

“MEMORY SERVER” TRAY

CH #36

MATERIALS:

1. Large metal tray – shape and size suitable for your montage; an inexpensive one will do.
2. Metal primer paint
3. Sandpaper
4. High gloss enamel paint
5. Scissors and/or a single-edge razor blade or Exacto knife.
6. Tracing paper and pencil
7. White (Elmer's) glue
8. Polyurethane varnish
9. Collected memorabilia – “family tree” pictures – Sisterhood or synagogue action awards, documents, etc.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Remove any minor dents in the tray by hammering them out. (Place the dented area between two blocks of wood and hammer the top block until the dent is flat.)
2. Sand off all loose paint until the surface of the tray is smooth.
3. Wipe clean with a damp cloth.
4. Spray all bare metal spots with a spraying of metal primer.
5. Set aside to dry.
6. Follow with at least 2 coats of flat or semi-gloss enamel in a color of your choice. Let dry completely.
7. Spray reverse side of the tray with high-gloss enamel in a matching or contrasting color. Let dry.
8. Gather together all the material you want to use in your montage. Starting with the most significant pieces cut away all unwanted parts with a scissors or razor blade. Keep the corners neat and square.
9. Starting at the upper left of the tray, roughly place the montage elements in chronological order, if possible, placing the largest pieces on the bottom with smaller pieces overlapping on top of the larger ones. Work across and down until the tray is covered. You may need to weed out or compress your design until everything fits.
10. After you arrive at a satisfactory and final arrangement, tape a large piece of tracing paper along the top edge of the tray. The pieces of your montage will show through the tracing paper.
11. Now trace the position of each piece on to the tracing paper. It is very important to trace enough of the design of each piece so you can quickly identify it when they are glued, as you will be working quickly.
12. When the tracing is complete, remove all pieces of the design from the tray, but leave the tissue paper in place.

13.
 - a. In a wide, deep dish, mix equal parts of white glue and water.
 - b. With a paintbrush, apply the glue to the back of the first bottom piece to be placed on the tray.
 - c. Apply glue to the middle of the piece and brush out to the edges. Do the gluing on newspaper scraps and change them frequently.
 - d. Lift the tracing paper slightly and slip the glued piece into position.
 - e. When the exact position is determined, lift up the tracing paper and rub the piece down with your fingers.
 - f. Use a clean piece of paper to protect the surface of the glued pieces while you're rubbing them down, for many inks smear when wet.
 - g. Repeat the whole process, piece by piece, making sure you're putting each piece down in the right order, until the montage is complete.
 - h. You must work quickly, making sure all edges are firmly down.
 - i. Excess white glue can be removed with a damp sponge or cloth. Be careful when doing this to prevent smearing the ink.
 - j. Remove tracing paper and tape from top edge of tray.
14. When the montage is thoroughly dry, apply a coat of clear, high-gloss polyurethane varnish to the surface. Allow to dry thoroughly. Follow with one or two more coats until a suitable finish is achieved.

The tray can be used for serving, or just for show. The same procedure can be used on wood. Just follow the directions for priming unfinished wood.

SUGGESTION:

Make a sample tray during the summer. In the fall, interest families in making their own montages. Hold weekly workshops, days or evenings, to help families make their own.