

ROLCO RABBIT SKIN GLUE

DATA SHEET 2.

THE ROLCO RABBIT SKIN GLUE IS THE BINDER THAT IS USED IN TRADITIONAL WATER GILDING. THIS IS THE APPLICATION OF GOLD LEAF TO A SURFACE THAT HAS BEEN PREPARED WITH LAYERS OF GESSO AND CLAY. THE BINDER OF TRADITIONAL RABBIT SKIN GLUE OFFERS A MOST BRILLIANT GOLD FINISH. IT CAN ALSO BE BURNISHED RESULTING IN A WIDE RANGE OF REFLECTIVE FINISHES. THE BLOOM STRENGTH IS 375 TO 380, PERFECT FOR ALL USAGES.

THERE ARE MANY TECHNIQUES FOR TRADITIONAL GILDING WHICH CAN BE OBTAINED FROM MANY OF THE REFERENCE BOOKS ON GILDING. WE HAVE CHOSEN JUST ONE OF THESE TECHNIQUES IN ORDER TO GIVE THE GILDER AN IDEA OF THE PROCEDURE.

PREPARATION:

PLACE APPROXIMATELY ONE (1) OUNCE OF THE ROLCO RABBIT SKIN GLUE INTO A WATER TIGHT PLASTIC CONTAINER. COVER THE GRANULES WITH WATER AND ALLOW THE BATCH TO SOAK OVERNIGHT.

THE NEXT DAY ADD APPROXIMATELY EIGHT (8) OUNCES (ONE CUP) OF WATER AND HEAT IN A DOUBLE BOILER UNTIL THE GRANULES COMPLETELY DISSOLVE. WHEN COOLED THE SOLUTION WILL THICKEN TO A JELLY-LIKE SUBSTANCE. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ANY SOLUTION SHOULD BE STORED IN A REFRIGERATOR TO SLOW FUNGUS GROWTH. A FEW DROPS OF ETHYL (GRAIN) ALCOHOL CAN BE ADDED IN ORDER TO ASSIST IN SPOILAGE PREVENTION. THIS WILL ALSO AID IN OBTAINING A BETTER BURNISH AND BRIGHTER GILD.

WHEN YOU ARE READY TO START THE GILDING PROCESS, MIX ONE PART OF THE RABBIT GLUE SOLUTION WITH TWO PARTS OF ARTIST GESSO WHITING. BRUSH TWO TO FOUR COATS OF THIS MIXTURE ONTO THE PIECE TO BE GILDED. BETWEEN, EACH COAT, SAND THE SURFACE WITH A 150 TO 250 GRIT SANDPAPER. THE SURFACE NEEDS TO BE PERFECTLY SMOOTH. IF THERE ARE ROUGH AREAS OR RIDGES, IN THE GESSO, IT WILL CRACK OR SPLIT WHEN BURNISHING THE GOLD LEAF.

WHEN THE FINAL GESSO BLEND HAS DRIED, BRUSH ON TWO TO FIVE COATS OF A RABBIT SKIN GLUE AND CLAY MIXTURE. THE MIXTURE SHOULD CONTAIN TWO PARTS OF FINE CLAY TO THREE PARTS OF THE DISSOLVED RABBIT SKIN GLUE. BETWEEN EACH COAT SAND WITH A 250 TO 300 GRIT SANDPAPER.

WHEN THE LAST COAT IS DRY, CLEAN THE SURFACE WITH A RAG WET WITH ALCOHOL OR 4/0 STEEL WOOL WETTED WITH A LACQUER THINNER. FINALLY BURNISH THE SURFACE WITH A STONE AGATE UNTIL THE SURFACE DEVELOPS A SHINY SURFACE IN ORDER TO HAVE THE GOLD LEAF ALSO SHINE AFTER THE GILDING IS COMPLETE.

GILDING:

PREPARE A WETTING SOLUTION THAT CONSISTS OF ONE PART OF THE DISSOLVED RABBIT SKIN GLUE MIXTURE, ONE PART ALCOHOL AND TWENTY THREE (23) PARTS WATER. ADD TO THIS BLEND ONE DROP OF IVORY LIQUID DETERGENT AS A WETTING AID. THE SOLUTION WILL ACTIVATE THE GLUE IN THE CLAY SO THAT YOU CAN APPLY THE GOLD LEAF.

USING A BRISTLE PAINT BRUSH, APPLY THE WETTING SOLUTION TO THE AREA THAT IS TO BE GILDED. KEEP THE HANDS PERFECTLY CLEAN WHILE APPLYING THE GOLD LEAF AND APPLY THE LEAF TO THE HIGHEST AREAS FIRST TO AVOID HAVING THE WETTING SOLUTION STAIN THE GILDED AREAS THAT HAVE BEEN ALREADY GILDED.

WORK IN ONE DIRECTION, MOISTEN AN AREA OF THE CLAY AND APPLY THE GOLD LEAF WITH A GILDER'S TIP WHICH IS A WIDE, THIN SABLE BRUSH. PLACE THE GOLD LEAF SHEET ONTO THE WETTED AREA BY BLOWING IT IN PLACE, OVERLAPPING EACH SECTION. WHEN COMPLETED, LET THE LEAFED AREA DRY OVERNIGHT.

IF BURNISHING IS DESIRED, DO SO WITH A STONE AGATE WHICH IS AVAILABLE IN MANY ASSORTED SIZES AND SHAPES. UNTIL THE GOLD LEAF IS SECURELY FASTENED, BURNISH IN ONLY ONE DIRECTION. BACK AND FORTH ACTIONS WILL TEAR THE GOLD LEAF. BURNISH SLOWLY A FEW INCHES AT A TIME. BURNISH UNTIL THE GOLD BECOMES BRIGHT AND ONE CAN SEE THE AGATE AS A REFLECTION. USE CARE IN VISUALLY DETECTING ANY BURRS OR ROUGH SPOTS THAT COULD CAUSE TEARING OF THE GOLD.

A SECOND LAYER OF GOLD LEAF CAN BE APPLIED IF SO DESIRED. WHEN COMPLETED, CLEAN THE OBJECT BY RUBBING VERY LIGHTLY WITH A 4/0 STEEL WOOL. IF NECESSARY REPEAT A BURNISH TO BRIGHTEN.

IF COMPOSITION LEAF IS USED OR IF THE GILDED ITEM MAY BE ABUSED, SPRAY OR BRUSH THE OBJECT WITH TWO COATS OF ROLCO'S ACRYLIC OR AQUA-CLEAR TOP COAT. IF ONE WISHES TO ANTIQUE AN OBJECT APPLY ANTIQUING MATERIAL AFTER THE FIRST TOPCOAT AND SEAL WELL WITH THE SECOND APPLICATION.

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