

ANTIQUING NEW SILVER MIRRORS

To make antique silver mirrors, you will need one of our basic mirroring kits. We used a Sheet Glass Mirror Kit #A1106H to make these samples.

YOU SUPPLY

- a Basic Silver Kit from Angel Gilding.com
- the glass to be mirrored
- a few gallons of steam distilled water
- a supply of cotton balls
- a clock or timer with a second hand

THE GLASS AFFECTS THE RESULTS

Mirrors reveal the subtle color and texture of clear glass. Modern mirrors are made with float glass. To get the slightly wavy almost liquid look of blown glass, you can salvage old window glass from old houses or use restoration glass from <http://www.restorationwindowglass.com/>

POURING OR SPRAYING SILVER

We used 6" squares of float glass, a Sheet Glass Mirror Kit and Pouring Silver to create most of these effects. The silver layer created by Pouring Silver and Spray Silver is chemically identical, but Pouring Silver allows you to control the thickness of the silver by controlling the amount of time it sits on the glass. With practice, you can achieve the same results with Spray Silver.

EACH MIRROR IS DIFFERENT

Antiquing is an organic process that can be affected by a number of factors including time, temperature and air flow. No two mirrors are ever the same. It is this which gives them their charm.

PRACTICE

We *strongly* suggest that you use small sheets of glass, maybe 6 inches square, to practice these techniques. The skills you gain by practicing will be reflected in the beauty of your finished work.

WORK RULES

If you would like to use more than one technique on a single mirror, follow these rules.

- Examine the front of the mirror after each technique. *What you see on the silver side of the mirror is not what you will see from the front of the mirror.*
- Use only one chemical – one technique – at a time and work in layers.
- Use the most aggressive technique first (for example PFC Crystals – Dissolved) and then refine the result with a less aggressive technique (for example thinning the silver by buffing it with whiting).
- Do NOT mix chemicals together At the worst you will create a potentially dangerous unidentifiable mess. At best you will remove all of the silver and end up with clear glass. *AngelGilding.com disavows any responsibility for anything that might happen if you disregard this notice.*

The antiquing compounds below are listed alphabetically. Each sample was made on 6" x 6" float glass. These instructions are just suggestions to get you started. Antiquing is an organic process and every antique mirror is unique. Your results will depend on several factors including the amount of chemicals you use and the way that you apply them.

BASO Powder is almost insoluble. Silver tarnished with BASO Powder has a faint purple/brown color
BASO Powder has a strong odor of sulfur – *Use in a well ventilated area.*

BASO POWDER – IN THE SILVER



1. Silver the glass for 5 minutes. Do not pour off.
2. Sprinkle BASO Powder into the silver.
3. Let it sit for 5 minutes.
4. Rinse thoroughly.
5. Dry and paint the mirror

BASO POWDER – AFTER SILVERING



1. Silver and dry the glass.
2. Sprinkle on BASO Powder.
3. Mist with distilled water.
4. Let the wet powder sit on the glass for 5 minutes.
5. Rinse very thoroughly with distilled water.
6. Dry and paint the mirror.

Results vary dramatically depending on the amount of powder you use, how much you mist it and how long you leave it on the silver. More misting creates a more blurred effect. More time creates a heavier tarnish.

Silver tarnished with **LS Gel** is amber or dark purple-blue. LS Gel has a very strong odor of sulfur. *Use in a well-ventilated area.*

LS Gel Concentrate must be diluted before use. For these samples we mixed 1 level spoonful (15 mL) with 24 fluid ounces (720 mL) of distilled water in a trigger sprayer.

LS GEL – ON DRY SILVER



1. Tin, silver and dry the glass.
2. Mist the dry silver lightly with diluted LS Gel.
3. Do not rinse off the LS Gel.
4. Dry the mirror with a heat gun or hair dryer.
5. Paint the mirror.

The dark areas in this mirror are reflective dark blue silver. They are not holes in the silver.

LS GEL – WITH POURING SILVER – VERSION I



1. Clean and tin the glass.
2. Pour on the silver and let it deposit for 5 minutes. Do NOT rock the glass. You can see the silver forming faint lines as it deposits.
3. Rinse the silver and mist it with LS Gel.
4. Dry the mirror with a hot air gun.
5. Paint the mirror

LS GEL – WITH POURING SILVER – VERSION 2



Version 2 was made by tinning the glass with double strength Tin for Silver.

Pouring Silver forms faint ridges as it deposits unless you rock the glass. Using strong tin increases the effect. LS Gel turns the ridges amber. This effect is only possible with Pouring Silver.

Spray Silver does not deposit in ridges.

LS GEL – WITH SPRAY SILVER



1. Clean and tin the glass.
2. Spray on enough silver so you can just barely see through the glass.
3. Rinse the silver.
4. Spray on a medium amount of LS Gel.
5. Do not rinse the glass.
6. Dry the mirror at room temperature in a horizontal position.
7. Paint the mirror

PFC Crystals dissolve easily. Silver tarnished with PFC Crystals is gray-blue. PFC crystals are odorless.

PFC CRYSTALS - DRY



1. Tin, silver and dry the glass.
2. Sprinkle on dry PFC Crystals.
3. Mist the crystals with distilled water.
4. Allow the crystals to sit on the silver for 5 minutes.
5. Rinse, dry and paint the mirror.

PFC CRYSTALS - DISSOLVED



1. Dissolve 1 small spoon (1 gram) of PFC Crystals in 1 fl oz (30 mL) of distilled water.
2. Clean and tin the glass.
3. Pour on the silver and wait 1 minute.
4. Dip a cotton ball in the PFC and squeeze it into the silver.
5. Allow the mix to sit without rocking for 4 minutes.
6. Rinse the glass well.
7. Pour on a 2nd layer of silver and let it deposit for 3 minutes.
8. Rinse, dry and paint the mirror

SNC Crystals are hygroscopic. They degrade and turn yellow when exposed to air and moisture. Keep your jar tightly closed.

SNC Crystals have a strong effect on the silver and the glass. You may need to apply several layers of silver to achieve these effects.

SNC Crystals offer the widest range of colors on fresh silver – often showing blue, gold and purple areas and lines.

SNC CRYSTALS - DRY



1. Tin and rinse the glass.
2. Sprinkle dry SNC Crystals onto the wet glass.
3. Mist lightly with distilled water.
4. Allow the crystals to remain on the glass for 2 minutes.
5. Do not rinse. Pour silver over the crystals and the glass.
6. Let the silver deposit for 5 minutes without rocking.
7. Pour off the mix and rinse the glass. The glass will be almost clear.
8. Pour on fresh silver and allow it to deposit for 5 minutes.
9. Pour off the silver and rinse the glass well.
10. Pour on a 3rd layer of silver and allow it to deposit for 2 minutes.
11. Rinse dry and paint the mirror.

SNC CRYSTALS - DISSOLVED



1. Dissolve 1 spoon (1 gram) of SNC Crystals in 1 fl oz (30 mL) of distilled water.
2. Soak a clean cotton string in the mix.
3. Clean and dry the glass.
4. Place the string on the dry glass. Dab the string with more SNC mix so that only the area next to the string is wet.
5. Leave the string on the glass for 30 minutes.
6. Remove the string and pour distilled water on the glass. Do not spray it with distilled water.
7. Let the water sit on the glass for 30 seconds.
8. Tip off the water and silver the glass for 5 minutes.
9. Rinse the glass. It will be almost clear.
10. Pour on a 2nd layer of silver and let it deposit for 2 minutes.
11. Rinse, dry and paint the mirror.

THR Crystals are an odorless form of sulfur that slowly dissolve in water. Silver tarnished with THR crystals is gray.

THR CRYSTALS – IN THE SILVER



1. Tin the glass and pour on the silver.
2. After 30 seconds, sprinkle THR Crystals into the silver.
3. Allow the silver to deposit for 5 minutes. Do not rock the glass.
4. Rinse, dry and paint the mirror.

The dark areas still have a very thin silver layer. When the glass is painted they will appear as dark mirror, not as holes.

THR CRYSTALS – AFTER SILVERING



1. Tin and silver the glass for 5 minutes.
2. Pour off the silver and rinse the glass.
3. Sprinkle on THR Crystals.
4. Mist the crystals with distilled water.
5. Allow the damp crystals to sit on the silver for 1 hour.
6. Rinse, dry and paint the mirror.

Whiting is an inert powder that prevents the silver from depositing but does not react with it chemically. Silver that has been in contact with whiting is often light gray-brown.

WHITING BEFORE SILVERING



1. Clean and tin the glass.
2. Sprinkle on the whiting.
3. Pour on the silver and let it deposit for 5 minutes.
4. Rinse, dry and paint the mirror.

The black areas are where the silver is very thin. If you add a layer of Galena Mirror chemicals over the silver, the Galena will show through the thin areas as a black reflective mirror.

WHITING DURING SILVERING



1. Clean and tin the glass.
2. Pour on the silver.
3. After 30 seconds, sprinkle whiting into the silver.
4. Let the silver and whiting sit on the glass for a total of 5 minutes.
5. Rinse, dry and paint the mirror.

OTHER IDEAS:

1. Dilute mixed Silver Remover with an equal amount of distilled water and spray it on with a Misting Bottle to get an effect often (and wrongly) called Mercury Glass.
2. Buff the silver with whiting and a damp cotton ball. Back the silver with Galena mirroring chemicals to create a black mirror behind the silver.
3. Leave a heavy layer of cerium oxide on the glass after you clean it. The cerium oxide will show through the silver as faint brush marks.

Experiment! Take notes! Nothing is more frustrating than creating a lovely result and forgetting how you achieved it. Use a permanent marker to number each glass sample and number your notes as you go.

TAKE YOUR TIME -- RESPECT YOUR MATERIALS - PLAY IT SAFE



Pouring silver on old window glass tarnished with SNC Crystals

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