

Fabric Découpage

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Find inexpensive glass items of any shape and size and turn them into works of art with this fun and easy découpage project. Vases of all shapes and sizes, small covered dishes, plastic pencil holders, lotion dispensers, and lots of other items work well. Note that items should not be submersed in water, so mugs and glasses would not be a good choice for this process. To clean, rinse out the inside with warm water, then dry with a clean paper towel. (Take care: soaking in water will loosen the glue.)

You will need:

glass jar or vase of your choice
sturdy floral fabric
small sharp scissors
white all-purpose craft glue
Q-tips
paper towel
dish of water
optional: flat-sided gem beads
and tweezers



Basic directions:

For the découpage flowers,
carefully cut medium-sized

flowers from a sturdy floral fabric that contains flowers or designs in a size that works well with your choice of glassware. Don't be too fussy cutting between tiny stems — it's best to leave the fabric background intact to give yourself enough gluing area. And don't make the pieces too large. Working with smaller pieces is easier to maneuver.

Place the cut shape face down on newspaper or paper towel. Dot white glue evenly over the entire surface, then dip your finger in water and start spreading the glue thinly and evenly to cover the back side completely. Wet your finger as much as needed so the glue will thin out as you work. (A small, disposable sponge brush will also work to spread the glue and water.) Keep damp and dry paper towels handy to clean your hands and your glassware. Carefully pick up the fabric shape and apply to the glass. Tap into place with your fingers, then very gently blot with a dry paper towel, being careful not to move the shape any more than possible. The fabric will want to slip around a bit, but using a dampened Q-tip will help clean excess glue off the surface.

Allow the glassware to dry thoroughly, then apply beads or any further decorations that you like. I find that white glue that dries clear is the best way to do this. A glue gun is great, but leaves glue strands and doesn't seem to hold as securely as white glue.