

1968

China Painting

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CHINA PAINTING

by Julie Ward
for SPECIAL STUDIES

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SPECIAL STUDIES PROJECT

by Julie Ward

I chose hand painting a complete twelve-place setting of china for my special studies project. I will explain how each step is done and how I chose to paint mine.

The first step in painting china is to select the pattern of dishes you wish to use. I selected Sylvia, a pattern from Germany. The china comes only in plain white design.

The first step in painting my set was to apply regular silver paint around the edges of the pieces and on the handles and also painting the initial "E" on each piece. After the first coat of silver paint is applied, I then fired the dishes in a kiln at 1016 degrees. This process of firing usually takes four hours at one time. And the kiln must remain closed until it has cooled at room temperature, which is usually the next day. The reason for waiting until the kiln has time to cool is to prevent the china from breaking when cold air strikes it.

The next step to the dishes was to paint black china paint on the rim, but not in the center of every piece. Then this step had to be fired again. The black paint is not painted on with a brush as the silver paint. It has to be mixed with a medium and then applied with a silk cloth around a small wad of lamb's wool. The paint is applied in a blotting action, not rubbed on.

After this has been placed on the china, I then cleaned the black off the areas where the silver paint had already been placed. As I have said, this is again fired.

When the black paint has been baked on, I apply a second coat of the silver paint. I apply it only to the areas where the first coat had been applied. This helps the silver from becoming too dull. And this step has to be fired also.

The final coat of paint is a coat of silver, but this time it is white gold, which is used to create a richer look than the brighter silver paint. This paint has to be mixed with a medium and then applied with a brush. This also goes only on those areas that are silver. When this step has been applied it has to be fired one more time. This is usually the last step in firing, but sometimes a piece has to be retouched.

The final step in preparing the china is to sand each piece with a special china sand applied with a damp cloth. After I completed this step, that was all I had to do to the dishes. My china took five steps with four firing times.

The pieces I have are the twelve-place setting which includes the following: plates, cups, saucers, and luncheon plates. The other pieces I have include a salt and pepper set, a butter dish, four bowls, a meat platter, a sugar and creamer set, and a tea pot. The complete set includes fifty-nine pieces.

