

Gilding Kit How-To Guide

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Step-by-Step Guide:

1. Prepare your surface

- Make sure your item is clean and dry.
- Lightly sand to give a key (slightly rough surface).
- Apply a base coat if desired (e.g. dark paint under gold for a richer look).

2. Apply the adhesive (Gilding Size)

- Use a brush to apply a very thin, even layer of gilding size where you want the gold leaf to stick.
- Leave until it goes clear. (It will feel tacky like a post it note glue - usually 10-30 minutes; check the instructions on your adhesive).
- DO NOT proceed if any of the glue/size is still white!

3. Apply the gold/metal leaf

- Carefully pick up a sheet of foil leaf and lay it onto the tacky surface.
- Gently press down with a soft, dry brush or your fingertip. Cover all the sticky areas; it's important to slightly overlap the sheets at the edges.

4. Smooth and remove excess

- Use a soft brush to gently smooth the leaf and remove any excess flakes.
- A small vacuum cleaner is useful at this point to remove the excess flakes.
- Buffing/gently rubbing with a cotton glove or soft sock will give a smooth even finish.

5. Seal your gilding

- Once the leaf is fully applied and smooth, apply the gilding lacquer to protect it from rubbing off.

6. Let it dry

- Allow your gilded item to dry completely before handling.

Materials You'll Need:

- Item to gild (wood, glass, metal, or furniture)
- Foil leaf sheets
- Gilding adhesive (called "size")
- Soft Brushes
- Cotton gloves (or a soft sock)
- Clear lacquer to seal



Tips:

- Work in a low-wind, inside area; foil leaf is very thin and blows away easily.
- It does not matter if your foil leaf tears, it will join together once it is buffed.
- You can place small pieces of different coloured foil leaf for intricate designs.
- Different coloured foil leaf can be broken up in a bowl or tray and then applied with a brush to create a patch work effect.
- Cotton gloves can prevent fingerprints.
- If you miss a bit with your gilding size the first time round, you can add more size, wait for it to go tacky and then apply more foil leaf.
- You can not remove the foil leaf, but you can add more size and go over it with a different colour.

