



painted ceramic tray
from *A Well-Crafted Home* by Janet Crowther

Skill level: Beginner

Finished size: Varies, depending on the size of your tray

I tend to take my jewelry off right after I've climbed in bed. This beautiful gold-leafed tray is the perfect spot to stash these items safely overnight. Having a designated catchall for jewelry and trinkets that end up on your nightstand is a must. You will always know where to look for your rings in the morning as you are rushing out the door. Make sure to purchase or find ceramic dishes that you know are oven-safe. The baking temperature for the ceramic paint isn't very high, but some dishes are not made to withstand much heat and will crack.

SUPPLIES

Oven-safe tray, plate, cup, or bowl in ceramic or porcelain

Pébéo Porcelaine 150 paint

Liquid gold leaf in classic gold

TOOLS

2-inch flat paintbrush

Small round paintbrush

Newspapers (optional) or grassy area outside

Safety glasses

1 Before painting, clean the tray to remove any dirt or oil.

2 To make a long brushstroke, decide where you would like it to start on the plate and drip out a little paint, right at the brushstroke start point (see Tip).

3 Take the flat brush and push it down at the edge of the paint, pulling the brush across the plate slowly and trying to keep your brushstroke as straight as possible. As you get to the end of the stroke, start to

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pick the brush up slightly to soften the edges of the stroke and then pick the brush off the plate completely. Let the paint dry on the tray for 24 hours.

4 Place the tray in the oven and set the temperature at 300 degrees Fahrenheit. (If you let the tray heat up along with the oven, there is less chance of it cracking.) Bake for 35 minutes. Turn off the oven and let the tray cool in the oven to room temperature.

5 Add the gold-leaf splatter detail: This is best done outside or in a well-protected and well-ventilated area. Wear your safety glasses while painting. Lay the tray down, faceup. Dip the round brush into the gold paint and start splattering it on the tray by flicking your wrist above the tray. Go in several different directions to create an even splatter across the whole tray. Re-dip the brush as needed. Allow the gold leaf to dry for at least 12 hours before use.

6 To care for the tray once completed, wash by hand with mild soap and cool water.

Tip

You can create all kinds of patterns using different-size paintbrushes. Go for all-over color or use several colors on 1 tray. Always bake the Pébéo paint on the tray before painting on the gold leaf.