



## May Day Baskets

Small baskets filled with fragrant flowers or sweet treats are traditionally given on the first day in May.

Create an amazing presentation by hand-painting each basket.

### What's Needed:

Basket- New, Vintage, or Thrift Store Find

Milk Paint (Virginia Reel or favorite colour)-Folk Art/Plaid

Chalk Paint (Castle or favorite colour)- Chalk Folk Art/Plaid

Paste Finishing Wax- MINWAX

Paint Brush- (E.L.F Make Up Foundation Brush cost \$1-) best brush ever, buy a few

Cotton Rags

Plastic Covered Work Surface

Fragrant Flowers, Herbs, Sweets

### How To Make It:



Select a basket. For this project we purchased adorable unfinished wooden baskets from Michael's – *Ashland brand* for \$3.99 each.

If painting your basket, determine what type of paint to use. We LOVE using the chalky finish paints for our painted basket projects. However, for this project we used both a chalk (*FolkArt- castle*) and a milk paint (*FolkArt- Virginia Reel*). We found the milk paint to be thinner than the chalk paint, yet both were extremely easy to apply.

We used one coat to paint each basket as the coverage of both products is great. The biggest difference beside viscosity to us was the milk paint finish has a light sheen while the chalk paint finish is completely flat/dull.

Step 1



Milk Paint

Step 2



Step 3



Step 4

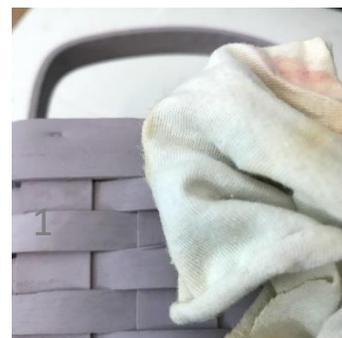


Chalk Paint



### Follow steps 1 thru 4 for both paints:

1. Place basket, paint and brush on a covered work surface. Shake or stir paint. *Note: Place a small bowl of water beside the paint. Dip the brush in the water periodically to keep the paint loose and flowing.*
2. Paint the **entire** basket. This is an excellent painting exercise as the basket is made up of nooks and crannies.
3. Brush the paint out, DO NOT allow the paint to drip. Drips can be avoided by not applying the paint too thick and brushing the colour out after each new application.
4. And yes, it will take time, but the finished basket will be beautiful!



### Milk Painted Baskets:

- Let paint completely dry. Remove paint from any metal hardware using a damp paper towel. Lightly sand for a worn look (*we did not*).
- If desired, apply a wax finish. Using a piece of cotton cloth, rub the cloth over wax then over basket. Repeat until the entire basket has a layer of wax. Let wax dry 15 minutes.
- Buff/rub wax off using a cotton rag.

*Note: The Paste Finishing Wax (by MINWAX) left a subtle white gilding on the milk painted surface thus creating a delightful shabby basket.*



### Chalk Finished Baskets:

- Let paint completely dry. Lightly sand chalk painted finish. Sanding will soften out the chalk paint. Brush sanding off the basket.
- If desired, apply a wax finish. Using a piece of cotton cloth, rub the cloth over wax then over basket. Repeat until the entire basket has a layer of wax. Let wax dry 15 minutes.
- Buff/rub wax off using a cotton rag.



Baskets are now finished and ready to fill.

Be creative when filling. Fragrant flowers and/or sweets are traditional for May Day however, we also like the idea of using fragrant herbs, baked goods or flowering plants.

*A few fragrant flower suggestions- hyacinths  
lilacs, lily of the valley, daffodils (Thalia)*



The real hoot for this tradition is in the delivery. It is customary to leave the basket at the door step, ring the bell then run away. Silly for today when you consider all the home surveillance systems. *Note to self, deliver May Day Baskets in person.*

