

How to make your hanging heart

1. Remove the twine then paint one side of the heart and leave to dry for at least 2 hours. Paint a second coat if you want a stronger white background then leave to dry overnight.
2. Apply a thin coat of sealer over the painted surface.
3. Separate the napkin (work from one corner) until the printed image is on a single ply sheet.
4. Gently place the napkin on the wood surface making sure the image side is facing upward and the image is in the position you want. If you spray the napkin lightly with water at this stage it will make it easier to handle but will also make it more likely to tear if you need to reposition it.
5. Place the clingfilm over the surface of the image and smooth into place gently with your fingertips. If it tears, or if you need to reposition the image, tease it gently back into position and pat any rough edges, bubbles or creases with the clingfilm.
6. Spray the image lightly with some more water and *feather* the edges of the napkin. Do this by scraping gently with either your thumbnail, a cocktail stick or the bristles on one of the smaller paintbrushes. This will give a softer edge to the decoupage and blend into the painted surface but be careful because the napkin could easily tear.
7. Leave to dry (preferably overnight).
8. If you have any rough edges, gently scrape at 90 degrees with the emery board to remove any excess paint and napkin.
9. Apply a thin coat of sealer over the entire surface – try to keep this even and avoid brush strokes. The sealer will appear white at this stage but will become transparent when it dries. Leave to dry (preferably overnight).
10. Apply a top coat of varnish and leave to dry for at least 24 hours. Thread the twine back through the heart for hanging.

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