

Reverse Stencil Dresser

by Miriam

August 18, 2011

I did it!!

Remember that [craaaaaZZy pants idea I had](#) about reverse stenciling a ship onto a Craigslist-dresser-find? Well...I did it...so I have now gone from this:



to THIS!!



Now...you can stop reading here and just admire the pretty reverse stenciling (pardon my complete lack of modesty...I'm ridiculously proud of this dresser) OR you can read on for the step-by-step process...

Step one – take out the drawers and tape out the inside of the dresser





Step 2 – remove hardware and tape out the edges of the drawers themselves



Step 3 – Insert drawers back into dresser without drawer pulls and pray you will be able to get them back out again (if you weren't painting the area between drawers, than you could easily just take the drawers out, stack them together, apply the stencil and paint them...but since I wanted the 'gap' area included in the painting, I had to paint everything while fully assembled)



Step 4 – apply decal according to directions (in this case it was to tape half of the decal down, separate the two layers, remove the backing and then press the decal into place.)





(smoothing out the decal)



(apply the bottom of the decal in the same way as the top)

Step 5 – use a knife to cut where the drawers edges are



Step 6 – remove top layer of decal, leaving decal in place







Step 7 – repeat process for second side of decal – note: since this decal was applied on a non-even surface, it was especially difficult to line up the decal and there may or may not have been some tears and cussing during this stage)



Step 8 - lightly sand dresser, try to avoid sanding over the decal



Step 9 – apply coat of primer to dresser, I used Kilz with the hope that it would truly keep the dresser from bleeding through the paint in the future



(after one coat of primer)

Step 10 – Apply two coats of white paint allowing to dry between coats



(after one coat of white paint)

Step 11 – IMMEDIATELY after last coat of paint, while paint is still tacky, start removing the decal

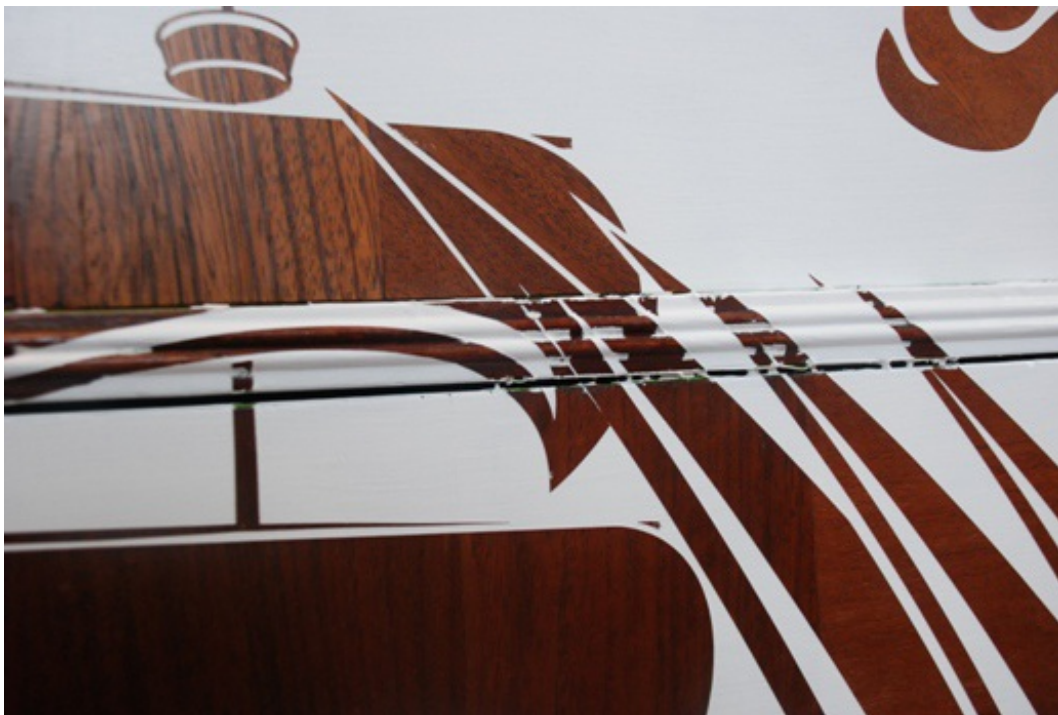


Step 12 – step back to enjoy handiwork





Step 13 – because of ridged, non-flat surface inbetween drawers, I ended up with some bleeding. To remedy this, I got a stain pen from Minwax and used it like a magic marker to clean up the bleeding a bit – below you can see where the bleeding occurred; I unfortunately do not have any pictures of the ‘fix’



Step 14 – AFTER stain marker has fully dried, apply Polycrylic topcoat. Polycrylic is the way to go for a top coat that will go over both paint and stained surfaces, polyurethane will yellow any white paint you go over it with



Step 15 – remove painters tape and re-install hardware – project FINISHED!!





Custom decal was purchased from [Dali Decals](#) based on a design created using images purchased from [Veer.com](#) (ship artwork by [Seamartini](#) and Cloud images by [Sunrise](#)). All images by [Miriam Bradford](#).

Tags: [big boy room](#), [dail decals](#), [dressers](#), [kid room](#), [reverse stenciling](#), [seamartini](#), [stencils](#), [veer.com](#)