



## Summer Terrace

by Fran Casselman

### Setting:

- #39011 Rustic Clapboard Siding Strips
- #9146 Basswood Strip Wood, 1/4" x 1/16"
- #1083 Weather-It
- #2409 Outdoor Brick Fireplace
- #42331 Rustic Stacked Stone Wallpaper

### Landscaping & Planters:

- #999 Six Green Spruce Trees
- #9744 Fall Garden Delights
- #988 Two Spring Trees
- #60063 Leafy Vine
- #1814 Pair of 9"-Tall "Squeeze Me" Trees
- #40381 Kensington Bowl Planter
- #40401 Small Tapered Terra-Cotta Planters
- #40410 Medium Tapered Terra-Cotta Planters
- #40420 Large Tapered Terra-Cotta Planters
- #40430 Block Terra-Cotta Planters
- #21801 Six Pink Geraniums
- #28014 Twelve White Mini Carnations
- #28043 Twelve Coral Carnations
- #28071 Twelve White Mini Daisies
- #28125 Six Blue Lupinus Stems
- #28126 Six Purple Lupinus Stems
- #28127 Six White Lupinus Stems
- #28128 Six Yellow Lupinus Stems

- #23769 Six Blue Hydrangeas
- #23771 Six Purple Hydrangeas
- #23772 Six White Hydrangeas
- #22183 Twelve Stems of Red-Leaf Lettuce
- #22302 Six Stems of Trumpeting Leaves
- #28146 Six Stems of Variegated Ivy
- #28147 Six Stems of Green Ivy
- #28157 Six Stems of Small Flat Leaves
- #25687 Lycopodium
- #36171 Reindeer Moss

### Furnishings and accessories:

- #78813 5-Pc. Wicker Dining Set
- #40607 Off-White Pillows
- #40602 Trailing Blooms Rug
- #78147 Green Watering Can
- #40450 Square Succulent Planter
- #78578 Smart Pad
- #71017 Sunglasses
- #88318 Margarita
- #40440 Round Trio Succulent Planters
- #54016 Turned Candlesticks Trio
- #40460 Succulent Planter Bowl
- #78812 Wicker Lounge Chair
- #78326 Green Towel Set
- #24770 Sunset (Sleeping Cat)

- #12325 Wells Copper Hurricane Lamp
- #54027 Simple Shapes Vases
- #42351 Hydrangea Pillow
- #77023 Pair of Water Bottles
- #54019 Rattan Table/Stool
- #78060 Smart Phone
- #37107 2-Pc. Sunning Set
- #40470 Square Succulent Planters Trio
- #78604 Aged Copper Hose Pot

### Crafty Extras:

- Foundation is recycled rigid foam packing material; top surface is thin foam used in disposable plates and food packaging, such as for meats, etc. Lower patio is foam core board. (see "Stone" Patio and Walls instructions)
- "Stone" Fireplace (see instructions)
- Weathered Board Fence (see instructions)
- All flower and foliage stems in containers were "planted" in Kinetic Sand, a play material available at many retailers including Michael's, Hobby Lobby and online.

# "Stone" Patio and Walls

by Fran Casselman

## Supplies Needed:

#42331 Rustic Stacked Stone Wallpaper\*\*  
Acrylic craft paint (several shades to coordinate with wallpaper)  
Thin rigid foam with no paper surface (foam trays or disposable plates)  
Smooth, rigid foam blocks and sheets (recycled packaging material or foam sheet)  
White glue and glue-spreading tool  
Craft knife  
cutting mat  
fine-tooth small saw or serrated kitchen knife  
pencil  
scrap paper  
masking tape  
quilters' pins (long, ball-head pins)



*It is always best to work from inspiration photos of an actual scene. An internet search will reveal many examples so use this tutorial as a general guide, not a specific how-to. Your scene and your materials may determine a different layout so very few exact measurements are given.*

## Base terrace

Determine the shape and size of your raised stone terrace. The height of this terrace was determined by the thickness of the material on hand and is 1 1/8" (28mm). Use a fine-tooth saw or serrated kitchen knife to cut the material to size, being careful to keep a vertical edge. If you need to assemble the base terrace from several smaller pieces, spread white glue generously on one surface and use quilters' pins to hold the pieces together while the glue dries (it will take longer than usual because the foam is not absorbent). Weight the assembly to keep it flat, if necessary. To strengthen the joins, glue scrap paper over the "cracks," including any at the edge. Be sure it is completely dry and remove any pins before moving on.

For steps, use a craft knife to carefully cut the waste area away.

Follow the same assembly procedure for any walls or raised seating.

Do not attach any elements together at this point.

Cut strips of wallpaper to the height of the terrace base and apply with white glue spread onto the assembly, not the paper. Hold paper ends with masking tape (in areas that will not show) or quilters' pins, if necessary. Let dry.

Cut through the paper in the center of the step area and along the step edge. Fold and glue the paper into the step area to cover the sides of the recess. Cover the back with a separate piece.



### **"Flagstone" top surface**

With a craft knife on a cutting mat, cut the thin rigid foam into enough flat sections to cover the terrace and any walls or seats. *Note: the "flagstone" extends a bit over the edge of the terrace base.*

Find photos of terraces and patios to see how actual flagstones are laid. My terrace had a border pattern but the center was random. I chose to assemble the thin foam sections into a sheet large enough for the terrace, and then incorporate the joints into the random pattern drawn on the whole sheet. You could also cut individual "stones" to fit the spaces you have. Either way, use masking tape on the back to assemble the pieces into a sheet the size and shape of the terrace, making the joints as close as possible. Repeat for the step and the tops of any walls and seats.

Glue the assembled thin sheets to the base terrace and wall blocks, making sure the overhang is even. Put the assemblies upside down on the work surface and weight them while they dry. It will take longer than usual.

If you didn't cut individual stones, use a blunt, rounded pencil point to sketch a pattern lightly on the surface of the terrace. Work with the joins you have and make random sizes and shapes until you have a pleasing pattern. Make some lines wavy and uneven for a more natural look. When you like what you have, go over the lines and press harder with the pencil to leave deep grooves in the foam. Try not to break the surface of the foam but do leave noticeable lines. If you did cut individual pieces, use the pencil to shape and delineate the stones.

If your terrace has attached walls or seats, don't create or paint stones in the places where they will go.

### **Painting:**

There are no "rights" or "wrongs," but remember not to rush and that less is generally better. You will need three similar variations (midtone base, noticeably lighter, noticeably darker) of whatever stone color you choose. The paper you use is a good place to start for color choices.

For technique, keep everything pretty wet. As needed, put blobs of paint on your palette (disposable plates work well) and keep a jar of water handy to rinse your brush.

Using the darkest color, paint over the pencil lines. You do not have to be too even or precise but try not to widen the lines a great deal. Remember to show joints in the edges. Next, with the midtone, paint all the stones individually with the paint thicker in some areas and more diluted in others. Sometimes the center of a stone will be paler; sometimes the color will shade from light to dark across the stone. Just play with it until every stone is painted but you see differences in each one. Remember the edges.

You could stop now, but it won't take much more to really punch it up.

Make a very thin wash with the lightest color and paint over a few individual stones. It will look different where the base paint was heavier and lighter, or you can add color to only part of a stone. Don't do too many, but try to choose random stones across the whole terrace.

Do the same using the dark color: very thin wash, uneven application, random overall placement.

Add a tiny bit of dark to the light wash and color a few more stones. Pause every now and then to look at the effect. When you see a pleasing overall appearance, stop! Resist the urge to "do something" to every stone. It's easy to add more later if you really want, but difficult to undo too much.

The surface of the foam is not absorbent, which makes it easy to move the color around and get nice effects with very thin paint applications but it does increase the drying time. Even after it feels dry to the touch, the paint surface may be fragile so try not to scratch it.

*Tip: to help water-based paints adhere to smooth, non-absorbent surfaces, add a bit of soap. A drop of liquid detergent on the palette is plenty, or swipe your brush over a bar of soap every few strokes.*

If your terrace has attached walls or seats, glue the parts together, weight if possible and secure with quilters' pins until dry.

\* Other stone-look papers, such as #57710 Dolomite Stone Paper Panel, #57700 Granite Stone Paper Panel or #57740 Square Stone Paper Panel, would also be very effective for this project.

## "Stone" Fireplace

### Supplies Needed:

- #2409 Outdoor Brick Fireplace
- #42331 Rustic Stacked Stone Wallpaper\*
- Lightweight spackling
- Palette or putty knife
- Fine-grit sanding block (optional)
- Glue for paper\*\*
- Sharp craft knife
- Pencil
- "Stone" color paints (for non-papered areas)
- Dark gray paints (for firebox)



### Preparation

The fireplace unit is made of MDF, with grout lines milled into the surface to create the look and texture of brick. The wallpaper is heavy and can cover uneven surfaces, but to be certain the brick pattern would not show through I used lightweight spackling to fill in the grooves, applying and smoothing away the excess with the palette knife/putty knife. When dry, sand lightly if needed.

*Note: The resulting smooth surface was exactly what I wanted, but I realized this method could also work for an easy traditional brick finish. Just paint the fireplace in the preferred brick color(s) before applying the spackling, which can be tinted with "mortar"-colored paint if desired.*

### Method

Cut strips of wallpaper to the widths needed for the main "flat" areas of the fireplace:  $1\frac{3}{8}$ " (35mm) for the base,  $3\frac{3}{16}$ " (81mm) for the main/firebox section and  $1\frac{7}{16}$ " (31mm) for the chimney. Cut a strip  $1\frac{3}{8}$ " (or use scrap from the base strip) for the sloping sides of the chimney base; 1" (26mm) for the sloping front area. I did not cover the back of the fireplace and was able to use scrap paper for the smaller areas.

Working carefully, apply glue to the fireplace, not the paper, and cover each section separately. The base and chimney are simple shapes; work from the center out and crease the paper for crisp corners. The firebox area is a bit more complicated but not unlike papering a wall with a window opening. Slit the center from the bottom up to the height of the firebox opening, then start fitting the paper over the arch and use a craft knife to trim and fit as needed. At the opening, wrap the paper around to the inside for a finished look. Trim as needed.

Apply paper to the side areas of the sloped chimney base and wrap a bit over onto the front. Let dry before moving on to the front area. Treat the front slope as one flat area; let the ends hang over while the glue dries completely. Trim carefully with the craft knife. Color the cut edges with a pencil, markers or matching paint.

The "stone" areas may be painted before or after papering. Over a midtone base coat, use a pencil to draw lines indicating joints between stones and shade with diluted lighter and darker colors for interest. Paint the firebox several shades of gray, not black, for a realistic look.

\* Other stone-look papers, such as #57710 Dolomite Stone Paper Panel, #57700 Granite Stone Paper Panel or #57740 Square Stone Paper Panel, would also be very effective for this project.

\*\* I needed to do this project very quickly, so I used rubber cement to adhere the paper to the MDF fireplace. When applied to both surfaces, rubber cement creates a very strong bond but it "grabs" very quickly so there is minimal working time. If using wallpaper paste or another water-based glue (white glue), apply sparingly and work quickly to avoid softening the spackling. Rubber cement and other non water-based glues, such as Multi-Grip (#74034), Omni-Stick (#5515) or Quick Grip (#59334), will not soften the spackling.

# Weathered Board Fence

by Fran Casselman

## Supplies Needed:

- #39011 Rustic Clapboard Siding Strips
- #9146 Basswood Strip Wood, 1/4" x 1/16" \*
- #1073 Fred's Wood Weathering Stuff
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Utility scissors
- Soft paintbrush (*not too small, not foam*)
- Non-metal dish or bowl
- Paper towels
- Books or other weights
- Graph paper or other square grid
- Masking tape
- White glue
- Nail clipper (*optional*)



*Process is somewhat messy; protect work area.*

With utility scissors, cut siding strips to desired length for height of fence, 8" used in scene. Try to cut uniform lengths with square ends. Strips are approximately 1" wide; cut enough for desired length of fence plus a few extra. If your fence needs to be more than 12" or so long, try making it in sections. Cut two pieces of strip wood the length of each section of fence.\*

Shake Weather-It well (not mentioned in product directions but helpful) and pour some into bowl. Paint both sides of each siding strip and strip wood piece with solution but don't soak strips. Aged appearance will begin immediately and darken as strips dry. Lay damp strips between layers of paper towel or other absorbent material and weight so strips dry flat. Allow to dry thoroughly. Clean hands, brush and bowl with soap and water; any staining to skin will be temporary.

Using graph paper or another grid (such as a cutting mat) set up a right-angle "jig" to assemble the fence. (Tape strip wood pieces or similar to the cutting mat or graph paper to align the bottom

and left side.) Put two lengths of masking tape, sticky side up, the length of the fence section (hold them in place with more tape at the ends). Starting in the square corner, stick fence boards to the tape, keeping the boards as straight as possible. The board edges will not meet perfectly, which provides a very realistic look.

When all the boards for a section are stuck down, draw lines 1 1/2" down from the top and 2" up from the bottom across all boards. Glue the strip wood pieces at the top of the lines and weight until dry. Fence section complete! Repeat for other sections.

For the dog-eared look used in the scene, draw a guide line 1/4" down from the top on the back of the section and use nail clippers to evenly cut the corners off of each board. *Tip: clip one corner of every board and flip the section over to do the second corners.*

\* For more strength, glue additional strip wood pieces to the back of the fence section. My fence did not require posts but if you need them, #17529, 3/8" x 1/2" Strip Wood, should work well.