

Antique Painted Tall-Case Clock

by Fran Casselman

Materials Needed:

#76418 Ridgeford Grandfather Clock
#55595 Flush Cutters
#67196 Handy Sticks
#55309 Traditions® White Gesso
#81528 Brown Age-It Easy
#12007 Wooden Knobs
Goof-Off, lighter fluid or other glue remover
120 grit sand paper
Soft cloth or paper towel
Rubbing alcohol
Toothpicks
Green plastic scouring pad
Matte sealer
Brown Sharpie marker
Gold Sharpie marker
Clear sealer
Clear packing tape

Other items in the scene were crafted and/or purchased from craft stores and other retailers.

Some miniatures.com items listed may be temporarily unavailable or may be permanently discontinued; we apologize for any inconvenience.



Gently remove the metal knob from the door and the painted wood finials from the top of the clock. (These elements are glued into drilled holes; use #55595 Flush Cutters to nibble through the layers of paint and glue, and to gently pry the pieces loose. Be very careful not to cut the pegs or damage the shape. These parts will be reused.)

Peel off the printed foil clock face; Handy Sticks #67196 are very helpful, along with a solvent such as Goof-Off or lighter fluid to remove the glue residue.

Thoroughly sand every surface of the clock. You need to at least remove the gloss of the black layer, but the closer you can get to the original wood surface, the better. Something with 120 grit works well, although you may need a finer (higher number) grit for the detail areas. (I did not sand or repaint inside the pendulum door.) Sand the finials as best you can, and cut off the two top "bumps" of the center one.

If you are going to change the look of the lower panel, as I did, cut a piece of cardstock that will fit between the moldings and cover the front.

Clean the sanded clock thoroughly to remove all the sanding residue. I use a soft cloth or paper towel moistened with high-percentage rubbing alcohol because it will dry very quickly.

To keep the holes where the finials and knob will be reinstalled from getting clogged as you paint, you can push toothpick pieces into the holes.

Paint all surfaces, including the finials, with gesso (#55309). This is just to help the finish paint stick and can be a little uneven. Gesso both sides of the cardstock piece. Let everything dry completely. To smooth out any roughness, use a green plastic scouring pad. Clean away any dust.

Glue the cardstock piece in place, then paint the clock in your chosen color. Time will strengthen the bond between the paint and the primer so if you have the patience to let this dry for a couple of days you will get a better result.

Remove the toothpicks, and use whatever fine sanding methods you have to age and distress the painted finish. An emery board worked well for me. Go slowly; it is very easy to do too much. Clean away the dust.

You can stop there and add a matte sealer. I wanted a more subtle look, so I added some #81528 Brown Age-It Easy over the entire clock. This is a solvent-based solution, and it will soften the paint and affect the color. However, it dries almost immediately so you can quickly see the result. Test it first on the back of the clock. I also thought a few spots needed an even stronger aged look, so I touched a few places with a brown Sharpie marker and softened that with the brush I used for the Age-It Easy. (I keep small cups and dedicated brushes for both #81528 and #80873. Unused solution can go back into the bottle and the brushes do not need to be cleaned.)

Check that the finials and knob will go back in their holes. If you like the current look, glue them in. I modified the finials by gluing a wood knob (#12007) on top of each before coloring with gold Sharpie marker.

Add a coat of clear sealer to protect the finish.

Apply clear packing tape over the clock face(s) before cutting out. Glue the face in place and you're done!

The clock faces and transformation tips can also apply to #76417, Miller Estate Grandfather Clock

Grandfather Clock Faces Printies

Use with #76418 Ridgeford and #76417 Miller Estate Grandfather Clocks.
Print this page on good quality thin paper at the highest resolution on your printer.

