

Painted Subway-Car Dresser Tutorial

nan

Feeling nostalgic for all things Boston (my hometown), I hatched a fun plan for a makeover of a waterfall-style dresser to look like a Boston Subway Car.

The dresser I sourced had some issues with the finish making it a good candidate for painting.



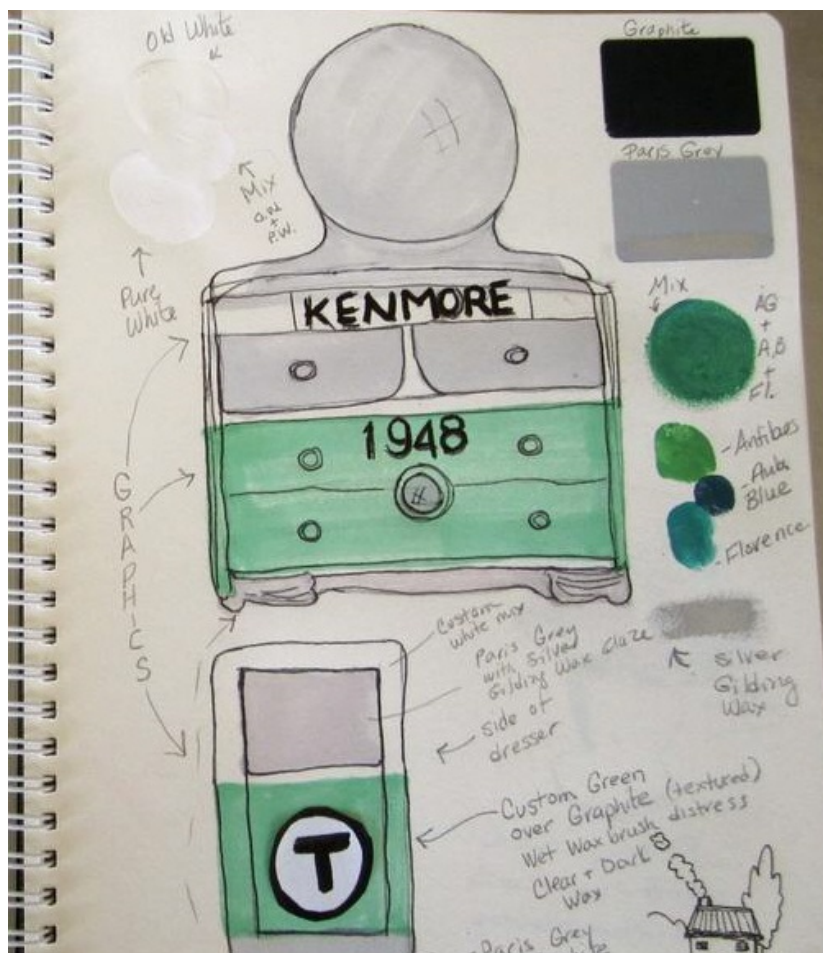
Waterfall furniture was mass-produced from the 1920's-1940's with new plywood construction techniques that made it affordable to introduce curvilinear elements into furniture construction.

I usually avoid painting waterfall style furniture at all costs! That was until I came across a vintage postcard of a Boston Street Car when a more playful plan for the dresser came to life.



Seeing this postcard evoked so many happy memories for me! Growing up in Boston, the [MBTA Green Line](#) was a lifeline to many activities in the city. My favorite green line station is KENMORE or [Kenmore Square](#)— home of [Fenway Park](#) and the [Boston Red Sox](#). Images of the big green wall, the iconic [CITGO sign](#) and the hustle and bustle of this vibrant section of the city immediately came to mind!

Once I had the subway-car inspired design plan mapped out in my [Workbook](#), I used Chalk Paint® decorative paint by [Annie Sloan](#) to paint the design onto the surface. I started with an under-painting of [Graphite](#) and [Paris Grey](#).



over Green
w/ distress
Silver Gilding
Wax
glass?



I also planned on using Annie's Sloan's [Old White](#) but needed to get into some mixing for that signature subway-car green.

An equal mix of Annie Sloan's [Antibes Green](#) and [Florence](#) did the trick.





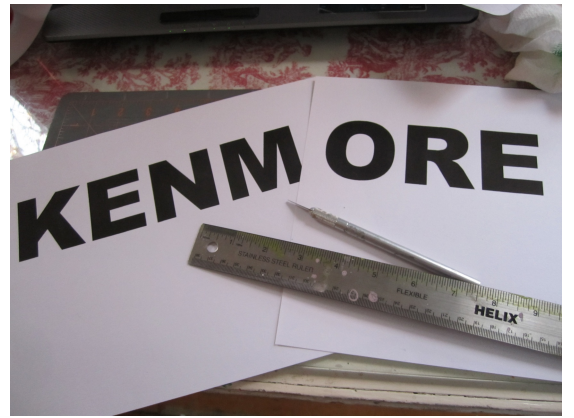
I taped-off areas of the dresser as I went to keep the lines more clean. At this point I decided to forgo adding the mirror and back support. The mirror was in pretty bad shape and the support just didn't look right without it.



For the lettering, I made my own stencils– printing them on card stock and cutting them with an X-Acto knife.

I did some dry brushing of Old White and Graphite on the *windows* and *headlight* to add shading and dimension. A script liner brush was used to free-hand the curved lines.

To add character and grittiness to the piece, a wet distress technique was used to reveal some of the Graphite under the custom green mix. A wash of Graphite was also used to add to the effect.





Once the trolley was all detailed, it was finished with [Annie Sloan's Clear & Dark Soft Wax](#).



Just in time for its maiden voyage...

NEXT STOP KENMOORE!

This dresser is for sale at Sea Rose Cottage – proceeds to benefit the [One Fund Boston](#). Please [contact us](#) for more information.



