're not sanding all the way through the finish on this particular piece, I'm gonna use a medium grit sanding sponge to just rough up the surface and make sure that it's nice and clean and porous and prepped and ready to take the paint. I am going to use a water-based polyurethane. This is the brush that I apply all of my polyurethanes with, and the reason is it's a China bristle brush, it's a white bristle, it's softer than a regular latex application brush, and it helps you to not have lines in your polyurethane. And the last thing that we'll be using is a vacuum because every piece needs a good vacuum before you start to paint to remove any dust and dirt from the prep work. So this is all of the tools and materials that you will need for your basic prep work. And so you should have most of this stuff on hand, but if not, all it takes is a quick trip to your local hardware store to pick up the items that you don't already have.

#### Removing hardware, filling holes and sanding

- The reason I chose this piece of furniture is because the size of the furniture makes it really easy to just kind of pop it in anywhere in your home. It can go like in a foyer, it can go beside your bed, it can go beside the sofa. I always love to choose pieces that are really versatile that you can mix and put anywhere in your home. The other reason I love this piece is because of the flat drawer fronts. It makes it perfect for a wallpaper application. One of the other things I love about this piece of furniture is the little curved detail that we have on the front. It may not look like much now, but when it's painted, it's just really pretty, and it adds a nice structural element to the piece of furniture. The very first thing that I do when I start to look at a piece of furniture and break down the prep work is I know I'm not gonna use this original hardware, so the first thing to do is go ahead and take that hardware off, and I'm gonna use the drill to do that. But if your drawer is too small, and you can't fit the drill inside it, feel free to use a regular flathead screwdriver as well. (drill running) I always just put my screws back in here. Even though I'm not gonna use these again, just keep everything together 'cause somebody might wanna use them. We're gonna do the second drawer the same way we did the first drawer. (drill running) We're gonna change the hardware out on this piece of furniture, so we're gonna go ahead and fill these existing holes and set these aside to dry while we finish the rest of the prep work on this piece. I like to get a decent amount on my putty knife and then move over to the first hole that we're gonna fill and just kind of press it in there, and then remove any extra. And remember that you're gonna be doing a second fill, so you can get it pretty smooth, and then we're gonna come back and fix that. And then you wanna move on to your second hole and do the same thing. Just kind of press and get it as smooth as you can, removing as much excess off of the piece of furniture as possible. And then, just keep repeating it. The key is just getting it nice and flat and smooth. So you can see, you can keep working with the same wood filler,

and if you have little ridges appear, see how you can just kind of keep going over that until you have a smooth fill. Sometimes you have to change your direction a little bit. Gonna set this drawer aside and pull up our last drawer. Go ahead and get a little bit more wood filler on my knife, and repeat the same steps that we did before. Just kind of press it in there. The key to applying wood filler is to make sure that you fill your hole and that you have a nice smooth fill, but also that you remove a lot of the existing exterior wood filler from the front of the drawer, so that you don't have to sand through, and then you end up damaging your surface. The wood filler is probably gonna take about an hour to dry, so while that's drying, we're gonna move on to the prep work for the rest of the piece. And this particular piece has a little bit of a ding on the back corner that we're just gonna stick a little bit of wood filler in. This can get a little bit tricky because you have ridges. So, you kind of have to get a little bit creative here and just make a clean line. I'm gonna take some of this extra putty off my knife so that gives me a clean surface to work with, and just remember that you're gonna go back and sand this, so again, as long as you have a smooth fill for this first hole, you can always sand it off and make it nice and smooth. I'm gonna take a shop towel and go ahead and wipe down this section because one thing that you don't want when you apply wood filler, especially when you're creating a surface here is you don't want the wood filler to get all in the grooves because that will show when you paint. So, let's just wipe it and make sure it's really, really neat. So, just wipe around where you've applied the wood filler, and then, I'm actually gonna take my fingers and just, I like to kind of hand-form, and you just kind of press really lightly, and see how it just takes all those ridges out? It makes it really, really smooth. Again, this isn't rocket science, but this is how I do it, and this is gonna be our first fill here. Sometimes the heat from your hands is the best thing for wood filler. While the first coat of wood filler is drying, we're going to move on to sanding the piece down and going ahead and taping off the runners and the drawer sides and all of that, and then we'll go back and re-apply another coat of wood filler. I like to use gloves when I'm sanding just to protect my hands as much as possible. When I start sanding a piece, I'm gonna obviously move from section to section. So, we're gonna start with this side section, and one of the most important rules in sanding is you wanna sand with the grain of the wood. We don't wanna come on here and start a circular pattern of sanding on this side because obviously we're gonna see a circular pattern of sanding in our paint finish due to the fact that it will scratch the wood. So, number one rule is sand with the grain of wood. So, we're gonna go ahead and start sanding, and since this wood grain is going sideways, we're just gonna go ahead and start sanding. And you can see that we're not sanding all the way through the entire finish. We're just sanding to rough up the surface and make it nice and porous to accept the paint, and also just kind of to remove any, I mean if there's any kind of dirt or goo, these are vintage pieces, so they've had lots of wear and tear. The sander just helps remove all of that. And then, we're gonna move to a vertical section of sanding, so we're gonna change our sanding pattern. And again, we're working with a medium-grit sander, which is just enough to scratch up the surface and make it porous, but not damage the surface and dig all the way through to the underneath finish. (sanding) Again, we're moving to a horizontal. The reason that I like to use sanding sponges is because it's easy to hold in your hand. Sometimes if you're using a flat piece of sandpaper, it can be really hard to grasp, and these give you something to grasp and to hold onto plus they've got these nice little edges that really fit into these crevices well. And so, I have just always been a big fan of the sanding sponges. We love to see that nice sanding dust. It means it's doing its job. Then, we're gonna move around to the front part of the piece, and since this is a vertical section, we're gonna go ahead and sand vertically just like we've sanded on the side. (sanding) And again, follow the grain of wood. This way, horizontally. (sanding) And if little

pieces come off, that's good. That's okay. That's what you want. You kind of just want anything loose, anything dirty, anything that's not gonna stay on. You want your surface to be really nice and prepped well so that the paint has something good to stick to. I love the sides of the sanding sponges, too, because they're nice and narrow, so if you're coming down to an area like this, it's great to just be able to turn that sander sideways and just sand. And it does it double because you have this side as well and so, it's sanding this part for you and the top of this at the same time, those nice square angles working out for you. I'm gonna turn this piece this way a little bit so that I can access this side, and we're gonna go ahead and sand this side just like we did the previous. Again, getting our little groove in there with that nice edge that we have. Just make sure that you don't touch where you have put the wood filler again, so that you don't have to redo that. Just keep your hands clear of that area. (sanding) sometimes it can be hard to not wanna horizontally sand this top part 'cause you're wanting to get all the way up to that edge, but just continue to push your sander up into the top of that edge, and that helps you get all the way up. You do not want to go horizontally. You don't want those lines on there. So, if you have to slow it down a little bit and push that sanding sponge up there and really focus on that area, do that. So, now we're gonna move to the top section of the piece of furniture since we've sanded both sides and the front, and since we're dealing with the wood grain this way, we're gonna go ahead and start just sanding. One of the things that you'll wanna remember when trying to sand off anything sticky or dirty is give it a good sand and if that doesn't remove it, then just get yourself a damp rag and work on getting the rest of that goo off. You don't wanna use Goo Gone or any type of oily product that's going to soak into the wood or leave a surface on top of your wood because that will interact with your paint, and we don't want that. So, try to keep everything on the outside of the piece of furniture water-based. But yeah, that sticker's gonna take a little bit of sanding to get off. (sanding) Where we sanded through where all of that sticky stuff was, we actually went through to the bare wood. So, I'm gonna show you a little bit later on how we're gonna compensate for that before we apply our paint finish. But for now, we're going to remove all of this dust and then wipe down with a rag. (vacuum running) So, you can see that we still have a little bit of dust left on the piece even after vacuuming. We've got these little dust lines. So, we're just gonna take a damp paper towel and wipe down the entire surface to make sure we really have it nice and clean before painting. And you wanna make sure that your towel is damp, not soaking wet to where you're gonna wet your wood. Just damp enough to wipe it down. Just go over every single part of the surface, making sure that you're just catching all of that last remaining dust. I'm a really big believer in prep work even if your paint doesn't call for prep work. To me, it's the key to a good paint finish. If you don't prep the piece right and get all of the dirt and kind of prep your wood for that paint to be nice and porous, then you don't get as beautiful of a finish as you could. So, it's really, really important to me that the piece is prepped properly. And since we're not sanding, we can go in a circular motion. (laughs) But not if you had a sander, no, no. Once all of the dust has been removed, we're going to move on to taping off the drawer runners.

### Taping edges

- I'm gonna start taping off the drawer runners and all of our sides and bottoms so that we have nice clean paint lines when we start to paint the piece, and I'm gonna use frog tape. Frog tape is just like painters tape, but I just prefer it over painters tape. And so you just wanna take off a piece. I match this up with the very bottom, make sure that line's nice and straight so you can press with your finger, and then again you wanna line it up with the bottom here, make sure that's nice and

straight. And then, just to tidy things up, I always press the middle in, press the sides over, and there you have a perfectly protected runner that will not get paint on it, so your lines will be very nice and neat, which is what we're going for, 'cause there's nothing worse than sloppy paint lines, in my opinion. Then, we're gonna come in here, and since we're gonna be painting this bottom part and there's not really a definitive line, you're gonna want to come in here with your paint tape and you're gonna wanna create this really clean line here as well. Since you can see how this is in here, and again, I just talked about having a definitive line, there's no drop-off here, and so, in order to save you time, you might wanna just tape off this whole line here, so that you can just paint on there freely without worrying about having your paint come over onto your piece. So we'll just go ahead and tape off that whole line. Gonna go ahead and finish off this line here, make sure it's really nice and straight. I know that this might drive some people nuts, but for some reason it's actually really relaxing for me to tape things off. All of this detail work, details matter. It's super important. When people look in the side of a drawer and they see a messy tape line, it automatically is a negative connotation, so you want every single detail of the piece of furniture that you're working on to be thought out, and just again, I use the word intentional a lot because I feel like in order to do things right, you have to be intentional. So don't cut corners. Now we're gonna move up to when we see these pieces of wood that are here, again we don't have a definitive drop-off line so we're gonna create that line with our frog tape so that we can have a nice clean line. And again, you do have something to match it up to, so just put that tape there, you need to adjust a little bit, press it down, fold it in, and again you can fold that around your wood, create a nice clean line. I'm gonna go ahead and put a piece of tape here as well, because we're gonna paint this underneath part, and since we have a nice, clean drop-off here, that's fine, we don't need to tape underneath here, but we are gonna tape this line off, because we want this to be really neat and clean. And I'm gonna stick another piece of tape underneath here like this to create a nice box. We're gonna tape off the other side exactly as we did this first side, making sure all of our lines are nice and straight. All of my lines are nice and straight inside the cabinet, so I'm gonna start taping off the drawers. When I tape off the drawers, I just wanna tape off these side lines so that when we go to paint the side of the drawer, we don't end up getting paint on this side of the drawer as well. You want to keep this side clean and only keep your paint on the actual drawer. So we're gonna go ahead and tape that off. The best rule of thumb is to use the top of the drawer as your guideline, so that you have this nice clean line to put your tape up against and then go down the side of the drawer. So just line that tape up on the top. And again, just follow your line down the side of the drawer and just get that line nice and straight. And feel free to pick up the drawer and move it however you need to. And I just will run the tape all the way folded under on the bottom side of the drawer as well. So you've used that guide on the top of the drawer as well as the bottom of the drawer. We're gonna tape off the other side of the drawer exactly like we did the first side, just using the top of the drawer as your guide, keeping a straight line all the way down. I'm gonna finish taping off the underside, again using that bottom part of the drawer as my guide. We're gonna tape the small drawer the same way we taped this larger drawer. This taping might seem tedious, but it really does make a difference in your paint finish. It just makes your lines nice and clean, and that's what we want in the end.

#### Finish filling holes

- We're gonna apply a second coat of wood filler to our drawer holes, just to make sure that it's nice and level. Your first fill is really to fill the large part of the hole. The second fill is just for evening everything out. So that's what we're going to do, at this point. Again, sometimes I will use my finger

to just like smooth things out. Because the heat from your finger just really works well with the wood filler. Sometimes your hands are the best tools. I'm gonna move this drawer aside and go on to the bigger drawer. We're going to add a little bit more wood filler to this corner here. So I'm just going to add a little bit more wood filler and get all the way up in there. Then, I'm going to use my finger again to remove some of this. And then I'm going to grab a shop towel and start smoothing this out, to make sure our edges are nice and smooth. We're going to give this wood filler about an hour to dry and then we're going to come back and sand this corner, as well as both drawer fronts. One of the things that you want to remember when you're sanding the wood filler is to just sand again with the grain of the wood and when you get to the wood filler section just make sure that you keep the sander moving and that you keep the sander really really flat because that helps things to be really smooth. And then when you finish sanding, I always say there's nothing better than the feel test. So I'm gonna take off my glove so that I'm gonna run my fingers over this and if I feel anything at all, I'm gonna go back and re-sand. Cause you want that to be perfectly smooth and really the only way you can do that is by touching it. So that one is not quite ready yet. I'm gonna go back and finish the sanding. So I'm gonna give this another feel test just to be sure that it's nice and smooth and this feels great so these are ready to go. And one of the things that you want to remember too when you're doing the feel test is even if you're wallpapering over the fronts of these panels, you want this to be smooth because when you're wallpaper adheres it wants to stick to whatever is on there. So again, it's really important that you have a smooth surface. The goal is to not sand through the finish of the wood down to the bear wood so that is why it's important to keep your sander flat and smooth and then also to do the feel test. We're going to go ahead and move to the corner and sand that. You would have to get pretty aggressive to sand through this with a hand sander but still you want to be careful just to keep your sander level and sand it smooth and again take off, if you're wearing gloves, take off your gloves. This feels really good and smooth now so it's ready to go and we're going to go ahead and move back to the drawers to finish vacuuming and wiping them down just like we did the rest of the cabinet earlier. (vacuum) This is dust free now so we're going to move on to applying polyurethane just over where the wood filler is. And the reason that I apply polyurethane over wood filler is because the wood filler has a different porosity then the wood. So we're going to just lightly apply polyurethane over the wood filler to even out the surfaces. I am going to use a water based polyurethane. And I'm going to pour it into this separate bowl. Because even though you cleaned off your piece of furniture and it's dust free, there's still tiny little particles of things that can get on your brush. And then when you start dipping it back into your can your transferring all of that right back into your can. So it's just better to pour out what you think you're going to need and use it in the bowl and then you can rinse it out when you're done. This is the brush that I apply all of my polyurethanes with. And the reason is it's a china bristle brush, It's a white bristle, it's softer then a regular latex application brush and it helps you to not have lines in your polyurethane. And because this is a water based polyurethane it dries very quickly, so you do not have a lot of workability time in moving it back and forth. You want to get it on there and then you want to just let it settle and move on to your next line. I'm just gonna dip my brush in the bowl and we're going to kind of tap it on the sides to get the extra off. And then we're just gonna apply this. And like I said you can work it back and forth, maybe twice and then you need to move on and come down to your next level and work it back. A lot of times the way that you touch the product is the key to not having lines in the end. So you kind of want to go back over and feather it and then you're done, move on to this. It's always good to work in good lighting too when you're doing polyurethane because the lighting reflects on to the polyurethane and shows if you've missed

anything or if you need to go back. So lighting is really key when working on polyurethane. I'm doing the whole drawer front. Just so that we don't have pooled up polyurethane, in one spot. Again, the key is to have an even surface. And so we're just gonna do the whole panel. Again, when I dip in polyurethane we're gonna dip in the tip of the brush and then I kind of just bang it on the side of the bowl, to get a lot of the excess off. And I really would like to stress here, that it's more about how you touch the product than anything. And so when you're working your brush across the surface we're not bearing down hard, we're using a very light feathery touch. And so this ensures that you won't have a lot of lines when you finish. It gives the product time to settle and it makes it dry much smoother than if you were to bear down and add a ton of product. I always say less is more, in this industry. I think one of the biggest mistakes that's made is that you put too much product on your brush and therefore you're creating a surface on top of the wood, rather than thin amount of product which becomes part of the wood. And that's the biggest difference in painting furniture. I'm gonna go ahead and apply the polyurethane to this corner, as well. And since I like nice clean cut off points I'm gonna apply it here as well and we're gonna do this entire strand. I'm gonna move to the top now and as you can see we've got a little bit of unevenness in our surface because of all the sticky stuff that was on top. So we're just gonna give a coat of polyurethane, on the top to even out our surface there as well. When you have a larger flat surface like this you can go ahead and apply your polyurethane. But then as you can see I'm trying to start you might have a tiny bit of overlapping there but you want to start where your last line ended. Work it a couple of times, be done and then move on to your next line. The less you work it the better it's gonna be. Since this is a water based polyurethane it's gonna dry pretty quickly, so we're gonna let this dry about thirty minutes and then this piece is ready for painting.

#### Sanding and cleaning a coffee table

- This is a coffee table that I picked up at my local Salvation Army, and it's in a really beautiful, raw state, but we wanna go ahead and sand it just to make sure that everything is really smooth, and then we're gonna wipe it down and vacuum it before painting. We're gonna use a power sander on the top surface because it's flat, it's great for using a power sander on, and you can hand sand it if you would like, it's gonna save you a ton of time though, if you use a power sander. And then we're gonna move down to the legs, and we are gonna hand sand the legs because they are turned and you really wanna keep power sanders away from curved details, it'll eat 'em up in minutes. So we wanna be careful with the legs, we're gonna hand sand them. On this power sander, I'm using a fine grit sandpaper which would be considered a finishing paper because we don't really wanna rough up the surface, we wanna smooth the surface and prep it for painting. Again, we wanna sand with the grain of the wood. As you can see, the grain of the wood on the ends is going this way, so we're gonna sand this differently than we're gonna sand this section. So this is horizontal, this is vertical, so just be careful of that always when you're sanding, and make sure that you're sanding in the right direction. (power sander buzzes) One of the things to remember when you're sanding with an orbital sander, is to make sure that you always keep the sander moving, and of course in the direction of the wood. And then also not to bear down, again, let the sander do the work for you, that's what it's made to do. If you reach a rough spot, and you wanna add a little bit of extra to that, then bear down there a little bit, but most of the time just let your sander do the work for you. We're gonna sand the legs with a hand sander, again, because the legs are curved, and they have a lot of detail, we wanna be careful to keep any kind of orbital sander away from those, because it will eat the wood and take away the roundness of the leg. We're gonna take a medium grit sander and

just give the legs a nice sanding. Sometimes it kinda feels like you're polishing shoes. (laughs) Back and forth, like you're buffin'. (sander scratching) Anything residual that gets left in those little creases, again, this is where this little line comes in really handy because you can get it right in those little creases and work that around and get all the dust and extra gritty stuff out of there. Vacuum and wipe down this piece the same way we did the first piece. And as you can see, today we've covered two different types of sanding. You can use a power sander for the flat surfaces, you can hand sand, both delivering the kind of results that you need to really prep your surface the right way before painting.

### **Chapter 3 - Furniture Refinishing: Painting Basics**

#### **Part 2 Overview**

(happy music) - We are going to start painting the two pieces of furniture that we prepped. And this first piece is a coffee table that I'm going to be using latex paint on. And the second piece will be the nightstand, which we'll be doing milk paint on. You have so many options when choosing paint for furniture. But over the years, as I've developed my techniques, I've kind of narrowed it down to a few options that I love. And one of those options is latex paint. And then I also love milk paint. Shaken, never stirred, right? (laughs)

#### **Materials**

- You have so many options when choosing paint for furniture. But over the years, as I've developed my techniques, I've kind of narrowed it down to a few options that I love, and one of those options is latex paint. The reason that I love latex paint, especially in a satin finish is because when you apply it to the furniture, it gives you this really beautiful finished look that you can do other types of processes on top of. And then, I also love milk paint. There's truly nothing like milk paint. It gives a very authentic finish, it's a very unpredictable paint, but that's okay, I'm never unsatisfied with the results at all. It gives you that time worn look that you can try so hard to sand and distress and get, but it just happens with milk paint. Today on this coffee table, we're gonna be using latex paint. One of the reasons is we have this really long, nice, flat surface and so we're gonna use a foam roller to roll the paint on the top and then we're gonna be cutting in the legs. Again, we have detail, we have turns, so we're gonna be cutting in with a brush on the legs and then rolling all over the flat surfaces. These foam rollers have become my best friend over the years. It is the smoothest finish you will get when painting furniture. You cannot get it any other way. Less is always more with me and when you apply one coat with these rollers, it puts the thinnest, nicest coat of paint on top of your furniture that actually, truly can become one with the wood. And that is key. We don't want thick finishes of paint on top of our furniture. The second tool I'm gonna use is the two and a half inch angle sash brush. And these are my favorite brushes, I've used them for years. I love the way that this is angled. It makes it perfect for when we get to these detailed areas and we could just cut it right in. When I say cut in I mean, get into the detail spots. Like these tiny spots where the roller can't get into these creases, this brush is like perfect for getting into those creases and also as well on the legs. When you're trying to get in all of those creases as well and you're painting a smaller area where the roller just can't really grasp that. I love using these brushes, they're awesome. Always make sure too that you have a paint tray on hand to pour your paint into so you can really get that roller in there and get it wet and have the paint just be right on your roller. Keep a bunch of shop towels on hand as well 'cause you want to keep your hands clean and you never know, you might have any little drips or something like that. We hope we don't have a lot of drips. And you

also want to have a paint stirrer on hand to keep your paint nice and stirred. And a paint can opener. I'm using a color called Old Silver, which is actually by Pratt and Lambert, but I had it mixed in one of my favorite paints, which is Benjamin Moore's Aura paint. And I love the Aura paints because they're a green paint, but also, it is a paint and primer in one. I'm very particular about paint and primers in one. I don't use a lot of them, this one I do use and for the reason being, it is thin. Again, you're gonna hear that word from me a lot. And it goes on really, really creamy, very, very smooth and so you're kind of killing two birds with one stone. Because you've got the primer and the paint. And plus, it has just a beautiful satin finish. I like a little bit of sheen with my finishes, but not like a shine. We want to look finished, but not shiny. So this paint gives you that perfect sheen when you apply it on top of furniture. You could use whatever color paint you would like. Just make sure that you choose a high quality paint in a satin finish.

#### First coat of paint on coffee table

- Make sure that your piece is completely clean and dust free before you start painting. And then you can go ahead and open up your paint and pour it into your tray. But first before you pour it into the tray you wanna stir it. (laughing) Shaken never stirred, right? Or not right? Like I was talking about before, when you start to paint a wall you're gonna cut in like all around your trim which means cutting in again, means getting tight to your edges. So I'm gonna go ahead and just use my brush. And I'm gonna cut in around here and I'm gonna cut in in this little line part here where my roller is typically not gonna wanna push that paint into and then I'm gonna roll over the top. And when you do this, since we're dealing with latex and water based products, you wanna make sure that you work really quickly because they do dry really fast and you don't wanna have any shadow marks or window boxing or anything like that. Sometimes when you cut in and if you were to let this dry and you're gonna go work over here, you're gonna end up seeing that line. So just make sure that you manipulate and work with the paint while it's wet and I cannot stress that enough, it's just really important. Gonna dip my paint brush in the paint and as you can see, I'm not getting a ton of paint on the brush and even at that, I'm gonna dip it in here to make sure that I've kind of gotten all that excess off because again less is more. And then I'm gonna go ahead and cut in around this whole side of the table. Gonna try to move it pretty quickly here. And if you do get a little bit too much paint on your brush at any point, just always go back and just rework that until it's nice and clean and you don't have any lines coming through. It's inevitable that at some point you might end up with too much paint on your brush, that can always be fixed. Just use your brush to smooth things out. And with this table we didn't have to tape anything off because we're painting the entire table, so you don't have to worry about that step for this particular piece. I've dipped my paintbrush back in the paint a few times, but I'm not using a ton of paint. You wanna try to get that paint to go as long as possible before you have to redip. So you're using very little paint. And you can see when I'm putting the paint on the table, we don't have like large globs of paint. You're gonna hear me say that over and over and over again. Remember that this first coat does not have to be perfect because you're gonna go back and do a second coat. However, you do wanna make sure that your first coat is smooth and applied thinly because your second coat is only as good as your first coat. So your first coat is important to make sure that it is applied correctly, but it doesn't have to cover everything. So you can always go back and get that coverage on the second coat. We're gonna cut in this deep line here and then we're gonna roll the entire top. So we wanna get that paint in there good. And I only have to do one dip with my paint brush, we can go back and get the rest the next time and then we're quickly gonna move over here and we're gonna get this line as well. And then

we're gonna grab our roller and go ahead and roll that top before that paint gets dry and when you put your roller in the paint, you can see that you're gonna get a lot of paint on your roller and you wanna just roll it until that entire roller is covered in paint. A lot of times when you're rolling on the top, I think people can push too hard and that's when you end up having roller lines. So you can at first apply with a little bit more pressure, but then you wanna go back just like you do with your paintbrushes and you wanna feather it. So that you don't have any deep lines. I'll show you in a minute what I'm talking about, when you press too hard. So if you put your roller on top of the piece of furniture like this and you press hard going down, then you're gonna start to see some lines forming in your surface and here we've got like a deep line. So you wanna just go back and feather that out and make sure that you get rid of any kind of extra lines that you have. One of the great things about using a roller and rolling on top of a surface is that unlike when you're sanding you need to stick with the grain of the wood, when you're painting you can roll different directions. The only thing I would caution you on is always finish with the same direction, otherwise you'll tend to see your roller marks in the top of your wood and we wanna get the smoothest finish possible. So I'm gonna just go ahead and like feather this all out. And it's really, really light touch but you're just kind of going over the entire surface to make sure that all of your lines have been removed and it's really smooth. When we get to the final coat, I will take my roller and go around the sides and just kind of make sure I have this nice even uniform look because since we've already cut in with our brush and we've kind of gotten into those details, the roller can hit the larger parts of the table there. I know that most of you may not have the exact same piece of furniture that I'm working on today, just remember that when you're working with pieces that have turned legs or tight intricate details, maybe wood carving, just be sure to use your brush to really get in and cut in those areas before you do any kind of rolling and then roll your larger surfaces. So I'm gonna start working on the side and the legs and I'm going to cut in underneath here first because we wanna do that before we do the front face of this coffee table, just think of each section as a box and how you're gonna cut that in and then roll it with keeping it as smooth as possible. So in order to do that, we're gonna say that this is like a little rectangle here and we're gonna cut this top part in first. Make sure all of that's nice and covered. And you've kind of cut in this top part and what I love to do since this is a straight line, I'm gonna feather that out. It's always about making your paint smooth, so I'm gonna feather out that line 'cause I don't want a hard line there when I go to cut in. And then we're also gonna cut in this piece here, this is part of our rectangle. So we're gonna cut that in and then just like we did on the top part of the table here, we're gonna cut this line in with the brush, moving our brush back and forth and just really working that paint in the line. If you wanted to roll this line here, you can and I'll show you how to do that. You can also just decide to do it with a brush as well if you feel like you can get a clean enough stroke, but you can dip your roller and just using like this top half of your roller since you've already cut that in. You can roll this just like you did the top. And it makes it really, really nice and smooth. See how I just got this little extra bit of paint on there? Just take your brush and just feather that out. No harm done, just make sure again, the key is working with paint when it's wet. If I had left that there and it dried, then you have a problem, but just smooth everything out while it's wet and then you're good to go. I love painting legs like this because it's just really fun to do, but you wanna make sure that you don't have a lot of paint, so I'm really gonna just dab this brush because you don't need a lot of paint to do this and the way that I do it, if you have too much paint on your brush you're just gonna be splattering paint everywhere so just have a little bit of paint on your brush and we're gonna work it back and forth in a circular motion. I love this motion versus painting up and down like this. Obviously we're working at a better

angle and it really covers the area more and you can smooth things out a lot better when you're working back and forth, you just can keep working it and keep feathering it until all of your lines are just really nice and clean. Sometimes I can be hard to cover the entire surface because you can't see all the way around it so it's important to just move your self around the entire leg and make sure that you've covered all of your area. And just work that brush back and forth, again you don't see me dipping back into the paint can, over and over and over. You don't need to do that, you wanna work with less is more and see how beautifully that covers. We're gonna cut in our rectangle again over here, just like we did on the previous side, making sure that all of our angles are nice and smooth, again feather those straight lines out. You're gonna hear me say this in your sleep. Keep those lines nice and clean and smooth. I think people are always surprised to how fast the roller makes the job. It's very, very smooth and it's also very, very fast. So it's nice. (brush stroking) Don't be afraid to really push your brush into all of those nooks and crannies because you can always come back and feather it out and smooth it out. Sometimes it might feel really strange to just be kind of slapping at the wood with your paintbrush, but it really does give just the best finish possible when you're working on legs and turned pieces of furniture. When you're painting underneath you don't always have to paint the underneath part of the table, but if you do decide to paint underneath it's just really important to keep your lines clean, so I'm gonna use this little brush to get up inside where these legs join to the table and I'm gonna cut this part in as well 'cause then I'm gonna take my roller and show you guys how to roll this and keep it really clean. You can also catch any areas that you might have missed because you're not underneath here the first time you're painting. Now that I've finished painting all of the detail work, I'm gonna go underneath and paint the edge of the coffee table with the roller. So I'm just gonna be painting this underneath part and we're gonna keep our line really nice and clean, and the way we're gonna do that even though we have this big roller in this tiny space, is we're gonna just barely, barely even press on the surface and just keep it really light, move it back and forth. Cover the area. And sometimes if you may of pushed a little bit too hard, you can always just go back on the outside of your surface, not a big deal again 'cause your paint is wet, that's the key and just go back over and really lightly smooth that out if you have any overage, you don't wanna have any paint overages over your lines, you wanna keep everything very neat and tight and flat. It's gonna happen, I mean the great thing about paint is if you work with it while it's wet you're gonna get it fixed so don't be paranoid. I think one of the things I always like to impart to people is that don't be afraid of this, it's very fun to be enjoyable, it should be relaxing and just know that it can be fixed if you make a mistake. And I'm showing you how to fix that. We're finished with the first coat and we wanna give it plenty of time to dry before we apply the second coat. Since this is latex paint, it will dry pretty quickly, probably about an hour, but while it's drying you wanna make sure that you keep all of your paintbrushes and paint covered and free from air exposure so that they dry out and get hard because that is one of the big issues with your brush. If the paint dries it gets hard on the brush and that's definite brush lines that we wanna avoid. So just wrap all of your brushes and rollers in like plastic grocery bags, put a bag over the paint tray with the paint as well and put 'em in the refrigerator and they should be good to do when you're ready to put that second coat on.

#### Second coat on paint on coffee table

- We're going to go ahead and apply a second coat of latex paint to this oak coffee table and when we're applying the second coat we want to focus on really getting into any of those little cracks or crevices where the paint didn't get on the first coat. And one of the beautiful things about working

with oak is that it has a very visible wood grain and that's still going to show through your paint and that's totally fine. It's going to make your finish really, really beautiful. We're going to go ahead and apply the second coat exactly as we did the first. Just cutting in with our brush. And then going back and rolling all of the flat surfaces. When you're applying the second coat it's totally okay to use your foam roller to roll over those parts that you initially did with your paintbrush because your paintbrush has already gotten into the crevices and now the surface is wider and more accessible to the roller. Let the second coat of paint dry and then typically we would lightly distress and put a couple coats of polyurethane on this piece to finish it out, but in a couple of weeks we're going to be adding a really beautiful color blocked in geometric pattern to the top of this table. So, we're going to wait until then to finish it out.

#### First coat of milk paint on night stand

- In addition to latex paint, my next favorite paint is milk paint and the reason that I love milk paint is because it gives you this really authentic finish. I say that milk paint is a self-distressing paint because it just does not adhere where it doesn't wanna adhere, so the look is different every time. It's a little bit unpredictable. People are a little bit more nervous about using this product. There are a lot of different types of chalk paints and milk paints on the market today, but I really love this brand of paint and I've been using it for a really long time. It's American made, it's family-run, it's got a great line of colors, and even if you don't wanna use one of the existing 20 or so colors, you can mix your own colors, which makes it really, really awesome, so you can create all kinds of custom colors using milk paint. So when you open up your milk paint, it comes in powder form, and we are just gonna pour the powder in a cup, and milk paint is always mixed equal parts. We have a cup and a half of powder, and we're gonna mix that with a cup and a half of hot water. I find it's really, really important to use hot water when mixing milk paint. Milk paint acts like pancake batter. Today, the color we're using is light cream. One of the key things about milk paint is just that you mix, mix, mix, mix, mix, and then we're gonna let it sit. Like I said, it's like pancake batter so it gets a little lumpy, and when you let it sit, those lumps kinda dissolve, and you can go back to mixing. So we're gonna keep stirring this paint for a few minutes, and then we're going to let it sit for about 10 minutes, and then stir it again before we apply it to the furniture. This is starting to look really good. It's gotten to where it's the consistency of like a milkshake, and that's exactly where we want it to be. So, I'm gonna go ahead and start painting on this piece of furniture, and we're gonna start exactly like we did with the latex paint. It's still the same type of application where we're using our rectangle, we're cutting in, working with the paint while it's wet, and we're gonna work in sections again. The one thing that you'll notice, when I start applying the milk paint to the furniture is that it's a lot more see-through, you're gonna see a lot more lines. We're doing it with a brush, so, that is the beauty of working with milk paint. You see a lot more movement within your finish. And, again, it just makes the finish even better. And I'm gonna go ahead and leave this paint stirrer in my cup, so that as I work on the project, I can give it a quick stir every now and again, and it's good to do that with milk paint just to make sure that it's staying a good consistency. So I'm gonna dip my paintbrush into the milk paint, and you get a little bit more paint on your brush when you're working with milk paint cause you need to be able to manipulate it and move it a lot more, so you wanna get initially a good amount of paint on there so that you can work with it. I'm gonna start up here, and I'm gonna just start working this, and as you notice you've got bubbles, you've got streaks and lines, and that's all okay. That's all part of this milk paint finish. So, even though people are sometimes afraid of working with milk paint because it is unpredictable, it is the most user-friendly paint you will use. It's very

forgiving, and in the end you get this beautiful finish with movement and you can see your, almost see your work. And so I tend to think that this is a way more user-friendly paint than even latex paints are. So, it's a really enjoyable product that you don't need to be afraid of. I had a little bit too much paint on my brush to cut in this initially, so that's why I went on here. We have a whole new set of rules when working with milk paint because you still want to apply it in your rectangular section, and you still want it to be smooth, but we want to see movement with milk paint, that's the beauty of it. And you don't have to work as quickly with milk paint as you do with latex, even though again you are still wanting to keep things moving, and you always, just like with the roller, when I was saying you can roll all different directions, but then in the end you want to make sure you do that final go back over in the same direction. You're still gonna do that with milk paint because you don't wanna have lines like this all in your finish, you just wanna feather it out, and pull those lines out, and make that smooth. So you still wanna make everything smooth, but you have more workability time. So, no matter what size piece I'm working on, when it's milk paint I don't ever use a foam roller because a roller traps air inside it and just leaves all kinds of bubbles in your finish when working with milk paint since it's a thinner consistency, so I always hand brush on milk paint. Sometimes you might get little granules of paint in your finish when you are applying milk paint, and you wanna kind of work those through, a little bit, but those will all sand out in the end. So, unless it's like a huge glob, obviously, we don't want that. But, it's part of the natural nature of the paint. So, just kind of smooth things out. It gives the milk paint a really beautiful texture. So as you can see, we've got some lines here, and some different things going on with the paint. And that's all okay, that's what we want to be happening with this finish. Even if we were working with a blue milk paint, or a darker color, we would still have some of these streaks and things going on. We have a cream paint with a dark under base, and so we're gonna catch all that on the second coat, and it will be more solid. You'll also notice, too, when working with milk paint that it's a little bit foamy, so when you're applying the paint, it might seem like it's got a little bit of a froth to it, and again, that's the nature of the paint. You've done everything right, just keep on working with it, and just smoothing it out. And the key to even getting milk paint as smooth as possible is just doing that finish stroke. And I've learned that if we were to be painting this with the brush this way, it's gonna leave us lines, but if you paint with the brush this way, and you hold it this way as if you're cutting in, and you feather, the lines are much less prevalent. Sometimes when you have a rounded edge like this, too, there's a funny way that I paint, and I am just literally gonna like smack it on there cause it's a rounded edge, and you're getting a lot of paint, and you're gonna take the brush, and we're gonna smooth that out. Sometimes, if you're cutting in a section here, so say you get like I did like this, and you get a straight line going down your paint here, then all you have to do is go back and just feather that out. You wanna straighten it out, and you can just feather it out straight. You know when you're working with milk paint, the first coat is a lot more smoothing and playing with the paint than the second coat will be. So, this is just a good example of this looking really messy with all these paint lines, and we're gonna just come back in and straighten all that out. If you're touching like really lightly with the brush down here, you can really even get deep in that crevice and straighten that out. But you can't push very hard. You have to be really gentle. Moving to the front of the piece, now, I'm gonna start on this bottom section. One of the tips that I have for painting really close to these hard edges where we don't want paint wrapping around and getting thick on our edges is to just kind of lightly push your brush up to that edge to where you're not putting a lot of paint on there, just enough. And you're going right to the edge. It's a very soft movement, and then pushing it forward this way. You can always straighten that out. Same thing with moving into

this trim part. You don't have to have a ton of paint on your brush, and you're literally just kind of lightly brushing it into that, and remembering that we're gonna catch all this on the second coat. And when I'm painting furniture that has a curve like this, I always want to paint this inside ledge, as well, because you're gonna see that when the piece of furniture is sitting in your home, and so it's really important, here again we're talking about those details. So, it's really important to paint that part. Everything that's gonna show, you want to make sure you paint, and it's easy to get in there and paint that. We're just gonna tap it, tap it. Get in there. Keep your brush flat. And you're just getting the paint on there, and then you can go back and smooth it out. And when you're doing all that kind of work, again, it's like cutting in. You wanna do those tight detail spots first so that if any kind of paint comes onto the front of your piece, when you paint the front you're going back and smoothing all of that out. I think it's really nice, again, we're talking about details here, to go ahead and paint the inside trim of the drawers, and it may be something that's never seen unless the drawers are out, but still it's one of those things I think is really important to pay attention to. It's a hidden detail, but it's an important detail. So we're gonna go ahead and paint the inside trim first, and then we'll go back and finish the outside. You may wanna have a smaller brush on hand for reaching into these tight little corners. And you'll see all of this paint that you have on the face, and we'll get to that pretty quickly so we can smooth all that out. But that's the one reason that we do the inside part first, so that we can smooth out all of those outside details. It's a good thing that tape's there, otherwise this would be a mess. I like to paint the back of the pieces, even though, again, this is something you're not gonna see, and it's not necessarily the nicest wood. I just feel like it's really important to have it look clean and finished. And in order to get that, you need to paint the back. And then, I also love to stamp all of my pieces with my name. It makes it more of an art piece. So, I'm gonna go ahead and paint the back. I designed this piece to have wallpaper on the front panels of the drawers, so for now, I'm going to just paint the trim around where the wallpaper's going to go, especially when we're working with milk paint, milk paint tends to not stick where it doesn't want to, and we don't want that to be the base of where our wallpaper is gonna go. And we're going to go into wallpapering the drawer fronts next time. So, I'm gonna go ahead and just take a small brush and paint the trim. I'm gonna go ahead and paint the trim around these drawer-front panels in the center section exactly as we did with the first drawer, and then we're gonna let this sit and dry for about an hour before we apply the second coat.

#### Second coat of milk paint on night stand

- The second coat of milk paint is gonna go on exactly as we applied the first. You're really gonna start to see those lines and details fill in. So we're just gonna go ahead and start applying and work in sections just like we did the first time until we have everything covered the second time. Just be sure to give your milk paint a good stir before you start the second coat to make sure it's nice and creamy and smooth. (paintbrush swishing) Even though the second coat of paint goes on much smoother than the first coat, you still wanna make sure that you're paying attention to all of the details, all of your hard edges, just making sure that your paint isn't overlapping and that you're still going back and smoothing everything out nicely. Moving on to the back of the piece, I wanna discuss what we have going on here, which is a little bit of a tannin bleed. Tannins are just chemicals that sometimes come up through different types of woods and, thankfully, this is the back of this piece and that makes it okay, but if this were to happen on the front side of one of your pieces, the only way to keep those tannins from bleeding through is to use a stain blocking primer. Don't panic if this happens on the front side. Just grab some primer. I love to use Benjamin Moore Fresh Start

Primer. It's one of the only primers I use 'cause it's thin, it doesn't put a thick coat, it's not chalky. Just go ahead and put a coat of primer and then go back to milk painting. (paintbrush swishing) The drawers are gonna get a second coat as well. Let the second coat of milk paint dry and then typically we would go ahead and lightly sand and polyurethane this piece, but since we're gonna be covering wallpapering next time, we're gonna hold off on that until we've completed the project.

## **Chapter 4 - Furniture Refinishing: Paper and Decoupage**

### Part 3 Overview

(upbeat music) - Welcome to week three. I'm gonna show you how to apply wallpaper to furniture. And one of the reasons that I started using wallpaper was because I personally cannot draw, so that is where wallpaper comes in. And one of the keys to creating a seamless look with wallpaper is keeping the background color of your furniture piece the same background color as your wallpaper. I'm gonna show you how to accurately apply the wallpaper to the drawer fronts, and then also finish it out with a couple coats of polyurethane.

### Materials

- Have whatever piece of furniture that you're gonna be wallpapering on hand. In this case, I am doing drawer fronts, and I do a lot of drawer fronts. It's one of the most popular things that I like to wallpaper because of the fact that it's clean-cut, it's easy, you have great edges. Today, we're working with drawer fronts that are flat, so it makes them perfect for wallpapering, but there is also a little bit of a beveled edge. You can have different styles of furniture to wallpaper, but just be sure to wallpaper the flat surfaces. I have three different types of paper to show you. The first paper is a wallpaper that I ordered from Spoonflower, and it's a new print. The second paper is a vintage wallpaper that I have. And, the third paper is gift wrap from Rifle Paper. The reason I want to show you all three of these papers is cause I want to talk about the differences in each one. This wallpaper's from Spoonflower. One of the great things about Spoonflower is that there are so many designs within their site, that you can choose from. But, the even greater thing is that you can go on yourself and design your own paper. So, the possibilities are really endless when choosing different types of wallpaper from Spoonflower. It's a great company. Wallpaper has a built-in coating on top of it. So, it's washable, it's wipeable, all of that good stuff. So, that's one of the plus sides to having wallpaper. With vintage wallpaper, it can tend to be a little bit more brittle sometimes because it is older, and the paper has maybe dried out a little bit. So, that is one thing you want to keep in mind when working with vintage papers. Vintage papers are wonderful, and they're really, really beautiful. Just keep in mind they might be a little bit trickier to work with since they're dry. Then we have gift wrap, which has no coating on it at all. So, gift wrap is very porous. So, you have a little bit less workability time when you're using gift wrap. You wanna make sure that you get it on there, get it smoothed out, and be sure to keep any type of wetness away from it until you've applied the polyurethane to give it that coating that wallpaper already has. Gift wrap does not have that. That's where the polyurethane comes in with the gift wrap. So, that's just a little bit of the differences between the papers. I have my water-based polyurethane here because every piece of furniture that I do ends up getting a final coat of polyurethane. When applying polyurethane, I always use a China bristle brush, just because the bristles are more natural, and they're soft, so that they don't leave brush strokes. And also, I'm gonna use this bowl again because I like to pour the polyurethane into the bowl to keep everything really clean and neat. So, I'm not putting dust and dirt back into my can there. I have a tray and a foam roller for applying the Mod Podge to the drawer fronts. Then, you

want to make sure that you have plenty of shop towels on hand to keep your hands clean, and to also keep any excess Mod Podge and things off the face of the wallpaper. I always keep a ruler on hand for trimming, and just making sure that all of my lines are straight. Then, of course, we have our Mod Podge here. I always use matte, I think, just because I like a flatter finish. It's not quite as shiny, and, to me, it's just a preference thing. You can choose whichever one you want, but I choose matte most of the time. We have our sanding blocks for sanding off our edges. We have our scissors, craft knife, needle-nose pliers, paint can opener, and then I have a plastic squeegee here, and this is used to really smooth out the wallpaper on top of the drawer fronts. I have my new hardware here that we're gonna be putting on the drawers, drill, pencil, drill bit, and tape measure for measuring off where to put the new hardware. Most of these materials you should already have on hand, but if not, a quick trip to your hardware store to pick them up would be all you need to do. Use whatever wallpaper you have on hand, if you already have something that you like. If not, go ahead and order some online. Spoonflower.com, again, is a great site to order from. Or, order a high quality gift wrap as well, either one, whichever you choose.

### Prepare holes

- Before you do anything, you wanna make sure that you drill the new holes for the new hardware, because once you apply your paper, it's really, really damaging to the paper if you have to drill a hole through it, so we don't wanna do that. We're gonna make sure we do that before. Another reason that I drill my holes while I can still see the existing holes is because it just makes it a lot easier to know where to mark them. With this particular piece, I wanna get rid of these four holes and I wanna drill a center hole so that my knobs are going down the center of all of the drawers. So, you just wanna measure the flat front of your drawer front, and this one is just a tiny bit over 18 inches, so that means that we are going to measure it off a little past nine inches. I'm gonna pick up my pencil and we are gonna hit it right about here. Second drawer, we can see where our existing hardware marks are, so we wanna center it right in the middle of these two existing holes and then we'll go ahead and mark our new hole. When we get to the third drawer, we are just gonna do it exactly as we did the second drawer, since we have our existing holes. You can mark these initially and then go back and remeasure to make sure that they're all lined up and nice and straight before you drill the new holes. So, I'm just gonna go back and start checking where my mark is, which is two points after the nine, and then I'm gonna move down here and see where this guy falls, which is just a tiny bit past that, so I'm gonna make my mark a little over this way. And again, this one's right on at the two point. And then you can remove your tape measure. I've got these drawer fronts lined up like this so that I can see where I've marked the new holes and just make sure that they line up as far as your eye can see too. I use my eye a lot. Some of you may be more comfortable measuring again. But whichever works better for you, just give it a good eye and make sure that your new hardware will all be nice and straight. Pick up your drill and go ahead and drill right where you're markings are. And this particular drill bit is about a quarter-inch, which is usually about what most hardware is. So, you just wanna make sure that your drill bit matches up to the screw size of your actual hardware. (drill whining) If you're not used to working with a drill a lot, there's a couple things you wanna remember and one of those things is to let the drill do the work for you. And also make sure that you're in a good position to stay on top of the drill and keep it nice and straight as you drill your hole because you don't wanna get an angled hole. Go ahead and drill your last two holes exactly as you did the first. (drill whining) It's coming. (laughing) Wipe away the dust since we're gonna be waiting to apply the new hardware until after the paper has been put on, and then you're

ready to move on.

#### Cut paper

- Before you start applying the wallpaper to your drawer fronts, be sure that the drawers are in the right order, and that they're not upside down. You want them to be the way they're going to go inside the furniture piece, because we're going to carry our wallpaper design down the entire front, so if anything's out of order, it's going to mess that up, so be sure everything is the way it needs to be. Also if you're working on a Curio Cabinet or chest of drawers, you're still going to be working vertically, but just get in there in whatever direction that's easiest for you, and use your ruler and your craft knife to cut your paper lines nice and straight. While my drawer fronts are lined up, I'm going to take the wallpaper, and we have this white boarder at the bottom of the paper, and it's telling us that it's the bottom, so obviously we want to leave some of that out. And we want the design to go the right direction on our drawer fronts, so I'm just going to lay this out on top of the drawers, and figure out where I want my design to go. I really love these two Victorian ladies, and so I'm going to make sure that I have them in the top drawer, just kind of plan out your design where you want it to go. I definitely want them to be a focal point here, and then we're going to carry their dresses down onto the second drawer. So this is really the only size piece of paper that we're going to need here, so I'm going to cut it just above where their heads are. I'm going to cut a little bit of excess too, just so I have room to play. It's always better to have more than not enough. In order to keep things square, I like to use at least one of the manufactured edges, and so since I want these Victorian ladies to be a focal point of this top drawer, I'm going to use the right side of the manufactured edge lined up straight with my drawers. And then while I have the paper laid out on the drawer fronts, I'm just going to go ahead and use my fingers, find where the drawer is, and just create a really strong crease, which will give me my guide for cutting. So all the way around the drawer, and just use your fingers to really press that and give yourself a nice beveled edge. If you have fingernails, it's even better, which I don't. And then you can take that piece of paper off, you can see your crease marks on the back of the wallpaper, so you're going to use those as your guide. Go ahead and cut along our line, and just be sure that you're sticking close to your line, so that you don't cut into the paper for your next drawer fronts. Also, you want to keep this really straight, but at the same time, know what we are going to go back, and I'm going to show you a way to sand off any of your excess edges. And just to make things easier, once I get past my line there, I'm just going to cut all the way off, straight line. And then you can set this bigger piece of paper aside, and now you have a much smaller piece to work with here for this top drawer. And just go ahead and finish cutting your lines out. If you feel like you need to use a ruler in this process, go ahead and do that. This is looking really good, we have our piece cut here, and there are a couple places where the paper is hung over the edge, and we're going to leave that for now, because we're going to sand that off when we get a little bit further into the project. I'm going to go ahead and pick up the rest of my paper, and I'm going to line up that manufactured edge on the right side again, and I'm just going to look at my pattern. As you can see, we have a gap between our paper and the drawer. And since I don't want to lose the detail of the whale's tail, I'm going to just start the pattern right here on the drawer. I know it elongates it a little bit, but I want to keep all of the detail. So I'm going to go ahead and just mark again, the lines of my drawers by creating my seam. And since I'm using this top line, we already have that line, and we've already got our right manufactured line, so we're just going to create this line on the bottom, and on the side, and then while it's still lined up, I'm going to go ahead and mark off my final drawer, which is a little bit larger drawer. I'm keeping my

hand on top of the paper, so that it doesn't move. Because as you're creasing, the paper tends to want to move a little bit. Remember that if we do have a little bit of hungover edges, we are going to be trimming those up in the end. And since we're working with vintage furniture, the drawer fronts and drawer sizes are not always going to be perfect, so that's why we leave a little bit of breathing room for those edges, because we're going to be able to clean them up anyway. So don't worry about that, if you have little parts that are hanging over, that's okay, it's how it's supposed to be, we'll get those in the end when we sand. Because of the business of this pattern, the first time we chose to continue the design down onto the drawer, and this time, we're going to lose this, about an inch of design here, but that's okay. It's really a preference thing, if you want to continue the pattern or decide which parts of the pattern you want to keep in the piece. So, we're going to lose this boat and this fish, but we're still going to have all of this. And we're still lined up on the right side, so it's all okay. I'm going to go ahead and cut these out, just as I did with the first drawer, and then we're going to place them on top. And we are going to go ahead and apply our Mod Podge with a foam roller, and press this paper down on this first drawer.

#### Apply wallpaper

- There are a couple of ways to apply wallpaper to the furniture fronts. You can either use wallpaper paste or Mod Podge, but after doing this for a really long time, I feel like Mod Podge is more glue-like and a little bit stronger, and so I choose to use it most of the time when using wallpaper. I'm gonna pour a little bit of the Mod Podge into my tray. I'm gonna roll the roller several times, just to make sure that it has a nice coating of Mod Podge on it. It's really, really key to get a thin, nice coating of Mod Podge on your drawer fronts, so that it's equal. I'm gonna roll this across the drawer front, just like this, and make sure that you're not pressing at all. You really just need to be rolling it across the top with no pressure, just getting a nice, thin layer. Apply the Mod Podge to both the back of the paper and the surface of the drawer front, to ensure that you have enough adhesive to really make it stick. We're gonna roll it on the paper and just kind of lightly coat it, and then you wanna pick up your paper and place it on the drawer front, and you wanna use your straight manufactured edge to line up with the edge of that drawer and then work from this right side, all the way over, and press your paper down with your fingers, and you have a little bit of time to just rework that paper, if you see one of your edges isn't lining up. You've got a really short little bit of time here to kind of move that around, and once you have figured out that everything is all nice and straight and your lines are great, you've smoothed it a couple times with your fingers, you wanna go ahead and pick up your squeegee, and if you don't have a squeegee on hand, a credit card always works in a pinch. You just need something nice and flat and hard that you can work across the surface. So, take your squeegee, start from the right side, and just really use gentle pressure but pressure to go back and forth over that paper and make sure that you don't have any air bubbles. Since we have a little bit of hangover with our paper, you can kind of just use your squeegee to fold that paper over that edge. It just ensures that it sticks and you don't have any kind of air pocket there. Also helps you when you go back to trim. I'm also gonna pick up my wet rag at this point and just kind of wipe it over the top, and I can use a wet rag in this instance because it's wallpaper, and the paper is coated. If you're using a gift wrap at this time, you don't wanna use any type of wet rag over the top. You'd wanna use a dry rag, since the paper is porous, and it will damage your paper. So, I'm gonna just use pressure. Again, I've kind of made my lines with my squeegee, but I'm gonna go back and just go over this and ensure that all of my bubbles are out and it's a nice, clean surface. I'm gonna set that drawer out of the way, and then I'm gonna go ahead and pick up my second

drawer and apply the next two pieces of paper exactly as we did that first piece. We're gonna give this about 30 minutes to dry, and then we're going to move into trimming and sanding.

#### Trim and sand

- It's time to trim, so I'm gonna move in and just check all of these spots where I've got a little bit of hangover, and I'm gonna use a craft knife. This is my favorite type of craft knife to use because it has snap off blades, and so, we're just gonna use a pair of needle-nose pliers to snap that blade off and have a nice, fresh, sharp surface for when we do our trimming. I have this little bit of overhang here, and I'm just gonna kind of punch it in with my blade so that my blade is directly next to the piece of furniture, and we're just really gently gonna move that blade. Use the side of the drawer as your guide and just move that down, and you trimmed off your first piece. And if your blade is not sharp, you can see how that would be really, really difficult. Use your finger as a guide and just again, put that blade back in there and remove that excess. It might seem like it's a little bit uneven, but we are gonna straighten all of that out when we go back to sand. We're just removing the biggest excess parts so that we don't have so much to sand off. Using a sanding block, I'm gonna go ahead and start sanding down the piece, and this is where you're really gonna see the milk paint come to life. It's gonna start to have movement. It's gonna start to flake off where it doesn't want to stick, and so, it just makes sense to sand the entire piece at this point, and then we can do all of the vacuuming and cleanup at one time. I'm going to start on the painted edge of this drawer, and then I'm gonna move onto the papered surfaces as well and just sand the entire thing. So again, remember to sand with the grain of wood. (sanding) And milk paint is typically a higher distressed look, so we're gonna go for it, and we're gonna sand those edges of our paper as well to kind of give the paper a worn look. And it kind of just all starts to come together in a very nice cohesive look. (sanding) And when you're sanding the edges of your paper, you want to be sure that you're sanding block is kind of at an angle. You don't want to be flat on top of the paper because as you continue to sand, for me personally, it just takes, it's a little too rough. So, just stay a little bit more angled and just focus on those edges, and if you need to turn your sander at all and get in there, just feel free to work it, but always try to keep it at an angle. I'm gonna move onto the second drawer, and we're gonna sand it exactly as we did that first drawer. As you can see, we have this really beautiful distressing already starting to happen that you can just kind of touch with your fingers. You don't have to push very hard to sand when you're sanding milk paint. Otherwise, you tend to sand too much off. So, just a very light sanding. But anywhere that you see you have some paint already starting to peel, make sure you do remove all of those little loose paint flakes 'cause you don't want those to be in your final finish. This is peeling awesome in here in this. And sand all the way around, even your edges 'cause you've painted the sides of your drawers. So, make sure that you sand all of that as well. If, while you're sanding, you reach a corner or a spot of the paper where the paper is wanting to come up, that's okay. Don't panic. We're just going to take a little tiny paint brush, dip it in some of our Mod Podge, and just apply a tiny bit to that corner and to that paper, and then just press it down with your finger. I try to take all the fear out of these types of processes, so just know that if these little things happen, that's all part of the process, and it can always be fixed. We are gonna move on to the bigger piece and sand it in exactly the same way. And this milk paint is peeling beautifully here, and so, you can see like I can just touch this with my finger, and the paint's gonna come off. So again, just a really light touch. (sanding) Milk paint can feel a little bit dry and chalky before it's sanded, but it's so nice to feel once it's been sanded. It's very, very smooth. It's a good indicator that you've sanded well. When I feel the sides when I'm sanding, I'm wanting to

make sure that I've sanded the entire surface because as I mentioned when we were on the front side, milk paint can stay a little bit chalky and rough-feeling, but once it's sanded, it's really, really smooth. So, that's what I'm feeling for when you see me (sanding) touching the side. It's kind of like a feel test. I use my hands a lot. On these harder edges, you'll notice that I'm moving the sanding sponge back and forth and that is so that I can really spend some time on that edge. That's where typically most of your distressing is gonna be. And then once we get to the more flat surfaces, we move back and forth. (sanding) There's no need to sand the back since it's the back, and we are going to go ahead and vacuum this down, then wipe it down with a dry cloth. With milk paint, you don't want to use a wet cloth since milk paint is very porous until you get the polyurethane on it. So, we're gonna vacuum, wipe down with a dry cloth, and then we're gonna polyurethane.

### Apply polyurethane

- This entire piece is gonna get two coats of a water-based polyurethane and we put that on to protect the milk paint to seal it in and also to protect the paper. I chose a satin a finish because it gives it just a little bit of shine but not too much shine and I've already poured some in my bowl. I'm gonna use a white China bristle brush so that my strokes are nice and even. You can dip your brush in the bowl and then just pat to get a lot of the excess off. Then go ahead and apply it to your piece. You can get it in the middle here. Remember with water-based polyurethane you wanna be sure that you're not overworking it too much because it's gonna dry quickly. You wanna get it on there, give it a nice clean stroke and then move on to your next spot. I'm gonna cut this in, again, means getting into those tighter edges with my brush. You can see I haven't dipped back into my bowl for more polyurethane 'cause you wanna keep these coats light and not drippy. When working with polyurethane it's really important to work in good light so that you can see if you've missed a spot and I see down here I need to just add a little bit more polyurethane and then just smooth that over. I'm gonna start applying polyurethane to the base cabinet and I'm gonna start at the bottom. I'm gonna cut it in, getting my paintbrush into all of these tight little details. Just like I cut the bottom part in I'm gonna move up to this top part and I'm gonna cut in all of this detail as well so that I can just have my nice flat surface to keep the polyurethane really smooth. But I like to do this part first and keep it separated from this part because of how fast it dries. Then when we start on the vertical part we just start at the very bottom and you wanna kinda just brush the product up towards the top and then do the same thing. You kind of cut it in there at the top and then brush down and meet and then give it one good all the way top and bottom. Remember that we're gonna start where we finished because we don't wanna overlap and overwork that section so we're gonna start at the bottom again, then come up to that top. Cut that in, bring it down, and then give it nice final stroke. Sometimes when you're applying the polyurethane you might notice that you'll have a few little loose flakes that are gonna come off and that's okay as long as they go ahead and come off. But this polyurethane is gonna ensure that all of that stays sealed in. This polyurethane that I'm using is the Minwax Polycrylic polyurethane. I use it because it is the only polyurethane that I've found that does not yellow. If you get it pooled in any areas like where it pools and like builds up, it has a tendency to turn brown and sometimes that's okay. It might play into design plan and be alright, but most of the time, that's not really desirable. Just pay attention as you're applying the polyurethane and make sure there aren't any drips or large sections where it might be puddling up on the top of the surface. Because this is a water-based polyurethane it's gonna dry really quickly so we're gonna give it about 30 minutes to dry and then we're gonna apply the second coat exactly as we did the first coat and then put on the knobs and line the drawers with paper.

### Drawers and knobs

- The two finishing details I like to add to every piece of furniture that I do are lining the drawers with paper and then adding the new hardware. So, I'm gonna go ahead and line this first drawer. You can choose any type of wallpaper that you would like but I'm gonna go ahead and use this wallpaper that I used on the outside since I love it so much. I'm gonna find my straight edge, which would be up here. Again, whenever I line drawers I'm always trying to save myself some time and some work so that's why I'm gonna use the straight edge, the manufactured edge. I'm gonna use that right up in the front and just kind of line that up. Press it into the drawer so that we have a nice straight line there. Where to start? I'm gonna just press it in here and kind of work it in here until I get it where I need it and then we can trim it out. I use my finger to kind of press around the edges to kind of really get it in the grooves and that gives me a good nice edge to push my ruler up against. Grab your ruler. Put it inside the drawer and push it up right next to where you wanna cut your paper. You always want your craft knife to be on the right side of the ruler. Keep that ruler nice and straight. Just slide it down all the way to the edge there, keeping it pushed up. Sometimes it's hard to get into that edge so you can reverse your hand and come back and meet. You can use the longer edge of the ruler on this part. Continue to do just what you did before, keeping that ruler nice and tight against the edge. You notice that I stopped a little bit before the edge right here and I also stopped on this side as well because I'm gonna pull that paper out. It's really hard to get a clean cut in the corner so I pull the paper out and I just hand do gently so that it's nice and straight and goes nicely into the corner. We'll do the same thing on the other side. That helps you keep your line nice and straight. I like to stick this down with double-sided mounting tape so I'm just gonna go ahead and cut four little squares, one for each corner and place that in there in order to keep it in place. I usually cut two rectangles like this and then cut each rectangle into a little square. Peel up the paper, stick it down, and just press that into the corner. I like to take my hand and smooth this last one over just to make sure there's no ripples, then just place it in there. I've already measured and cut the second drawer liner for this drawer, so I'm going to go ahead and attach it to the bottom of the drawer now. I've already taken out all of the tape so we're just gonna put these drawers back in and go ahead and add our hardware. I chose these pink knobs because I really love the color combination of pinks and oranges together. There's really, really subtle hints of pink in this. There's a lot more orange but I think bringing in the pink is a little bit unexpected and so it gives this this really beautiful soft color palette. You can get knobs from places like Anthropologie, online sites, or even vintage knobs from estate sales. I'm gonna go ahead and attach this knob. I've kind of pressed with my finger where the new hardware hole is so that I have a guide to just kind of punch my knob through that hole. I'm gonna grab my washer and bolt to secure this hardware. You can tighten it on with your fingers at first but I always like to grab my pliers and give it a couple good turns with the pliers as well to make sure it's really nice and tight. This piece has gone from dark brown yucky wood to just cream and fabulous with a really beautiful and colorful wallpaper and then new hardware. It just goes to show that no piece is hopeless. There's always hope for even the ugliest of pieces.

## **Chapter 5 - Furniture Refinishing: Color-Blocking and Painting Techniques**

### Part 4 Overview

(upbeat music) - Welcome to week four. You guys have come so far in furniture design, and I'm really excited about this week. We're gonna take the coffee table from week two, I'm gonna show you how to measure and tape off a geometric design, paint with three different colors, and then my

signature finish of stain over paint. And then, we're going to name her, as well as the piece that we finished last week.

### Materials

- We're gonna be using Frog tape to tape off our geometric design on top of the coffee table. We have a craft knife here to cut our Frog tape with, a pencil for marking where our design's gonna go, and then I keep a putty knife on hand because whenever you have a line or something on top of your flat surface, it's nice to keep a putty knife on hand to punch that tape right into that crevice and then smooth it out and keep it really nice and tight on top of the wood. So I have the putty knife on hand. I'm gonna be using three different colors of paint on the top of this table, a gold, a peach, and purple. All of these are water based paints, so you can feel free to use craft paints or household paints. You'll also need a tape measure, a couple of brushes for all you different colors. The materials that are gonna be new for you this week are the stain, we're gonna be staining over the paint with special walnut stain, and I have a special brush that I only use for stain. Again, it's a China bristle brush, so it gives a really smooth look. And since stain is an oil-based product, we're gonna be using mineral spirits to clean out our brush. I love this green product, it's not as harsh. And be sure to have a container that you can pour your mineral spirits in. It's good to let your brush soak a little bit in the mineral spirits before washing out with soap and water. And then we're gonna use gloves to protect our hands as we stain the coffee table, and plenty of shop towels on hand.

### Taping design

- You can create multiple designs with frog tape, so feel free to get really, really creative. You can do plus signs, you can do triangles, you can do rays, you can do so many different designs with frog tape. And today I chose to do a design that is triangular in shape, and it will meet in the middle of the coffee table, so it'll essentially be three different sizes of triangles. So I'm gonna go ahead and measure the length of my coffee table, so that I know where the center is. And that's where I know that my points are gonna meet. So I'm gonna pick up the measuring tape and measure how long this coffee table is in order to get the center. It looks like we're right at 49 inches. So I'm gonna make a little tiny pencil mark right here at 24-and-a-half. And then I'm gonna measure the width of the coffee table this way as well, just to make sure that we're all good and centered. It's always good to mark the center of the table as a reference point, even when doing an asymmetrical design. We're at 23 inches, so I'm gonna go ahead and mark my dot right here at 11-and-a-half inches, but look at how close my first original dot was. So essentially we're gonna be making this line right here, 11-and-a-half, so basically this is our center point here, where we're gonna bring our two points to. Now that we've found our center point, we can go ahead and start taping off our design. I'm gonna place the tape down where my center hole is here, and then I'm gonna go ahead and tear it off so that I can play around with the angle a little bit and get it exactly where I want it. I'm just gonna lightly place my tape in the corner of the coffee table, so I can make sure I get it plugged into this line first, and then that we're lined up with the corner of the table. Gonna pick up my spatula, smooth this out. Use your putty spatula to really press your frog tape into the groove so that it will keep your paint lines nice and straight without a bleed. And then go ahead and wrap your tape around the corner of the coffee table just to finish your line. We can lay a straight line there and then we can just fold that under. 'Cause we're just gonna come to the edge there. Gonna go ahead and place my second piece of tape, using my center line as my guide. And I'm just eyeing the triangle size. Feel free to get creative here, but visually make sure that your geometric is lined up

and in the right place. I'm gonna go ahead and smooth this with my hand, lift this end up, really push this in. Work it in that crease really nicely, and fold your tape over the corner of the coffee table again. If you need to bring your spatula back in, and just really kind of press that tape over that corner, use your fingers and the spatula and just kind of mold it around that corner. And then go ahead and wrap it under. Sometimes it takes the heat from your fingers to just really make that tape adhere well. So just spend the time to really make sure it's on there. You have two options for painting to the edge of this coffee table. It has a nice rounded edge, so you can tape off and you can paint all the way around that rounded edge, but I actually love this existing really straight line, and so I'm gonna tape off that line and keep my triangle right here to the edge of the table. I would like to place another really chunky triangle over here, and then a smaller triangle up here at the top. You can really play around with the sizes and shapes of your design. And sometimes I like to stand on a chair or a ladder to really see the design from above and make sure that I like the placement, and that the design is balanced. Make sure the frog tape is pressed down really nice and smoothly so that you get those really nice clean lines when you paint your design.

### Painting

- Each of these triangles is gonna get two coats of paint, and you guys already know that I'm gonna say really light coats are better than putting on a really thick coat. And also, when you start to paint in each triangle, put the bulk of your paint in the middle, and then work your paint around to the edges. 'Cause you want to keep the thick coats of paint away from the edges of your tape. That just helps ensure that there's not any bleeding as well. I'm gonna paint this first triangle with this really pretty spring peach color, and then we're gonna move on to our next triangle. (brushes) I'm just gonna lightly put on this first coat of paint. Again, just not a lot of paint on my brush, keepin' it nice and smooth. (brushes) And really feel free to use that tape, it's your guide, so, you can use it to get some paint on. Once you have all your paint on there, go back over and just smooth it out, so that you have nice smooth triangles. Those long back-and-forth strokes. I'm gonna paint this largest triangle with this really pretty purplish color, and we're gonna apply the paint exactly as we did with the first triangle, just smooth, thin coats. (brushes) Keepin' it really thin next to those tape lines. And really, just, like, work your paint onto the surface, and then you can go back and smooth before you're finished. (brushes) Work it into that groove there. Make sure that gets painted nicely. And then we can just smooth that out. (brushes) Remember these are gonna get two coats of paint, so just keep this first coat nice and thin. (brushes) So you go back and smooth this over. (brushes) Gonna add a little bit more paint to this bottom part 'cause it's the wood grain. (brushes) For this little triangle, I'm just gonna give it a pop of color using gold. I have found that there's not really a good gold house paint, and so, I use craft paint for gold. We're gonna let this first coat of paint dry, and then, we're gonna come back in about 20 minutes, and apply the second coat of paint exactly the way we applied the first coat. Once the second coat of paint has been applied, we're gonna remove the frog tape immediately, in order to keep our lines nice and fresh and straight.

### Staining and waxing

- While the coffee table's drying, I'm gonna show you a couple other finishes that I love over painted furniture. One of those finishes is a wax finish. And this is an old mirror that I found. It's an antique mirror that I just thought had a really simple, pretty shape, and I painted it with latex paint, and I sanded it down, and I'm gonna go ahead and apply the wax. I'm gonna use a clear furniture wax, and this is wax is by Miss Mustard Seed, and I really love this wax because it's actually clear. There

are some other waxes that say they're clear, and they have a little bit of a yellowing effect, but this is actually a really clear wax. And I'm also going to be using a wax brush. I used to apply wax with a paper towel, which you can still totally do, but once I started using this brush, it just kind of became my best friend because it just makes applying wax really smooth and easy and quick. The key to applying wax is less is more, but even less is more with wax. (laughs) If you apply too much wax, it just stays sticky, and it feels waxy. So, you want to be sure to use a really small amount of wax. Dip your brush in the wax and get a little bit on the end, and then you can kind of dab it on a paper towel. You wanna just try to get this really smooth on the surface of the brush, and you don't really need a lot, a tiny, tiny bit of wax. And then, you're gonna put it on. This is what makes this brush so awesome. You're gonna brush it on. Your brush is kind of doing the work for you. Dip again. Don't want that. And keep going in the same pattern as you did before. You can use a paper towel as well if you don't have a wax brush. It really is kind of a very similar application. The brush just kind of covers more ground with the same evenness, but it can be done with a paper towel. We're gonna let this wax dry for about five minutes, and then we're gonna buff it. While that's drying, I'm gonna show you how to apply stain to this chair, which has already been spray-painted in this beautiful green color. I am going to put some gloves on. Stain is an oil-based product. Clean up is a lot easier when you wear gloves. The stain application process is a really, really interesting process. It's one of the ones I get questioned about the most, and it's very, very unintimidating because you're literally just going to paint this stain on the entire surface of this chair, and then you're gonna wipe it down, and what stain does, stain already has like a built-in polyurethane, so stain is a finish for this piece, but it also deepens the color and then gives you this really nice finished shine. Dip your brush in the stain. We're gonna apply the stain pretty liberally on this piece, and whichever way you need to go to get all this area covered, just go ahead and just put it on however, if it's moving in circular motions, up and down. The goal is just getting the surface covered. The longer the stain stays on top of the painted surface, the darker it will get, so since I'm using a pretty dark stain, I'm gonna go ahead and start wiping it off. We're still gonna add some more stain to, of course, the rest of these spindles, but I just wanted to go ahead and give them an initial wipe. I wanna leave the stain in those edges 'cause that's the look we're going for. It's kind of pooled, it's age. I'm just gonna do a little shoeshine action back here. We're really not being super specific about how we apply this. You can brush it on in as many directions as possible. We're just getting it on there so that we can get it on the surface of the paint, and then wipe it off. I might put a little bit more on here and then just wipe it. And I kind of love that it's all pooled there in the back. I don't want it too much, but it's kind of like age and wear-and-tear would happen to this chair from people sitting in it and grabbing it. You really want to get in there and buff it off really well to remove any of the excess, while at the same time leaving it on the top of the surface to where it adds a natural age, and then also letting it settle into the crevices, but you want to make sure that overall, it's not a rough-looking, forced finish. We're gonna be using a stain on the coffee table as well, but since we're using a darker stain here and there are a lot more spindles, it's gonna look a lot different on the coffee table. Since we're dealing with an oil-based product, this is gonna take a good 48 hours to get really good and dry. So, if you set this aside, and then you come back to it in a little bit, and you see that maybe it was too much in certain areas, you still have time to take a rag and kind of wipe that down and buff it out, and that's just beauty of dealing with stain. So, I am gonna start buffing the wax finish out on this mirror, and I'm just gonna take a shop towel, and we're just gonna start rubbing out that wax. And you can see how this beautiful shine starts to happen, and you're going from kind of like a matte finish to a shine. All the way around, just covering the entire surface. And see how you just get that

really, really beautiful shine. That's what wax is good for. It's a good protector, it's kind of a matte shine if you can have that. Using a paper towel to buff out the wax is very similar to how you would apply the wax with a paper towel. You would just keep a little bit of wax on your paper towel and just rub it in. So, just remember that if you don't have a wax brush, you can put it on with a paper towel. A wax finish is really great over latex paint, over milk paint, over spray paint. You can use wax over all three of those, and since it only takes three to five minutes to dry, it's a very quick finish to apply and be finished, and then this is ready to hang on the wall. Stain is a really beautiful finish to use on top of paint in order to get that really aged, lived-in look without having to sand and distress. But you do not want to put stains over milk paints or flat paints because flat paints and milk paints will soak it up, and you'll just have patches and splotches of stain everywhere, and it will look horrible. So, you wanna make sure that you only use stain over paints that already have a finish in them like a latex satin or a spray paint.

### Sanding and distressing

- You could leave this coffee table in its solid finish and then just do a polyurethane over top to protect it, but I really wanna apply a stain over this table, so I'm gonna lightly distress it and sand it, and then I'm gonna apply stain as the finish. (sanding) Since you guys have been sanding so much over the past four weeks, you should be pros at this by now. (sanding) This is the perfect time to sand off any of those uneven edges that you might have, like, say, your paint maybe came over the line, or it's not quite how you want it. Just use your sander to distress that out, and then also remember once you're sanding the tops of the tables and the legs, to make sure you're sanding with the grain of the wood. (sanding) I'm only lightly distressing this piece. I'm not distressing it as much as we did the night stand. The sanding in this case is to just smooth out the paint before I apply my stain. As with any paint finish, once you're done sanding, you wanna make sure that you give it a really good vacuum and wipe down before you apply your finish.

### Staining and finishing

- Stain over paint is always my go-to finish. It's just one of my favorites and the reason I love stain so much, is that it really deepens the colors of the paint. It gives it a richness and an age that looks very natural and it's really easy to apply and it's very forgiving. So you can work with it and you have time to move it around. I much prefer a stain over a glaze. So that's why I started working with stains originally and it has continued to be my favorite finish. So you're just gonna dip your brush in the stain and I'm using a lighter stain on the top of this table since I'm dealing with a lighter base color, which is the gray. I want it to have a little bit of depth and darkness but not quite as dark as we did on the chair. This color is called Special Walnut and it's what I use 98% of the time. I only use two colors. Special Walnut and Dark Walnut and I can probably count on one hand the amount of times I use Dark Walnut in a year. This is definitely my go-to color. After this liberal coating of stain, you guys know the drill. We're gonna grab some shop towels and we're gonna wipe this off. One of the really beautiful things about using an oak piece of furniture is that it has a very pronounced wood grain and the stain gets in there and it's just a really really beautiful finish. This needs to dry for about 48 hours since it is an oil based product and since it's a stain it's only one coat. So we don't need to apply a second coat like we would with Polyurethane. I'm gonna use mineral spirits to rinse out my brush since it is an oil based product. So I'm just gonna pour a little bit into the cup, stick my brush in, kind of work it around in there to where the mineral spirits really cover all the bristles of the brush and then I'm gonna let this soak for about 10 to 15 minutes and then I'm gonna

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rinse it out with soap and water.

The final touches

^ - Each piece that I complete gets a name. ^ And so, based on the personality ^ that I get from these pieces, ^ or connections that I make with people ^ while I'm working on pieces, ^ I choose names for them. ^ This piece we decided to name Mod. ^ And this piece's name is Ser-uty. ^ We took this side table from its original, ^ brown, traditional finish, ^ and we added a little bit of milk paint, ^ a really beautiful wallpaper and some new hardware, ^ and turned it into something that ^ you would want to live with forever. ^ Over the four weeks, ^ you've seen these pieces go from drab to beautiful. ^ And I really want you guys to grasp ^ that you don't have to be afraid of color. ^ You can mix it anywhere in your home. ^ They're not just for a nursery or a child's room. ^ These are for your bedroom, for your den, ^ for your foyer. ^ These pieces can be moved around. ^ They're versatile. ^ Even though we only worked on ^ these two specific pieces of furniture, ^ you now have all the tools that you need ^ to work on any piece of furniture that you decide. ^ So go out there, ^ find a piece of furniture that you love, ^ you love the lines of it, ^ you love the shape of it. ^ Use these tools that I've taught you, ^ and create beautiful things for your home.