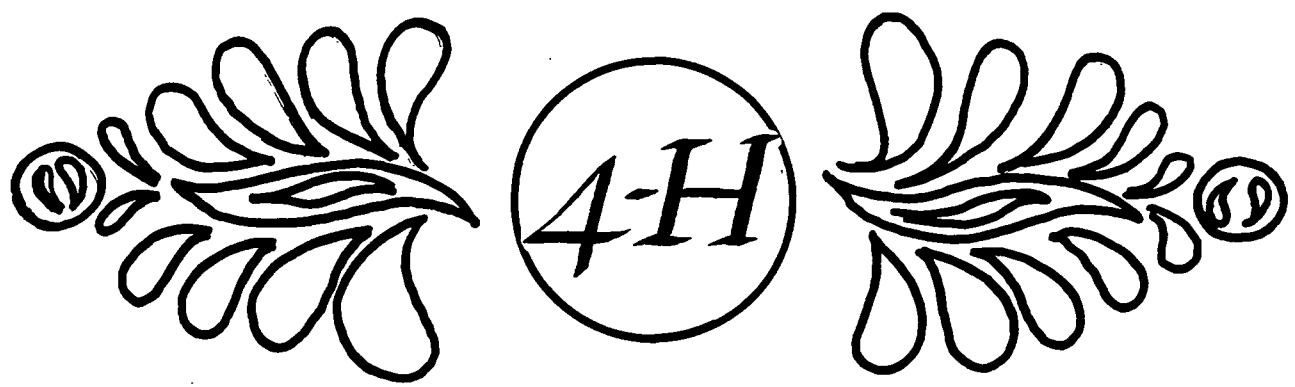


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# *Decorative and Tole Painting Guide*

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4-H 712



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This project guide is designed for use by leaders and members of the Decorative Painting project. Leaders can use it as a framework for teaching decorative painting to 4-H members. Members will want the guide as a reference for project requirements and fair exhibits.

This guide does not include complete directions on how to paint. It is assumed leaders who teach the project will have had instructions and will want to use their own methods and resources. Also, this field of art changes so rapidly that more specific information would soon be out-of-date.

#### PROJECT DEFINITION

Decorative painting is most often called "tole painting." "Tole" means "metal" in French, and historically this is just what it was--painting on metal, both for the protection of the metal against rust and to make a useful object pretty. "Tole" refers to a stylized painting using basic strokes, whereas decorative painting is a more refined stroke that combines with shading and blending techniques to create a more realistic result.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

The decorative painting project will include learning the many types of painting techniques used to decorate an object. These techniques usually include the use of a pattern from a book or other source, or one of the painter's own. The emphasis is not on artistic originality, but on mastery of the skills learned in decorative painting. Because of the skills and expenses involved, this project is better suited to intermediate and advanced members. Some of these skills will be brush control, color coordination, background preparation, finish and neatness. In addition, this project can help members:

- Express themselves through an art media.
- Develop an appreciation for all forms of art.
- Develop skills in working with oils, acrylics, and in using and caring for art tools and equipment.
- Learn to renovate and refinish old objects and make them into beautiful, useful objects for the home.
- Develop cooperation, tolerance, and responsibility with other club members.
- Develop a sense of accomplishment by completing a project to the best of their ability.
- Develop an incentive to continue their art education.

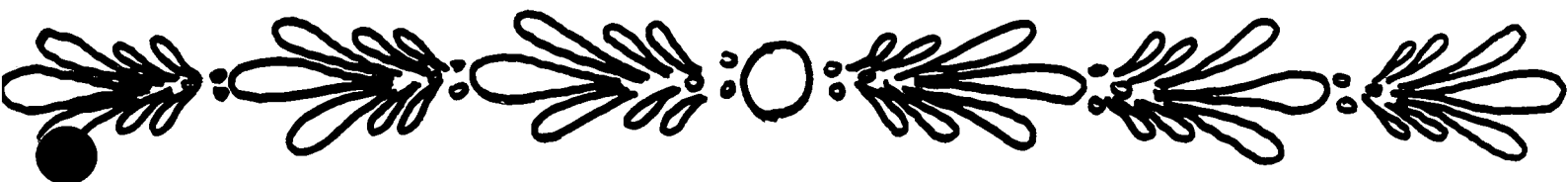
## PROJECT EXPECTATIONS FOR MEMBERS

As a member, you will be expected to complete the following:

1. Participate in activities planned by your club and cooperate with your leader.
2. Learn decorative painting skills that will enable you to complete a unit of work, and learn one or more new skills in each option.
3. Keep a notebook of lessons learned.
4. Complete a 4-H Decorative Painting Record, using the "My 4-H \_\_\_ Project Record" available at the Extension 4-H office.
5. You may demonstrate or use your new skills in any one or all of the following ways:
  - Give a presentation on something you have learned in your project.
  - Make a gift for a friend or family member using your new skills.
  - Plan a local exhibit of your club's work (this could be at a school or other public place).
  - Exhibit your work at a 4-H or county fair.

## PROJECT OPTIONS

This project is planned so the Introductory Unit may be completed in one or two years. The remaining options may be taken in any order that leaders or members wish. An option may be repeated or more than one option may be completed in one year, although only one exhibit will be allowed per member at the fair. Fair exhibits are called "projects" instead of "articles." A complete project can include several articles, such as a canister set. The skills suggested in each option are only suggestions, but something new should be learned with each project. The choice of actual project is up to the member.



*Introductory Unit--Basic Skills and Brush Strokes*

A. Basic Skills

- History of tole and decorative painting
- Care of tools
- Mixing paint
- Basic tole stroke
- Choosing article to paint and appropriate design
- Prepare article - sand, varnish, etc.
- Transferring patterns
- Painting design
- Varnishing
- Antiquing, if desired

B. Fair Exhibit - (select your best project for this)

C. Some simple designs are:

- Animals, using basic strokes
- Daisies and simple tulips
- Old tole designs

D. See Page 5 for Leader and Meeting suggestions.

*Old Tole Designs*

A. Might include history of old tole, color coordination and balance, finishing of painting surface, antiquing, etc.

B. Fair exhibit - project using old tole designs and techniques.

*Fruits*

A. New skills include undercoating, blending techniques, painting branches, and leaves, etc.

B. Fair exhibit - project showing fruit.

*People and Animals*

A. New skills could be learning to shade, painting facial features, and making special effects such as fur or feathers.

B. Fair exhibit - project showing a person or an animal.

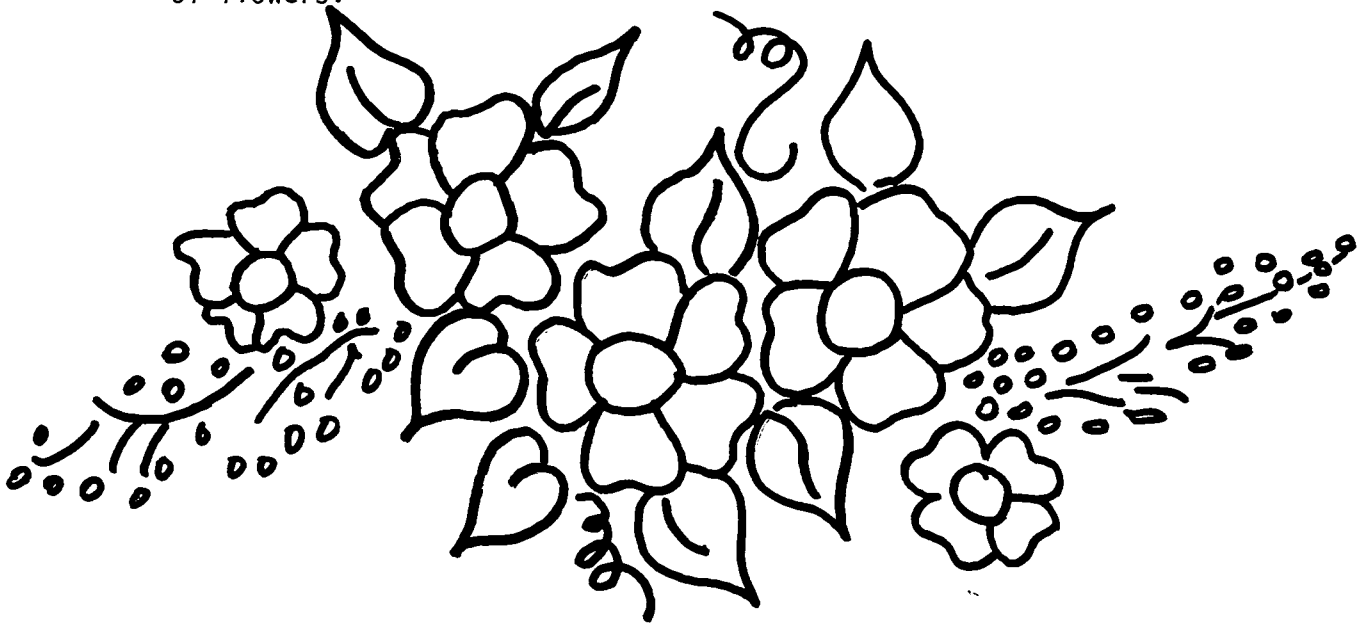
*Vegetables*

A. New skills would include shading and special effects.

B. Fair exhibit - project showing vegetables.

### *Advanced Flowers*

- A. New skills might include blending techniques, leaves, other surface preparation, antiquing, etc.
- B. Fair exhibit - project showing skill in painting a flower or variety of flowers.



### *Original Designs*

- A. Develop your own designs, and use them on your project.
- B. Fair exhibit - a project using your own patterns and using previously learned skills. Submit your design with the project.

### *New Ideas in Creative Decorating*

- A. Try new ideas in decorative painting in this option.
- B. Fair exhibit - could be anything different, such as painting on fabric or glass, gold leafing, stenciling, etc., or other new or unusual ideas. If the exhibit class is too big, it may be divided into new categories.

### MEETING SUGGESTIONS

1. Make the first meeting an experimental meeting so members are sure they want to sign up for the project before investing in supplies:
  - Invite parents so they can see what is involved.
  - Let members try brush strokes on waxed or tracing paper.
  - Decide what supplies will be provided by members and what will be supplied by the club. Discuss financing.

2. Make the second meeting (after buying supplies and brushes - see field trip suggestions) a preparation meeting:
  - Mark all supplies!
  - Establish rules.
  - Learn and practice strokes on waxed or tracing paper.
  - Have members start a notebook showing each lesson learned.
3. Third meeting could be preparation for projects:
  - Simplify preparation for first year - try painting on plastic, laminated samples or masonite clipboards.
  - Prepare as many projects as possible, so the job will be done.
  - Further steps could be done at home, or by leader if necessary, for beginning members.
  - Discuss color and art principles.
  - Choose and trace patterns onto paper at this same meeting.
4. Remaining meetings can be used for project work.
5. Each leader will have to decide whether all members will take the same option, or if the leader is willing to work with members individually on separate options.

#### FIELD TRIP IDEAS

- Trip to local tole painting supply shop.
- Trip to local professional teachers to see a demonstration.
- Brush buying trip - this is important so members will get the right brush.
- Trip to Salvation Army or junk shop and to tole painting supply shop.
- County and State Fair - 4-H and crafts building.

#### PROJECT IDEAS

- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| ● Inexpensive wood plaques                                  | ● Masonite clipboards      |
| ● Salvation Army "treasures"                                | ● Old trays                |
| ● Paneling squares  | ● Rocks                    |
| ● Plastic laminate samples                                  | ● Homemade or found boards |
| ● Shortening can toilet paper cover (knob on bottom of can) | ● Coffee cans              |
| ● Varnished newspaper squares                               | ● Gallon jar lids          |
|   | ● Crockery and flower pots |

## TOLE PAINTING SUPPLY LIST FOR BEGINNING MEMBERS

The following is a suggested list of supplies. Each member may want to purchase some of their own supplies, such as brushes, palette knife, etc., while the club might share the cost of other supplies such as paints, cleaning supplies, varnish, etc. A local store might be willing to make up a beginning kit for each member.

Brushes	Palette knife
Tracing paper	Disposable palette paper
Pattern folder	Notebook
Pencil	Hand cleaner or Vaseline for brushes
Masking tape	Ball-point pen (for tracing patterns)
Rags, paper towels, or toilet paper	Graphite paper (or another means of tracing)
Wood or metal finish- ing supplies	Satin varnish or "goop"
Paint thinner or turpentine	Waxed or tracing paper (for practice)
Smock	
Oil paints	



## REFERENCES

Because of the great variety of decorative painting methods, the availability of many excellent instruction and pattern books at tole painting supply shops, and catalogs put out by some of these shops, specific painting information will not be duplicated by the Extension Service at this time. Two highly recommended references are:

Tole Techniques and Decorative Arts; (Vols. I, II, III), by Jackie Shaw. \$3.50. Volume I is an especially well-organized and relatively inexpensive reference with directions on everything from brush care, using color, and making strokes, to antiquing and finishing a project. Good for both leader and member.

What Colors Do I Mix?, by Justine Richardson and Donna Santos. Spiral Bound. \$4.50. This book lists specific colors to use for individual items, including most fruits and vegetables, many flowers, leaves, etc.

This material was prepared with the assistance of the 4-H Developmental Committee for Creative Arts projects by Arlene Kovash, 4-H Leader, Benton County and B. Alan Snider, Extension Specialist, 4-H - Youth, Oregon State University.