

Summoning Spring



Create some early blooms by painting floral place mats and matching napkins.

PAINT COLORFUL HYDRANGEA place settings to beat back cabin fever. With a few paints and purchased or sewn cotton place mats and napkins, you'll be basking in an early spring.

MATERIALS

- 100% cotton place mats and napkins
- Paints: Pebeo Setacolor Opaque and Shimmer paints: #10 titanium white, #47 light copper, #67 plum, #72 bronze, #74 chocolate
- One hard brush, oval or filbert No. 12
- One applicator bottle with a fine tip
- Palette or plastic plate
- Soft pencil

Paint the Place Mat

Wash and dry the fabric to remove sizing, and press it flat.

Enlarge the pattern below 200%.

With a soft pencil, draw an outline of the basic design onto the place mat right side. Draw multiple hydrangea clusters and leaves. To make tracing easier, place the pattern under the napkin and tape both to a window or light box, so you can see the pattern through the fabric. Or paint the clusters freehand.

Pour a generous dollop (about 1 teaspoon) of the plum, titanium white

and light copper paints onto the palette. From each color, pull together an equal amount (about one-third of each) to mix a fourth color (lavender).

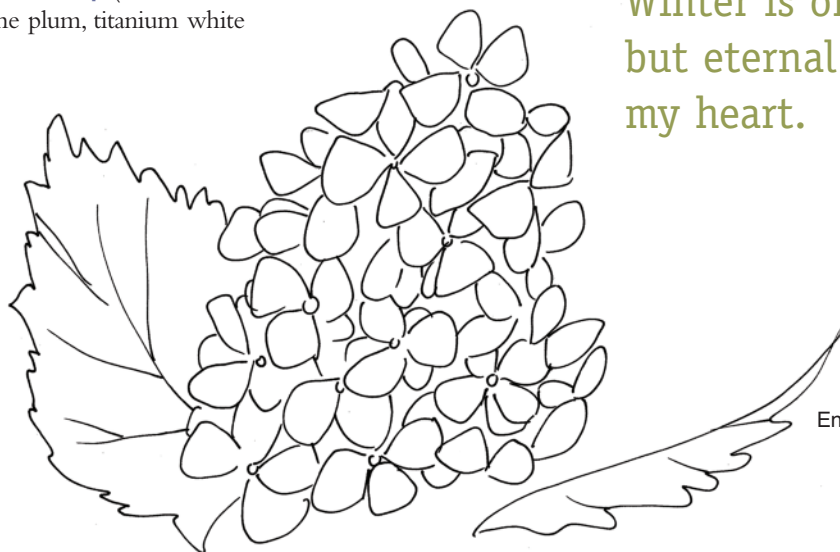
First, dab the brush into the plum, and paint the hydrangea clusters near the place mat's outer perimeter (about 25% of the clusters). Paint individual petals, but use a very loose petal design. To get the petal effect, place the brush flat on the fabric, and turn or swirl the brush while pulling away from the fabric. There are four petals to each flower.

While the painted areas are still wet, dip the brush into a small bit of the lavender, and paint the hydrangea petals immediately next to the plum ones (about 25%).

Without cleaning the brush, dip it into a bit of the white, and paint the petals next to the ones previously painted (about 25%). Then continue this process, dabbing the lavender brush into the titanium white to paint the remainder of the hydrangea petals.

Helpful Hints for Setacolor Paints

- Setacolor paints are water-based; clean brushes with warm water and soap.
- If the paint is too thick, add a bit of water to allow for easier application.
- Colors mix and blend easily.
- Heat-set the paint from the fabric wrong side. Cover the pressing surface with a press cloth, warm an iron to the cotton setting and iron for two to three minutes. Once set, the fabric is washable and dry-cleanable.



Enlarge 200%.

Winter is on my head,
but eternal spring is in
my heart.

~ Victor Hugo

tip: When using an applicator bottle for the first time, practice on a paper towel to get the feel for it. Squeeze gently to start the paint flowing.



1 Paint flower petals.



2 Add leaves and highlights.



3 Outline leaves and four-petal clusters.

Finally, paint just a few blossoms in white with a dab of lavender. This gives the flowers a graduated effect, with the darkest shades on the outside and the lighter shades toward the center of the place mat (1).

Pour dollops of bronze and chocolate paints onto the palette. Paint each leaf bronze. While the leaves are still wet, dip the brush into a small bit of the chocolate and mix. Use this color to highlight each leaf, adding dimension and interest (2).

Allow the fabric to dry, or speed up drying time with a hair dryer.

Snip the very tip of the applicator bottle with a pair of scissors. Securely fasten the fine-point tip onto the nozzle if it's a separate tip.

Fill the bottle about one-third full with plum paint. Draw loose outlines around the edges of all the leaves. Next draw outlines around each flower in the hydrangea clusters. Paint these lines very loosely for a wash effect (3).

When you're pleased with the place mat, allow it to dry. Follow the manufacturer's instructions to set the paint, or see "Helpful Hints for Setacolor Paints" on the previous page.

Repeat to paint the remaining place mats and matching napkins.

Tanya Valières is a designer with Pébéo America. She is an accomplished painter focusing on home dec designs, painting on alternative surfaces like fabric, glass, china and metal. Tanya lives in Quebec, Canada with her husband and two children.



SOURCES

Look for **Pébéo Setacolor** paints in craft and painting stores nationwide, or find a retailer at www.pebeo.com. ☞