

Red Hat Tea Party

Tea Cup Painting Directions



Materials:

Falcon Industries cups and saucers, plates from Hobby Builders Supply (miniatures.com)

Index cards, double stick tape, lollipop sticks, tacky glue, plastic palette, pointy wooden toothpicks, fine paint brush (10/0 or smaller), q-tips, paper towels, water, and a cup or mug to hold teacups on lollipop sticks to dry.

Acrylic Paints: These are the colors I used from my own stash but any acrylics should work.

Martha Stewart – Wedding Cake (white), Kiddie Pool (aqua), Peppermint Bark (light pink), Mardi Gras Beads (orchid)

Craft Smart – Grass Green

Delta Ceramcoat – Cricket (lemony chartreuse)

Apple Barrel – Laguna (turquoise), Regency Blue (light blue)

Americana – Crimson Tide (burgundy red)

DecoArt – Emperor's Gold

And a new bottle of clear nail polish from the dollar store

Reference source: I usually set up boards to collect ideas for all of my mini projects. Pinterest Boards see Terry Unnold "Tea Sets"

Directions:

- Very gently sand any plastic nubs along the edges of your tea cups, saucers and plates.
- Prepare to paint by placing strips of double stick tape on an index card and sticking saucers and plates right side facing up.
- Glue teacups to top of lollipop stick with tiny amount of Tacky glue.
- Select a pattern to follow, e.g. colored rim with stripes, dots, florals or overall color with medallions of flowers on rim and center.
- **Background** color:
 - Rim only - plate and saucer– lightly dab base color of your choice with a q-tip or cotton bud. Hold the q-tip vertically and lightly pick up a small amount of paint with the very end of your q-tip. Try the q-tip by pressing down vertically on a piece of paper towel. You should have a nearly perfect circle of color. Then proceed to paint your plates pressing the q-tip vertically on to the surface.
For some reason, q-tips give you better coverage than brushing color on which just gives you streaks of paint. If you make a mistake or don't like the color you can wash it off or scrape any small dried bits of paint with a sharp toothpick.
 - Entire plate and saucer – same technique as above, may need more than one coat, let dry completely between coats.
 - Cups – coat outside of all cups in color to match plates and saucers with q-tip, touching up color under handle with brush if necessary. Try not to get paint inside your cup.
- **Decorations:**

- Rim only (see photos 1 and 2) – If you are only decorating with gold simple add lines or dots of gold paint with a very fine point paintbrush – practice first on a paper towel to determine how much paint you need to pick up with your brush, it will be a very small amount. Paint dots (see yellow set) or lines (see pink set) on the rim of the plate and saucer then add dots or lines of gold to the tea cups.
 - Rim only (see photo 3) - Flowers on rim and center of plate - with fine brush add five comma shapes in a circle of mardi gras bead/orchid or dark pink paint to center of plate to suggest rose shape, add tiny dots of the same color in groups of three spaced evenly around the rims. Follow with tiny dots of green paint to suggest leaves around center rose and in between small dots on rim. Cups – scrape away a circle of paint on the center of each side of the cup and paint a dot of mardi gras bead/orchid or dark pink paint in the center along with a tiny dot of green paint on either side.
 - Entire plate (see photo 4) – With q-tip and wedding cake or white paint make circle of white paint in center of plate and four equally spaced white circles of paint (or ovals if you prefer) around the rim and add flowers to each circle when dry. With fine brush add three pink dots in a circle of mardi gras bead/orchid or dark pink paint to center white circle of the plate, add tiny dots of the same color in groups of three in the white circles around the rims. Follow with tiny dots of green paint to suggest leaves around center rose and in between small dots on rim. Outline each of the five circles in gold using very fine brush.
Cups – scrape away a circle of paint on the center of each side of the cup and paint a dot of mardi gras bead/orchid or dark pink paint in the center along with a tiny dot of green paint on either side.
Outline circle with gold paint to match the plate and saucer.
- **Gilding:**
Add very fine outline of gold paint with fine brush along edges of plates, handles and rims of cups.

- **Glazing:**

When paint is completely dry, using a new, unopened bottle of dollar store clear nail polish; paint several thin coats of clear glaze (allowing each coat to dry completely before adding another layer.) Don't stop adding layers of nail polish until you are happy that your tea cups and plates look like china.

Photo 1 – Yellow Set



Photo 2 – Pink Set



Photo 3 – Blue Set



Photo 4 – Green Set



Terry Unnold

Create Red Hat Tea Party Tutorial

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