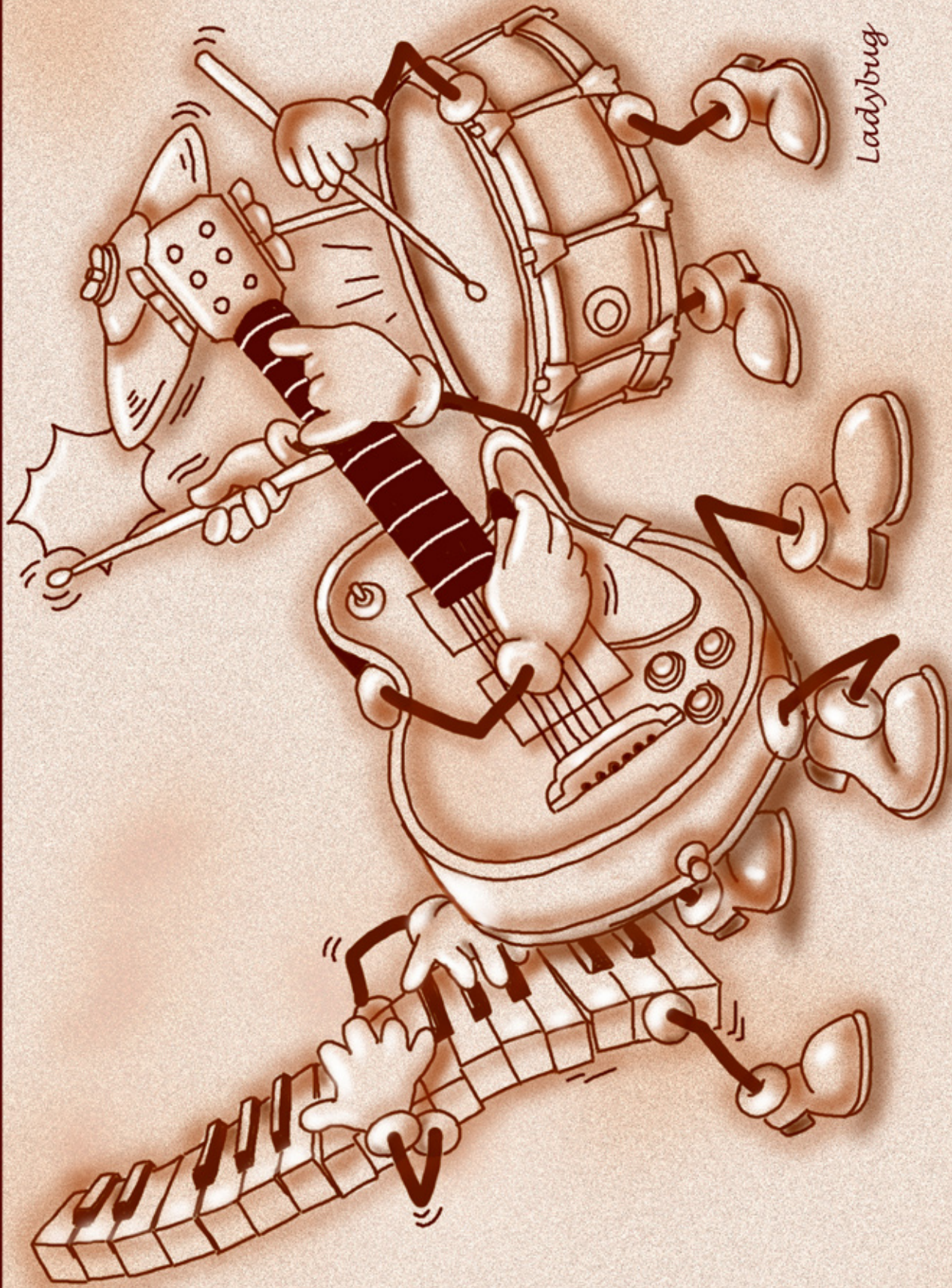


Faux Music by Ladybug



Faux Music by Ladybug

Intermediate Level

This is much easier to do than it looks! With a limited palette, a pen and the a bit of floating color, it doesn't take but a few hours to complete.

Palette

Colors by Plaid FolkArt



Brushes:

Large flat brush for background.

8 or 1/2" flat (angle if you prefer)

#1 Liner or script brush.

Brush for sealing surfaces

Additional Supplies

Palette paper (for blending out float)

Tracing paper

water containers

stylist/ graphite paper for transerring pattern

Dark brown or black permanent fine tip pen

Background

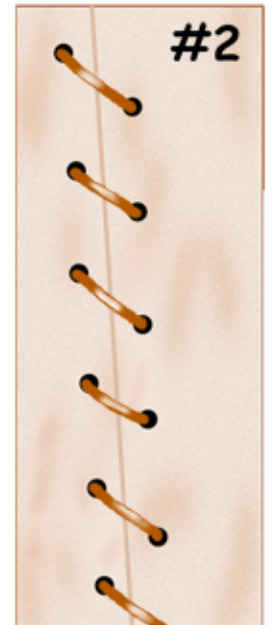
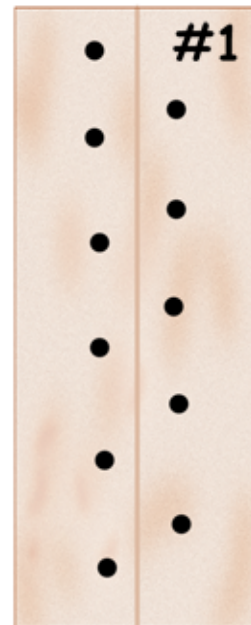
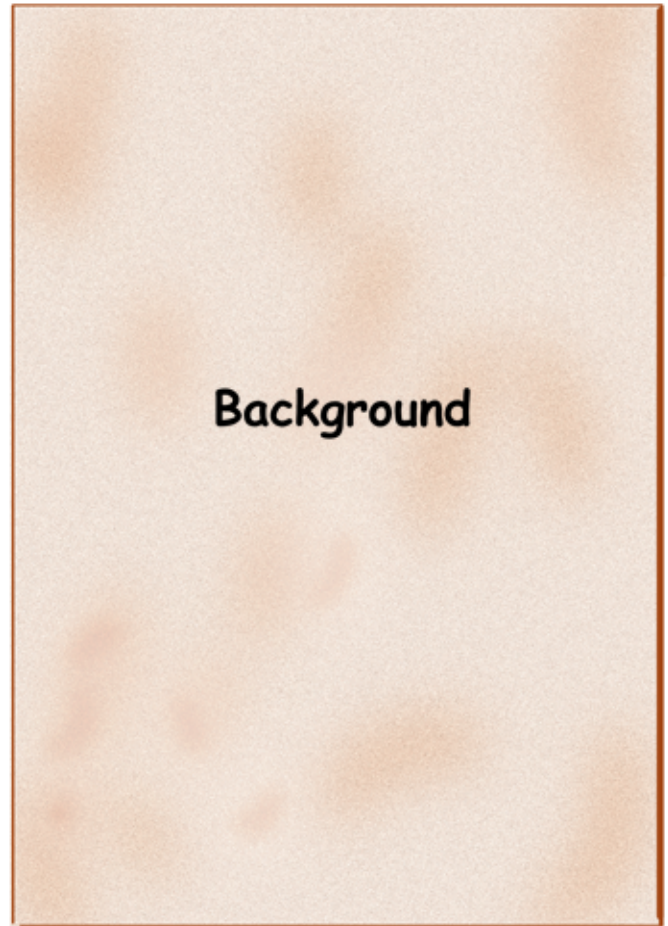
Base coat the whole lid with the almond or light flesh. While still semi-wet, sponge in or blend in a hint of Nutmeg to give a dual tone look of leather. Trim the edges off with solid Nutmeg.

Lace can be added if desired, simply by using a stylis or the rounded end of a paint brush handle, apply black dots as shown to the right. Once the dots are dry, add lines of terra-cotta or any brown going from on dot to another as shown in B. Add a slight hint of highlight with white. Lace can be added at the beginning or at the end.

Once the lid is dry, transfer on the design with graphite paper. Remove any marks outside of the pattern with a soft soap eraser. (This is important since you will be applying color around the outside edges.)

Step One:

Using a flat or angle brush that you can manage into tight areas, Start by floating Nutmeg around the complete design and into the spaces shown on the worksheet #2. Take your time to do this as it forms the dimensional look. Allow to dry before doing the next step.



Faux Music by Ladybug

Step Two:

Using A light touch of Terra Cotta, add a bit more of the dimensional look by floating it on the detail areas, such as the shading on the keyboard, rims of the drum, etc. Add as much as you like, but don't go over board. Again allow this to dry.

Step Three:

With the Dark Brown or a pen, create the lines as shown on the original line drawing. At this point the design will come into focus. I prefer to use a liner brush, however, the pen will speed things up and gives far more control in keeping the lines the same size.

TIP: it is best to allow permanent pen lines to cure a few hours or even over night and not run the risk of them develop a blur or bleed when paint or sealer is applied over them.

Step Four:

A slight hint of white is added to bring the hands forward, highlight the instruments as shown in the last image on the worksheet. Don't over do it, as most leather doesn't have a high shine to it, and the idea is to make this look like faux carved leather. Once the white is applied the lid is finished.

Painting Tip:

To help keep your floating "soft looking", apply a thin coat of water over the area first or mist the surface slightly. This helps to prevent a harsh line where you are floating around the outside edge of the design. The wider you can make the floated area around the design the better. You can dry brush to further widen a color beyond where the stroke was originally applied.

Print out the worksheet and review your work with it and make any additions needed to complete the design. To complete the box, it is a good idea to seal the lid area with two good coats of your favorite water based varnish. (I use Final Coat).

If you are using a shoe box and not a photo box where the bottom is already done. May I suggest what I did. I painted it the same background color along with the sponged color as well. I took and sectioned off small patches with a Nutmeg thin line and used lace showing them stitched together to give that leather look. The patches could even be different background colors, and a nice way to use up some left over browns or tan paints you might have sitting around. I made the bottom a solid color of brown and also painted the inside of the box and lid with the same. (Good idea to seal this area, since we do not know what kind of items will be placed inside.)

Note from designer:

If this design is not your style, try something else in this method, as it is a fast and easy way to produce a Treasrue Box, and it is the kind of unique design that a teenage boy would like.

Jan McCraw, MFA/aka Ladybug
www.ladybugcreations.com