

Ebony and Ivory Trinket Box

Designed and Painted by June Varey

This is painted with a soft black background but you may use any colour. A mid to dark tone will allow the faces to stand out to the best advantage.

Paint:

DecoArt Americana acrylic paint

Light Buttermilk

Soft Black

Warm Neutral

Sand

Antique White

Fawn

White Wash

Brushes:

Base coating brush

½" Rake brush

¼" and ⅜" angle shaders

No.0 and No.2 Round brushes

No. 5/0 Liner brush

Preparation:

Seal and sand the box inside and out. Base coat the lid with Light Buttermilk and the bottom of the box with Soft Black. Sand lightly and apply another layer of each colour.

Painting the Design:

The Ivory effect is painted using a ½" rake brush. Aim for a faint lined texture running vertically. Use watery paint with just the right amount of paint on the brush. Too little and the paint won't flow off the bristles, too much and the bristles will clump together and you won't get the many small lines required.

Firstly rake lines of Warm Neutral across the top and down the sides of the lid. Next do the same with Sand and then with Light Buttermilk. Keep the lines subtle. Use a final layer of Light Buttermilk to set them back into the background if they are too obvious.

Apply the pattern. Start to build depth by using a ¼" angle shader to float shading colour around each part of the design. For example, shade behind a strand of hair where it lays over another part of the design, but also on each edge of the strand itself. The colour for this first shading is a mix of Sand + Antique White 2:1.

For the first highlight use a No.2 round brush to dry brush Light Buttermilk on the highlight areas shown as dots on the pattern. This isn't an obvious highlight but helps you keep track of the developing form.

Next use a fine liner and Soft Black to paint around the edges of the faces and hair and the outer band. Use a round brush and the same colour to fill in the background between these lines. One coat is sufficient at this stage.

The second shading is floated in the same places but in a smaller area with Antique White. You can use the same colour and a liner brush to sharpen points and edges and to

paint in the eyes, eyebrows, nostrils and lip lines. Use the 3/8" angle shader to float Antique White on the ivory around the outer edge of the top of the lid and on the lower part of the side of the lid.

The third shading is painted with Fawn. This is for the areas of deepest shadow, for example, under the chin and under the hair on the forehead. Check the picture for parts of the hair that are shaded a little more than the others. Once again, use the liner and Fawn to neaten edges and to darken the eyeball, the line of the upper lid, the eyebrow and the line between the upper and lower lips.

The second highlight is dry brushed with Whitewash. Emphasize the cheekbones, under the outer part of the eyebrows, the nostrils, the lower lip and the centers of the hair sections.

Use the liner and Fawn to paint a very few crack lines on the ivory on the top and sides of the lid. Finally paint a second coat of Soft Black on the background to cover any streaks and neaten all the edges.

Finish with satin varnish.

June Varey
ivarey@optushome.com.au
www.junevarey.com



Ebony and Ivory Pattern:

