

APPLYING PATINAS

After the bisque firing, your sculptures will be sheet-white in color and ready for you to apply your patina of choice. Some minor cracks will need to be filled with Hydro-Cal (plaster) and some light sanding may be necessary before applying the patina finishes.

You've seen some of my finished pieces during the class or on my website. Here is how I finished some of them and a couple of examples with different results.

- "Darlene" was finished in light grey and the wax sat for at least a 30+ minutes before buffing.
- "Elmer" finished in light brown and was buffed off after about 2-3 minutes.
- "Charlie" I used a patina of Bronze Metal (type B) patina with high-lights of black.

Step 1: Spray paint with flat-black spray paint making sure the entire piece is covered (two coats). You do not want any white areas showing (i.e.; behind the ears, inside the eyes, nostrils, under the chin, etc.).

Step 2: Generously stipple on two coats of latex paint with a brush (buy a sample at Home Depot). You want to avoid any brush strokes or bristles from the brush on your sculpture.

Step 3: Stipple on the black metal wax* with a brush. Again, watch out for brush strokes or bristles.

Step 4: Depending on the desired wax coverage, buff (shoe shine) the sculpture with an old tee-shirt. Make sure your sculpture is stable before getting crazy with the buffing. You don't want it to fall over!

- Buff in 2-3 minutes if you want the wax in the grooves and recessed areas only.
- Buff in 30+ minutes or more if you want the wax to cure and change the original color darker.

The entire process takes about 2-3 hours depending on the weather. The wax has an odor that will last a couple of days. I keep my finished pieces in the garage until this odor dissipates in a day or two. Keep in mind, once the wax is cured and buffed; it is on there for good.

Attach a few dark brown felt pads (but at Home Depot) on the bottom and you're ready to proudly display your work.

*You can buy the Bronze Metal Paint and Black Metal-Wax at Sculpt Nouveau.

- Bronze Metal Paint: www.sculptnouveau.com/Details.cfm?ProdID=42&category=6
- Metal Wax: <http://www.sculptnouveau.com/Details.cfm?ProdID=111&category=7>.

All you need is the 2 oz. jar of wax per 1 or 2 sculptures. It sells for \$12.00 +shipping.

Good luck!

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