

Create Your Own

# TIFFANY INSPIRED

Faux Stained Glass!



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With this project you can take anything from nature as an inspiration to create a lovely art piece that will catch the sun and brighten up the day! Or, you can use an abstract design! With some simple materials, a little time and patience, you will be amazed at what you can create, just like the Tiffany Girls 100 years ago!

There are a variety of different materials that can be used, depending on what you may have on hand, and they're all relatively economical and easily found in craft and dollar stores.

## You'll need:

- Picture frame with glass or plexiglass (thrift stores are a good source; Ikea sells inexpensive frames with glass or plexiglass in fun colors) - or just a plain piece of glass.
- Elmer's Clear Glue
- Puffy craft paint (black and darker colors work best)
- Food coloring, alcohol ink, or acrylic paint in a variety of colors, or commercial glass paint such as Gallery Glass (clear glue is not needed with glass paint).
- Craft paint brushes (you'll be using glue. small inexpensive craft brushes work best)
- A design to fit your piece of glass; you can print out our Tiffany coloring pages to use as a template, or create one of your own designs. There are many online coloring page options too
- Sharpie pen (any color) for outlining your design
- A piece of cardboard to protect your work surface
- Painters tape (to secure your design to the cardboard; if you're using real glass the tape can be used to cover the edges to protect small hands)
- Cloth or paper to protect your work surface
- Latex or latex free gloves (optional - you'll be working with paint and glue)
- Apron/smock (puffy paint and acrylic paint don't wash out of clothing)
- Glass cleaner
- Paper towels
- Containers for your tinted glue (styrofoam egg cartons, paper plates or bowls, or "to go" sauce containers are great)



**First, you'll need to gather your supplies.**

Next, prepare your work surface; you'll need a plastic tablecloth, craft paper or newspaper to protect your furniture. Place your cardboard down on the surface. Next, place your paper design on the cardboard.

Clean the surface of the glass/plexiglass you'll be using so the paints/glue will adhere. If you're helping a younger child with this project, and using real glass, a strip of painters tape around the edge of the glass will make it safer to handle.

You can set the glass down on top of the design without taping it but you may want to apply a bit of tape on each corner to secure it so it doesn't slip around while you're working.

**Now the fun begins!** Trace your design with the Sharpie. To avoid smearing, start in the center of the design and work outwards. Or, if you're right-handed, start on the left side and work to the right, or the reverse if you're left-handed.



When you've finished outlining, it's helpful to remove the printed design from underneath your glass and replace it with a blank sheet of white paper (you can just turn the paper over). This helps you keep track of which lines you have covered with the puffy paint, and clearly see your coverage with the tinted glue.



You'll use your black puffy paint to carefully outline your traced design. Again, start at the center and work outward, or one side to the other to avoid smearing the puffy paint. You can do a little bit at a time to let portions dry before continuing.

Try to keep a consistent pressure on the bottle for an even line. It doesn't have to be perfect! It's a good idea to practice making lines on a piece of scratch cardboard to get the feel for it.



The puffy paint creates a divider that mimics the lead that stained glass artists use to hold the pieces of glass together. It also prevents the different colors of glue you'll be using from moving outside the line and bleeding into your other colors.

\*The puffy paint will need to fully dry before moving on to the next part of your project.

## **Now you're ready to mix your colors!**

You'll need to use the clear glue to give your piece a transparent glass like effect. To tint your glue, you'll only need a drop or two of color at first, but you can add a bit more if it's not to your liking. Food coloring, alcohol ink, acrylic paint will work well but the food coloring or alcohol ink will keep your colors saturated and more transparent. You can use craft paint made specially for glass projects, but it is a bit more expensive. Gallery Glass paint works well and does not need to be added to clear glue - you can paint it directly onto the glass.



\*We used acrylic paint pots in a variety of colors for this project. The set has 18 colors and costs about \$3. It's best to mix up only one or two colors at a time as the glue dries fairly quickly. Remember to rinse your brush carefully before using another color. The glue and acrylic paint are water soluble.

When you have selected your colors, take a small brush and dab a drop or two onto the glass, gently moving it into place. The glue is somewhat liquid and will spread a bit on its own, but you might want to help it along. Think of it as filling a tiny little swimming pool. You can dab in deeper shades or different colors to add depth. But don't overflow or it will overflow into another area.



Remember to work from the center outward or from one side of the design to the other to avoid getting your hands in the tinted glue. I worked from top to bottom.

**When you have completed your design, leave it flat to dry for a couple of hours.** It will be tempting to hold it up to the light, but your tinted glue will run and drip. Before you know it, your piece will be dry and ready to put into your frame.

If you'd like, you can add a layer of high gloss clear acrylic varnish (I did not). You can secure your glass inside the frame by adding a bead of hot glue along the edge of the glass to keep it in place inside the frame.



You can place your art on a windowsill or shelf, or if your frame has hanging hardware, you can hang it up!