

project bricks planter

Designed by Craft Marketing Connections, Inc.



Materials

- *FloraCraft*
 - 12" x 12" x 1" Make It: Fun White STYROFOAM Blocks, four Make It: Fun Project Bricks, 30 – 40 Design It: Foam Cutter Spanish moss
- *DecoArt*
 - Americana Acrylics in Burnt Umber Texture Stucco in Natural, 5 oz. Matte Spray Acrylic Sealer / Finisher
- Ivy vine or choice of greenery
- *Elmer's* CraftBond Tacky Glue
- Newspapers, paintbrush (medium flat), paper towels, plastic container, ruler, serrated knife, spoon, spray bottle, toothpicks, water

Instructions

1. For box, cut six 6" x 12" and two 6" x 8" STYROFOAM pieces. For base, apply Tacky Glue and stack four 6" x 12" pieces. Let dry. To form box, adhere 6" x 12" piece to each long side of base, securing with toothpicks by pressing them through STYROFOAM at contact points. Similarly, attach two 6" x 8" pieces to ends of base. Let dry. To make Project Bricks flatter on front of planter, use Foam Cutter to cut 30 bricks in half, length-wise. Save all pieces.

2. Spoon out half of Stucco mixture into plastic container. Use serrated knife to apply Stucco to bottom front of box, going up about 2". Referring to color photo, place bottom row of (cut) Project Bricks into Stucco, cut side down. Before pressing in place, use knife to apply extra Stucco to all edges of Project Brick. Repeat with each Brick to build up Stucco between Bricks, along top and bottom. (**Note:** You do not have to be neat; allow Stucco to extend onto front of Bricks for effect.) Complete bottom row of Bricks.

3. Apply more Stucco to box, going up another inch. Referring to photo, continue adding Project Bricks in second row, but stagger them and leave out a couple of Bricks. If desired, trim edge of one Brick to appear as though it was sheared off due to wear and aging. Be sure there's Stucco between the rows and use serrated edge of knife to create irregular appearance in places where Bricks are missing.

4. With third row, refer to color photo and leave more areas with missing Bricks or half Bricks.

Continue to reference photo and work up the box, paying attention to where staggered Bricks should be, intentionally allowing imperfections, sheared off Bricks, and missing Bricks. (**Note:** If you change your mind, Bricks may easily be removed and repositioned before Stucco dries.)

5. After you're satisfied with Bricks, apply extra Stucco to all sides and inside top edge of box, keeping it rough like a stucco building. Let completely dry. Clean plastic container.

6. In clean plastic container, thin down Burnt Umber paint with water (approximately 2:1) and mix with paintbrush. Dampen front and all sides of box by lightly squirting with spray bottle filled with water. Apply thinned paint to bricks, starting at bottom and working up, all edges of bricks and all Stucco sides of box. Use damp paper towel to lighten Stucco areas and apply extra thinned paint to bricks. Continue to paint everything. Refer to color photo to select certain bricks to darken by applying extra coats of thinned or even full strength paint as needed. Check corners of box and paint or lighten with paper towel as needed. Let thoroughly dry, at least overnight.

7. In a well-ventilated, newspaper-covered area, apply Matte Sealer/Finisher to entire frame and let dry. Cover inside of box base with Spanish moss. Insert and arrange ivy vine as desired.

This project submitted courtesy of Craft Marketing Connections, Inc.