

Simple Scenery Painting Technique

For those of us not gifted with artistic talents, it is often a difficult task to draw and paint scenery for such things as school shows and presentations. We have therefore described below, a simple system which we have used for many years now, for creating scenery on a small stage. You may be able to use our system for your own theatrical productions.

Create your original artwork by hand on an A4 sheet of paper or, if you have the use of a computer, generate your artwork on that and send it to the computer printer. There are thousands of clipart items available for computers these days, so you should be spoilt for choice.

Make a photocopy of your artwork onto clear transparency film. Most photocopier companies sell clear film to go into their copiers. This is usually in A4 size in the United Kingdom. Using an overhead projector, (most schools and colleges will have access to at least one of these) project the image on your transparency onto the scenery to be painted.

Draw round the image which is projected onto the scenery with a pencil, marking in lightly what colours should be where. Go over the marked out lines using a thin brush with black paint.

Fill in the sections with the necessary colours. The further back from the scenery you get with the projector, the larger the image you get. If you need a very large image, then you may have to reduce the lighting in the hall or scenery room to enable you to see the image on the scenery.

As stated earlier, this is a very simple system but it works very well. It can be easily modified for different types of scenery and it doesn't need the use of skilled artists.

With the advent of video projectors, you could use one of these to project your images but due to the high cost of the video projector bulbs it may not be very cost effective to do it this way.

You could also use 35mm slides, projected from a 35mm slide projector, or even glass slides projected from one of those old magic lantern slide projectors from days gone by.

Have fun!