Fancy Goldfish In A Circle Flock Project

Definition
Flocking is a coating that you apply to things such as the inside of boxes or drawers. It is a granular fabric that gets applied to colored adhesive. There are different types of Flocking material available in a multitude of colors. Visit Flock It! at www.flockit.com

Application

Prep your project by applying polyurethane to seal the wood. After allowing your sealant to dry per the manufacturer’s directions, mask off any surfaces close to the flocked area that you want to block from the adhesive. Keep in mind the more time you take with this the better your project will turn out.

After you have done the masking, apply the designated colored adhesive for the color of Flocking you have selected. Make sure the surface is completely covered and there are no thin spots. This adhesive starts setting up in a couple minutes so you have to work quickly. I try to have my Flocking ready when I apply the adhesive.

You apply the flocking by filling your telescoping ‘puffer’ tubes between ½ & ¾ full. Filling them too much doesn't allow enough air volume for puffing. After the adhesive has been applied, apply the Flocking by sliding the telescoping tubes puffing the Flocking out of the holes in the end of the outer tube. Puff this directly onto the adhesive generously.

Do the puffing in a place with proper ventilation because the small fibers will become airborne during this process. I try to do it in a cardboard box without a front or top. I apply this to the point it piles up and the entire surface is covered. Let your project set up for 24 hours before removing the excess flocking. It sets up quicker but I wait for a full cure with it. Then I dump the excess flocking into
something that I can retrieve the loose particles for a later use.

As a final step I lightly blow off the excess small amount of flocking. Take care if you use compressed air and do not hit it with a direct blast of air. This could damage your project. This explains the Flocking process in general. Apply these techniques to the steps I’ve explained below.

![Flocking Equipment: Adhesives, Fibers, Applicators](image)

**Flock Project**
The design used in this project is a design by Steve Good. Visit him at [www.scrollsawworkshop.blogspot.com](http://www.scrollsawworkshop.blogspot.com)

The steps below explain the step by step process I used for this particular project. These may vary slightly to adapt to your particular style, the design you select to use or your particular desired outcome. The scope of my project is the pattern for the *Fancy Goldfish In A Circle*. I want a two-tone colored background with a high contrast between the face board and the cut edges *(this I will explain in more detail later)*. Then I will build a custom frame to house it.

1. Blank the wood for the pattern you have selected to use. I selected ⅛" hard maple for the face board with ⅛" Baltic birch plywood for the back board and the expendable front pattern board. This is the board that the pattern will be attached to and will not be a part of the final project. The woods you select may vary per your desired final outcome. *(see Flocking 1 photo)*
2. Apply your pattern to the expendable piece of wood you have cut. Using spray adhesive, apply it to the back of the pattern. Apply enough to firmly attach the pattern, but light enough that the pattern will come off without a lot of effort. I cut out two of these projects and the pattern started to come loose on one of them. If that happens, apply a small amount of clear tape to help hold it in place. You may have to take a deep breath and freestyle to get past the place where the pattern has come loose.

3. Find the center of the pattern by laying a straight edge from corner to corner and making a small light mark at the center. Do this from opposing corners also. After finding the center, take an adjustable bow compass and swing a circle that is roughly centered between the inner fretwork and the outer fretwork. On the back board follow the same steps to find the center and then draw a light circle on the top surface. (see Flocking 1 photo)

4. Flock the entire top surface of the top board of your project per the instructions above. I allowed mine to cure for a couple days. I recommend no less than 24 hours. I selected black flocking. (see Flocking 2 photo)

5. Stack the pattern board on top of the flocked project board and scroll saw as usual.

6. On the back board that has the light circle drawn on it, carefully flock it with the desired color... I selected orange flocking. Take special care to stay inside the circle. Allow this to cure a minimum of 24 hours. I allowed a couple days. (see Flocking 2 photo)
7. Once the inner color has cured, carefully flock the outer color taking special care to not get onto the inner color. I selected a light blue flocking. Allow this to cure a minimum of 24 hours. I allowed a couple days. *(see Flocking 3 photo)*

8. Separate the pattern board and the project. Carefully sand the back of the project board. Use a soft surface as to not damage the flocked front surface. I used a standard #3 reverse tooth blade to cut mine to minimize any back fuzz.

9. These next couple steps are tricky and may vary depending on the wood and pattern you choose. This pattern has several very thin webs and a top burr worked up on these edges. I took an Exacto knife and carefully scraped this upper burr away. It cleaned up nicely doing this.

10. I then took a black Sharpie pen and touched up a few of the spots that the flocking chipped away. This only happened in the thin webbed areas. Since I used black flocking, this was an easy cheat.

11. Stacking the top board on the bottom board, as you lean it at an angle, note the contrast between the black flocking and the light color of the hard maple. This is the 3D contrast I was after. *(see Flocking 4 photo)*
12. To finish I decided to make a 2 tone frame. I cut my back strips to allow for the project, both for width and depth. I figured my needed length and mitered the edges to the proper length. This can also be made from a single piece and routered to the correct width and depth. *(see Flocking 5 photo)*

13. Assemble the 4 sides taking care that they are all square, checking that the project fits. On the back I tied the 4 corners together for extra strength by adding 4 brass pieces. This also retained the project. These are the waste pieces from break away pendulum stems. I drilled a small hole in each end and attached them with small brads. *(see Flocking 6 photo)*

14. Add a saw tooth hanger to finish the project.

**Final note:** I made two *(one as practice and one as final)*, one as a Christmas gift for my Daughter Kishna.
and one for myself. The pattern was challenging but is one of my favorites. I plan on a double size one for the wall by my Koi pond (it won’t be flocked). Also I plan on a quilt rack to display the quilt Kishna made for our Christmas. I will use a single one of these fish in each of the end caps.

Look for both of these projects in future Updates from Wilckens Woodworking. These instructions are the steps I used. They may not be the perfect way to do this so vary the steps as you need to accommodate your own personal projects. Enjoy flocking not only on this project but any of the other projects you may do that use flocking.

As always, until next time…. Keep the saw dust flyin’....

Dan Wilckens

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