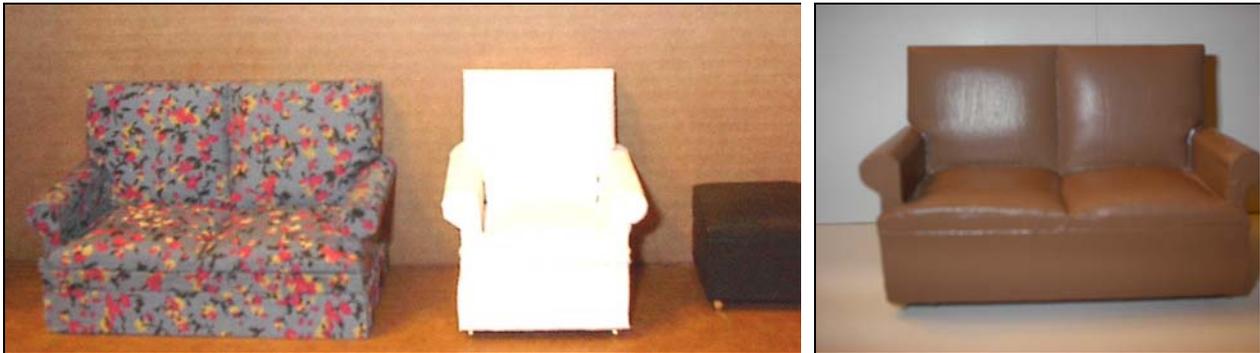


Hints and Tips – The “Leather” Look

Basic instructions for giving an upholstered piece of furniture a leather look (thanks to Briar Picchetti, American Miniaturist, issue #2, Jan/Feb 2003, p. 10)

Using a sponge brush, paint the upholstery on your piece of furniture with a thin layer of gesso, sand, add another layer of gesso, sand again, add a third layer of gesso and sand again. Do as many layers as necessary to completely cover the fabric. The gesso takes awhile to dry properly so this takes time. Once that's done, you paint your piece (again using a sponge brush) with a coat of acrylic paint in your choice of colour. Paint again, sand, and paint again. Then, finally, coat with a water soluble antiquing stain, wiping it off immediately with a soft clean white cloth. OR for your final step, paint the entire piece with a stinky layer of Mod Podge matte. There are two pictures: one shows the love seat in its original condition, the chair covered with gesso, and the ottoman finished in black with antique stain. The other shows the loveseat finished with tan paint and matte Mod Podge.



Maureen Heuchert's notes:

I used three coats of gesso, sanding after each one. Depending on the fabric, you may be able to get away with two or may need four. You should not be able to see even a hint of the original fabric - your piece should be totally white.

Any acrylic craft paint should work. I used two different brands and they both worked fine. I had trouble getting an even coat with the tan paint but I added a few drops of extender and it made all the difference in the world. It went on beautifully evenly after that. Personally, although the original instructions call for using water based antiquing stain (which I did use on the black pieces), I think I prefer Mod Podge matte for the final finish. And definitely would use the Mod Podge on a lighter colour. I think the 'trick' is in using the sponge brush to apply everything. (You may need a smaller paint brush to get into the nooks and crannies.) It gives your finish that leather grain so I tried to keep all my brush strokes going in the same direction.