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In the past year, sprayed pages have really grown in popularity-both publishers and book boxes creating special editions with colored edges! And so, today I wanted to bring you a tutorial on how I paint the edges of my books! I've done this three times and they've all been really successful, so I feel experienced enough to impart some knowledge upon other people with this step-by-step guide to making your own sprayed edges! I admit that I don't actually care that much about having the edges of my books colored-but I really ask any questions in the comments below and I'll be happy to answer them to the best of my ability! I'll try to be as specific as possible with this guide, but let me know if anything is unclear. Without further ado, here is how I ended up with rainbow ombre edges on my copy of Marie Lu's Warcross! Quick note that we're not spray painting these, like publishers do. We're taking a little more of an easier, DIY route that still has a really nice effect. A BOOK If this is your first time, I definitely recommend using a book that you have a duplicate of or aren't very attached to. The easiest type of book to paint is one that is hardcover and with straight edges. (Deckled edges are really hard to do. Paperbacks are a little more challenging to tape.) PAINT(S) Okay, so the paint you see above is Craft Smart acrylic paint I bought approximately 8 years ago from Michaels. It works great. I could have used my fancy paints (Liquitex etc.), but honestly those would have been less effective and too thick. I recommend any sort of value paint beta little too thin, and fancy paint is too thick, so your best bet is value-type craft paint that's multipurpose! You can get them in a variety of colors (metallics too!) and they're very versatile for a lot of projects. PAINTBRUSH(ES) This is something that is really dependent on how steady/comfortable you are with using a paintbrush. I have relatively good control, but if you're someone who doesn't paint often or has a wobbly hand, it might be better to get a fine brush (for the edges) and a larger one for the rest of the edges. I prefer a flat brush, around one to two centimeters wide. My brush has a slanted cut which makes it easier for me to do the corners without needing a second brush, but if it makes you more comfortable to use a smaller brush for those areas, then go for it! I think this is camel's hair but honestly it doesn't matter. You just need a sort of pliable brush, kind of soft & flexible (nothing sharp or stabby or plastic, probably) out of synthetic hair or something with a similar range of motion. TAPE Tape is an area where . . . a lot of things can go wrong. I use washi tape, and I've always used MT Casa washi tape to tape the sides of my books (despite it being one of my pricier tapes) because its the most gentle paper tape I have. However, it might not be in your budget to buy some of these tapes (love them, though), so basically, the best way to test whether a tape will work is to get a sample of that tape, adhere it to a corner of your book's hardback, press it in & leave it for a few minutes, and then peel gently. If it pulls off some of the hardback's paper fibers, you need to get a different tape. Masking tape will probably work, as well as gentler washi/paper tapes. No scotch tape or duct tape (and Scotch and Duct brand washi tape is too strong, usually). Just be careful and make sure to test that your tape will remove itself without damaging your book! SOMETHING TO PUT YOUR PAINT ON You do not need a full blown palette-a paper plate will work or even a paper towel folded in half or anything to hold your paint. (If you're not mixing colors/doing one color, you could just get your paint out of the tube, too!) This is pretty self explanatory, but I might as well go through it! Don't leave your dust jacket on! Okay? See the materials list for more details on how to choose the right tape to use! (This is the brand of my tape, if you do have it in your budget to splurge on some amazing tapes that are nice and gentle and pretty!) As you can see, I tape below the edge of the endpaper. When you close the book, the tape's bottom edge should go below the stack of papers. I then fold the flappy edge (see the tape over, and fold the flappy edge (see the tape over, and fold the stack of papers. I then fold the stack of papers. I then fold the stack of papers. I then fold the flappy edge (see the tape over, and fold the stack of papers. I then fold the stack of bottom x2, side x2. This will keep you from accidentally painting your book! Some things to note. The spine of the book is something you need to make a decision on, but first, a little bit about spines: Some books (like Warcross above) don't have a little bit about spine of the meet). Other books do. It's up to you whether you're going to tape the spine, especially if there's a stitched piece, but I personally advise you not to put your faith in tape on the spine. It's pretty ineffective at keeping paint out because the spine. It's up to you whether you're going to tape the book. In my opinion, it's better to just be careful and paint cautiously in that area than to cover it and go wild, because the paint in the picture? Doesn't seem like a lot, right? Yeah, well that was enough paint for three books. I'm always horrible about pouring the right amount of paint, but I can certainly say that this was way too much paint, and I ended putting most of it back in their tubes (and losing paint in the transfer process). You probably only need three or four blobs for something like Priory of the Orange Tree, but never this much for one book. Also! Reference that the gold paint is a different brand and it's got a thicker texture (still also works). The consistencies you see are good for painting pages. I started painting! You can see that I started with the edge and made sure it was covered properly, not painting over the glue or on the spine. Don't feel bad for getting paint on the tape! That's why it's there, and it does a good job PRO TIP #1: Compress the book as tightly as you can! The tighter you compress, the better your results (you'll see what I mean later). If you have a clamp, that would definitely be helpful at squeezing the book together. I don't really recommend putting the book in between heavy books, because it doesn't actually work that well at compressing unless you've got like 20 lbsit hinders movement, making mistakes more likely. PRO TIP #2: Don't add too much paint! Too much paint, like not enough compression, will let paint seep deeper into the pages and make it less professional looking (from the inside, at least. Outside it still looks great.) Enough to make a coat but still see the texture of the paper is good. If there's a blank spot, you can always patch it up later. As you can see, I did a rainbow ombre! It's not a perfectly smooth transition because the paint I use dries really quickly (like, this whole thing took 5-10 minutes to dry, and it was basically drying as I was applying it). Also, I don't have half of my paints with me (lent them to a friend) so I had to make do with the colors I had to make do with the colors I had on hand instead of potentially making better transitions. Eh. It still looks cool. Let it dry and be patient! You can test it with your finger, but just let it rest in peace. It'll be okay. Also, now's a good time to wash your hands! You don't want to accidentally get paint somewhere. This is honestly one of my favorite parts to do, and also where I explain why compressing your book and moderating your paint use is important. You can see how the paint goes a little further into the page than just the edge, seeping in a bit. I honestly don't mind, but if you don't like that, then you need to be more careful about how much paint you use & how loosely you hold it. As for the actual mechanics of the step, you basically read the entire book, flipping through all 300+ pages and making sure they're separate and distinct. Do this GENTLY. If you don't do this step, then you just have an unreadable block of colored pages that are basically stuck together. It's a bit tedious, but I swear it's fun (you'll see in a second)! PRO TIP #3: Sometimes it's a little tricky to find where to separate pages. I usually toy around with either the corner or the bottom edge, just wiggling the pages until a little hole between them opens up. It shouldn't be too hard. PRO TIP #4: Count your page numbers. You don't want to skip something. PRO TIP #5: Be gentle please! If you're too rough, you will rip your pages. A little bit of the page will end up on the other, and that's no fun a quick, fun aside! I took a video of me opening the pages. because it sounds really satisfying (Mel says this qualifies as ASMR so like do what you will with that video) so grab those earbuds and you can listen to it below, hehe! It's so satisfying ahhhhh And you basically do that with all the pages. This is the step that takes the longest, so definitely put some music on and just jam while you do it. OR you could read the book as you flip pages. That works too, haha! As you can see above, it's pretty thin and gets fainter when the pages are stretched out, which means I did a good job of not putting too much paint on! Yay! (Also, fun fact apparently some old books with gilded pages actually had SECRET PAINTINGS that would show up when you pulled the book like this? Yeah. It's wild. I wish I knew how to do that but this, even though this tape has always worked well for me. I'm still pretty gentle about this, even though this tape has always worked well for me. Just get all the pieces off, and it's really refreshing to see the ugly paint splotches gone, haha! Dispose of tape pile. Voila! It's done! You can replace the dust jacket and relish in the fact that you have a beautiful sprayed-appearing copy without cashing out the big bucks! And you can do this for a lot of books, and it looks really cool! I'm probably going to do more fun things to this copy of Warcross, and if I do, I'll make sure to take progress photos and share! (I'm hoping to annotate, illustrate the hardback! Then I'll either give it to Marie Lu or do a giveaway for it.) You can see the final video fo waht my pages look like below! Sorry in advance for the bad filming, ahaha! I hope this tutorial was fun and helpful and made the act of creating your own sprayed pages more accessible to y'all! If you have any questions, don't hesitate to drop a comment below and I'll get to you as soon as I can! Plus, let me know if this was helpful, and I'll try to do more bookish art tutorials in the future! Create a custom look for any books using spray paint and a stencil! This detailed tutorial will walk you through my tips and tricks to spray book edges perfectly so you can customize your bookshelf! If you've been down the Booktok / Bookstagram rabbit hole lately, you've probably seen sprayed book edges adorning bookshelves everywhere. Many of the more popular fantasy novels (looking at you, Fourth Wing and Iron Flame) have special editions with sprayed edges that people (including me!) are going crazy for. There are more complex images that are simply one sprayed color or a mix of colors (most using airbrushing). And then there are more complex images that people (including me!) are going crazy for. There are edges that are simply one sprayed color or a mix of colors (most using airbrushing). going to tackle in today's post! You can also use this post to simply spray your edges without a stencil—just skip down to that part of the tutorial. I grabbed my set of ACOTAR (A Court of Thorn and Roses and the subsequent books in the series) and decided to give it a try! I have a free download for this set of books below so you can make this exact project. If you have other books you'd like to see stencils for, let me know and I may add them to my shop! Spraying book edges is definitely an intermediate project. If you're brand new to the Cricut, this probably shouldn't be your first project. You want to be very comfortable with using vinyl and transfer tape, as well as using spray paint, before you begin. Even I'll admit it was a bit nerve-wracking. These hardback books aren't cheap! However, the results were pretty amazing and since I've done all five books, I've found the process and materials that seem to work the best. Because this is a pretty complex project, check out my full video by clicking play below! Or read on to get the full written tutorial. I tested both removable and permanent vinyl for my stencil. The permanent vinyl was much harder to remove from the painted book pages. So I highly recommend a removable vinyl like Oracal 631 to create the stencil for your sprayed book edges. Get everything you need to spray your book edges in my Amazon Store! Here are the supplies I used to spray the edges of my books. * Material Notes Removable vinyl worked better for me than permanent. It was much easier to remove. Choose a satin or matte spray paint, not a glossy spray paint. I used quick-release clamps but you can use c-clamps as well. For the recycled paper you can use paper bags, but I found that the brown paper wrapping that comes inside Amazon boxes worked really well and is more flexible than paper bags. I used painter's tape for the other books and it worked better. Want access to this free file? Join my FREE craft library! All you need is the password to get in, which you can get by filling out the form below. The file number is: C481. For this project, I am spraying the edges of A Court of Mist and Fury (the second book in the A Court of Mist and Fury (the second book in the A Court of Thorn and Roses series by Sarah J. Mass—I did the first book in my video above!). I chose to do the hardback editions because they are sturdier and I thought I could get the cleanest results. I have seen people do paperbacks as well, but the covers tend to ripple a bit. Select your spray paint colors. I recommend using a satin/matte spray paint versus a glossy one—I think the ingredients in a gloss spray paint may cause the pages to stick more. Montana Gold spray paint is my favorite and it's satin and it comes in a ton of colors so no matter what book you are spraying, there will be a color that works. Remove the book jacket so you have only the hardback book. Then use your recycled paper to cover the entire book. Be sure to cover and tape the front, back, and spine of the book very tightly. You don't want paint to seep into any crevices and get on your book! I used recycled brown paper packing sheets and painter's tape in order to do this. Do you remember covering textbooks in school? That's sort of what this felt like! Now, you'll need to create a book press. I used 4" ratcheting quick-release clamps and two pieces of scrap wood. I suggest wood rather than cardboard because it helps compress the entire book, plus it really protects your book from clamp marks. I've seen other people use cardboard, but I found the clamping is more successful with wood. At first I wanted to wrap my clamps in plastic so they wouldn't get any spray paint on them, but I got over that pretty quick. They just get a bit of overspray but as long as you're not spraying a ton of paint into the ratcheting mechanism, I think you're fine without covering the clamps. Make sure to tighten your clamps as tight as you can get them. You want the book pressed together tightly and evenly so no paint leaks through the pages. Once your book is fully clamped together, measure the length and width of your book pages. If you decide to also do a book from the ACOTAR series and use my SVG, I have created the cut file to be the correct size of the book. If you are adding your own design, be sure it is the correct size. I made my designs slightly smaller than the length and width of the pages so nothing gets cut off in the painting process. Let's make the stencil you'll use for your book! Start by opening Cricut Design Space. For this project, I'm using my ACOTAR-themed file. To begin, create a new project in Cricut Design Space. For this project, I'm using my ACOTAR-themed file. the file you want to upload. If you need more help with SVG files, see my post How to Upload an SVG to Cricut Design Space. Insert your file onto your canvas. Hide any stencils you are not using. If you're using my file for your canvas. Hide any stencils you are not using. If you're using my file for your canvas. Hide any stencils you are not using my file for your ACOTAR hardcover books, there is no need to resize. Load Mat screen, choose On Mat (unless you are using removable Smart Vinyl, then choose Without Mat). Click Confirm. Then you'll be taken to the Prepare Screen. I rotated my stencil so it cut at the top of my mat. Once your material. In this case, I chose removable vinyl. Insert your mat into your machine and your Cricut will cut your project! Once your vinyl is cut, use your weeding hook to remove the excess of the vinyl. Use your scraping tool to burnish the vinyl onto the transfer tape to lift your vinyl design. Now you're ready to start the process of painting your book pages! Now you can apply your stencil to your book pages. Carefully place the transfer tape with the design along the pages. You want it pressed down really well! Now, peel back the transfer tape. The vinyl left on the book will be your stencil. I was worried it wouldn't stick, but overall I had pretty good luck. If any of the pieces pull up, carefully place them with tweezers and make sure they are pressed into the pages well. Be sure you're in a well-ventilated area to spray paint. I like to spray paint. I like to spray paint. I like to spray paint. forth motions. Do this 5-6 times until you feel there's a nice, even coat. You do NOT want to soak the pages—use more light coats vs. fewer heavy coats. Also rotate the book and spray the top and bottom edges as well (some people stencil these too, which is an option!). Let this first coat dry for 25-30 minutes. Take a peek at your pages and determine if you need another coat. I added a second coat for a deeper color and to be sure I got in all the crevices of the book edge. Again, use a very light hand and don't oversaturate! Let this second coat dry for at least 4-5 hours. You should have really nice coverage on the book edges. Once you're sure the paint is dry, use your weeding tool and tweezers to remove the vinyl from your pages. I did this with all five books and every time I was like oh my goodness, this is GORGEOUS! You really do get a nice crisp edge when you have your book properly clamped. Do not fan the pages for at least 24 hours. If you separate the pages or fan them, you run the risk of the paint flaking off and looking uneven. You have some pages that are a bit stuck together, but take care to peel them apart and your book should look just as good as it did when you first spray painted it! I hope you enjoyed this tutorial to spray book edges! Let me know if you try it out! Cricut or other electronic cutting machine * Material Notes*Removable vinyl worked better permanent and it was much easier to remove.*Choose a satin or matte spray paint, not a glossy spray paint, not a glossy spray paint, not a glossy spray paint.*Used quick-release clamps but you can use paper bags.*Can use regular masking tape but it actually pulls up at the inside of the covers, so recommend painter's tape as it works better. Prep a Book for Sprayed EdgesChoose hardback editions because they are sturdier and get the cleanest results. Some people do paperbacks as well, but the covers tend to ripple a bit. Select your spray paint colors. Recommend using a satin/matte spray paint versus a glossy one, as the ingredients in a gloss spray paint may cause the pages to stick more. Montana Gold spray paint a favorite and it comes in a ton of colors so no matter what book you are spraying, there will be a color that works. Remove the book jacket so you have only the hardback book Then use your recycled paper to cover the entire book. Be sure to cover and tape the front, back, and spine of the book very tightly. You don't want paint to seep into any crevices and get on your book! Recommend using recycled brown paper packing quick release clamps and two pieces of scrap wood were used to do this. Wood is suggested rather than cardboard because it helps compress the entire book, plus it really protects your book from clamp marks. Other people use cardboard, but the clamping is more successful with wood. You might want to wrap the clamps in plastic so they won't get any spray paint on them, but it was not done for this project. They get a bit of overspray but as long as you're not spraying a ton of paint into the ratcheting mechanism, you're fine without covering the clamps. Make sure to tighten your clamps as tight as you can get them. You want the book pressed together tightly and evenly so no paint leaks through the pages. Once your book is fully clamped together, measure the length and width of your book pages. If you decide to also do a book from the ACOTAR series that was used for this project and use the free SVG, the cut file is the correct size of that book series. If you are adding your own design, be sure it is the correct size. The free designs are slightly smaller than the length and width of the pages so nothing gets cut off in the painting process. How to Cut Your Vinyl StencilLet's make the stencil you'll use for your book! Start by opening Cricut Design Space. For this project, the ACOTAR-themed file was used. To begin, create a new project in Cricut Design Space. Then click Upload in the Design Panel on the left.You'll be taken to the upload screen where you can navigate to the file you want to upload. If you need more help with SVG files, see this post How to Upload an SVG to Cricut Design Space.Insert your file onto your canvas. Hide any stencils you are not using the free file for your ACOTAR hardcover books, there is no need to resize. You're ready to cut your image! Click Make It in the upper right. In the Load Mat screen, choose On Mat (unless you are using removable Smart Vinyl, then choose Without Mat). Click Confirm. Then you'll be taken to the Prepare Screen. Rotate the stencil so it cuts at the top of the mat. Once your mat looks good, click Continue. Then in the Make Screen, choose your material. In this case, I chose removable vinyl. Insert your mat into your material. In this case, I chose removable vinyl is cut, use your material. In this case, I chose removable vinyl is cut, use your material. tape. Peel back the transfer tape to lift your vinyl design. Now you're ready to start the process of painting your book pages. You want i book pages. Carefully place the transfer tape with the design along the page edges of your book. Use a scraping tool to press the design to the pages. You want i pressed down really well! Now, peel back the transfer tape. The vinyl left on the book will be your stencil. If any of the pieces pull up, carefully place them with tweezers and make sure they are pressed into the pages well. Be sure you're in a well-ventilated area to spray paint. Begin with very light, even coats of spray about 6 inches awayed into the pages well. Be sure you're in a well-ventilated area to spray paint. from the book and make fairly quick back and forth motions. Do this 5-6 times until you feel there's a nice, even coat. You do NOT want to soak the pages—use more light coats vs. fewer heavy coats. Also rotate the book and spray the top and bottom edges as well (some people stencil these too, which is an option!). Let this first coat dry for 25-30 minutes. Take a peek at your pages and determine if you need another coat. I added a second coat for a deeper color and to be sure I got in all the crevices of the book edges. Once you're sure these are the second coat dry for at least 4-5 hours. You should have really nice coverage on the book edges. Once you're sure the paint is dry, use your weeding tool and tweezers to remove the vinyl from your pages. You really do get a nice crisp edge when you have your book properly clamped. Do not fan the pages for at least 24 hours. If you separate the pages or fan them, you run the risk of the paint flaking off and looking uneven. You may have some pages that are a bit stuck together, but take care to peel them apart and your book should look just as good as it did when you first spray painted it!GORGEOUS! Spraying book edges is definitely an intermediate project. If you're brand new to the Cricut, this probably shouldn't be your first project. You want to be very comfortable with using vinyl and transfer tape, as well as using spray paint, before you begin. Learn the process of painting book edges including necessary materials like acrylic paints and brushes. Follow preparation steps and painting techniques to achieve stunning results in this crafts and brushes. variety of acrylic paints. Think of these as your artistic palette—each hue can transform your book from plain to splendid. Consider a range that includes whites and neutrals for base coats, along with vibrant colors like blues, greens, or purples for the details. Mixing smaller bottles in different shades allows you to achieve unique tones and add depth to your designs. Paintbrushes Choosing the right paintbrush is crucial, akin to selecting a good chisel for stone carving. Opt for brushes with fine tips; these can mimic the precision of a pencil. Brushes with sturdier bristles might be better suited for broader strokes and filling in large areas. Experimenting with different sizes will help you discover what works best for your painting style. Book Edging Tools are like the finishing touches on a beautiful piece of jewelry—subtle yet significant. These tools allow you to create decorative patterns along the edges of pages, giving books an elegant look. You can find many designs available online or at craft stores, from simple lines and dots to intricate floral motifs. Using these tools requires some practice but once mastered, they can transform a book into something your books, it's crucial floral motifs. to ensure they are clean and ready for the task. Think of it like washing a canvas before you start painting—cleanliness is key! Gently remove any loose dust or debris from the covers and pages using a soft brush or cloth. This step not only makes your job easier but also ensures that no particles get caught in your paint, which could affect the finish. Protect Surfaces Protecting surfaces might seem like an extra step, but it's absolutely essential to avoid accidents and keep your workspace tidy. You can use drop cloths, newspapers, or even old tablecloths spread out under your workspace tidy. It's akin to putting down a protective shield around your books before you start decorating them! Painting Techniques Applying Base Coat When you're ready to start painting your book edges, it's crucial to begin with a base coat. Think of this step like laying down the foundation for a house—without a solid base, everything that follows might not stick properly. To apply the base coat effectively: Choose the Right Paint: Select an acrylic paint that dries to a flat finish so you can add details on top without them looking too glossy or muddied. Wear Gloves and Protect Surfaces: Just as you would when painting your home, protect your work area by covering it with newspapers or a drop cloth. Wearing gloves is also recommended to avoid smudging the paint. Adding Details Once your base coat has dried, it's time to get creative! This step allows you to add those special details that make your book edges stand out. You can use fine paintbrushes to create intricate designs or even try out stencils for a more structured look: Experiment with Brushes: Different brushes have varying bristle lengths and thicknesses, so play around to find the ones that work best for detailed painting. Layering for Depth: Don't rush this step. Adding layers of paint can greatly enhance the appearance of your designs, making them pop against the base coat. Sealing Paint After you've completed all your painting and detailing, sealing the paint is essential to protect your hard work from fading or chipping over time. This final step acts like a shield for use on books. This will help preserve the color and integrity of your painted edges. Dry Thoroughly Before Applying Sealer: Ensure all layers are completely dry before applying the sealer to avoid any unsightly drips or smudges. By following these steps, you can transform your book's edges into a stunning work of art that will surely catch anyone's eye! "`markdown Tips and Tricks Consistent Stroke When painting your books, try to maintain a consistent stroke. Imagine you're drawing with a pen - wouldn't it be easier if your lines were all the same thickness? The same goes for paintbrush at the ready and practice applying even pressure as you move from left to right or top to bottom. This technique is crucial whether you're outlining text or adding intricate designs. Avoid Overlap Overlap can often lead to messy results, especially when you're working with acrylic paints. Think of it like overlapping tiles - they might look pretty at first, but it's hard to achieve a neat finish. To avoid overlap, ensure that each stroke is distinct to achieve a neat finish. and doesn't bleed into the previous one. This not only makes your work look cleaner but also saves paint. A simple way to do this is by allowing a small gap between strokes or using a clean edge of your brush to gently lift off any excess. Let Dry Letting your paint dry properly is as important as applying it in the first place. Just like how you wouldn't try to peel a sticker off before it's fully stuck, you shouldn't rush the drying process with your painted books. Allow each layer of paint to dry completely before adding another coat or moving on to the next step. This prevents the layers from becoming too thin and ensures that your final product is both durable and beautiful. A good rule of thumb is to let the first coat sit for at least 24 hours, but always check the packaging for specific drying times. "` Hi Everyone,It's been nearly three years now that I began painting book edges and, if I have made tutorial videos on the blog!So here we go!Preamble: you should know that EVERYONE can paint book edges, whatever your artistic level. I have given lessons to people who never drew nor painted and the results were astonishing! You don't kneed to draw a complicated design, simple rainbow or elemental flowers or a geometrical pattern can give something beautiful!Material needed to paint book edges The "trick" to paint book edges and avoid paint leaking through the pages is to compress the pages very tightly! You will need:-four clamps (like the ones you use in DIY in the house),-two planks of roughly the same size as the book cover (I use bread spread planks);-two sheets of paper size A4 to protect the front and back of the cover (except if you paint on paperback); pencils, eraser and of course paint!Remark: use a paint based on water, like watercolor. You can use acrylic BUT the pages will stick together and you want to paint And to make sure that your idea will "fit" into the edges width and lenght. I advise you to draw a rectangle (or two or three if you want to try several ideas) in the same proportions as your edges. Then draw your idea within that rectangle and see if nothing is shocking (some elements too big or too small or...).You can also do your research on the computer if it's easier for you. If you need inspiration for colors of the cover (jacket) and also Pinterest. Try your colors. Second step: prepare the bookAs stated here above, the key to your success is to press the pages of the book, avoiding paint leakage inside. First cover the front and back "cardboard pages" of your book with a sheet of paper, covering the angles of the book and press with the clamps. Trick: mark the bottom of your book on the edge with a small dot of pencil. It will avoid to paint the book upside down (the bottom of your drawing aligned with the top of the title... awkward). Once you have prepared the book, draw your project with the lighter colors and add layers progressively.Watercolor always dries "lighter" (in a lighter shade) so wait for your paint to dry and see if you must add another layer.Trick: if you are used to watercolor, you must guess that the paper of the pages will not allow you to use some techniques like lavis, fusion etc. So you probably will use a mix of watercolor and oil/acrylic techniques while painting (with use of watercolor paint only). Last stepOnce your painting is done, wait till it's completely dry before removing the clamps, planks etc. Trick 1: if you used a lot of water in your colors, you might want to wait one whole day or night before removing the clamps to avoid "wavy" pages. Trick 2: if you went for acrylic, separate the pages one by one delicately to avoid tearing them. Trick 3: to protect your colors, you can use a varnish in spray but use it "lightly", in a fine mist. If you are interested, I have tons of painted edges on my Instagram account (handle @bewareofthereader)I hope this will help you and if you decide to try it, don't hesitate to send me pictures of your creations via DM on Instagram! I will be very happy to know this post has been put to good use! Thanks for reading. How to Paint Book Edges: A Step-by-Step Guide If you're looking to give your book collection a unique and personalized touch, painting the edges of your books can be a great way to achieve a stunning visual effect. Whether you want to create a cohesive color scheme or add a pop of color to your shelves, painting book edges can be a fun and creative project. In this article, we will guide you through the process of painting book edges and answer some frequently asked questions to help you achieve the best results. Trending Now: How Long Is Lord of the Rings All TogetherStep 1: Preparation Before you start painting, gather all the necessary materials. You will need books, acrylic paint to choose acrylic paint as it dries quickly and adheres well to the edges of the books. Trending Now: Searching for My Sister Lifetime Movie The Movie CastStep 2: Clean and Arrange the Books Ensure that your books are clean and free from any dust or debris. Arrange they are aligned evenly. If you plan to paint the edges of a single book, use painter's tape to cover the other pages to avoid any accidental paint spills. Trending Now: How Tall Is Harry in the BooksStep 3: Apply Painter's Tape Carefully wrap painter's tape around the edges of the books, leaving only the page edges exposed. The tape will act as a barrier, protecting the book covers and pages from getting painted. Make sure the tape is firmly attached to prevent any paint colors and pages from getting painter's tape around the edges of the books. Select the colors you want to use for your books or create an ombre effect by using different shades of the same color. Take your time to experiment with different shades of the same color. Take your time to experiment with different shades of the same color. you best. Trending Now: How to Reset My Onn Roku TVStep 5: Start Painting Now it's time to begin paintbrush into the exposed page edges. Make sure to cover the edges evenly and avoid excessive paint buildup. If needed, apply a second coat once the first one has dried. Allow the paint to dry between coats to prevent smudging. Trending Now: Where Is Rocky Mountain Tumbler MadeStep 6: Remove Painter's Tape Once you have finished painting all the book covers or pages. If some paint has seeped under the tape, use a small brush or a cotton swab dipped in water to clean up any mistakes. Trending Now: Why Is Every Book a New York Times BestsellerFAQs about Painting Book Edges of old or valuable books, as this can significantly decrease their value. If you have books with sentimental or monetary worth, it's best to consult with a professional before attempting to paint? A: While watercolor or other types of may not adhere as well or provide the same vibrant color as acrylic paint. Acrylic paint is recommended due to its durability and ability to create a smooth, even finish. Trending Now: Is Jodi Arias DeadQ: How do I prevent the pages from sticking together, ensure that the paint has dried completely before closing the books. If the pages still stick, gently separate them with your fingers or use a clean, dry brush to separate any stuck pages? A: Painted book edges? A: prevent the paint from chipping or fading. Keep them in a dry and clean environment to maintain their appearance. In conclusion, painting book edges can be a fantastic way to add a personal touch to your shelves Remember to experiment with colors and have fun with the process. Happy painting! Trending Now: Book Of Bible Part Crossword Clue I'm a sucker for a beautiful book, and one of the key things that makes a beautiful book is sprayed or painted edges. These special editions can go for hundreds of dollars. No shade if you've done this; I'm also guilty. Today, I will tell you how to spray book edges on your own. It's time to flex your creative muscles and save some money by making your first-time spray painting your book edges, you may want to start with a book you wouldn't mind "screwing up." It also may be wise to keep it simple. Ombre and stencils are bomb but can be tricky if it's your first time. Let's talk supplies. Obviously, there is more than one way to do this. But some of the baseline items you'll need are: Paint of choice: You can either use paintbrushes with acrylic paint (Apple Barrel is frequently mentioned as a top choice) or spray paint Paintbrush Tape + Scrap Paper and tape to wrap your book like a present. If you're using the paintbrush method, you may only need to tape the edges of the covers to protect your book. Preferably something easy to remove, like painter's tape or washi tape. If you're using paint + paintbrushes...go in using dry brushes! Any water will cause your book pages to buckle. You're likely going to be doing several thin layers of paint, so don't use paintbrushes that you have attachments to. Allow each layer to completely dry before starting a new one. Pro Tip: You'll use less paint than expected, so tread lightly. If you're using spray paint...go in short, quick bursts vs. holding down the nozzle and going to town. You don't want to be outside or in a very well-ventilated area. Carefully release your book from its protective wrap and/or tape. To prevent pages from sticking together, slightly bend your pages (as pictured) to naturally separate them. You'll also want to flip through the entire book to check for stuck pages aren't stuck together. It pretty much goes without saying, but a light hand is best here. If you're looking for some inspiration, check out these ideas and these stunning books for sale on Etsy. Reddit and its partners use cookies, you agree to our use of cookies to deliver and maintain our services and site, improve the quality of Reddit, personalize Reddit content and advertising, and measure the effectiveness of advertising. By rejecting non-essential cookies, Reddit may still use certain cookies to ensure the proper functionality of our platform. For more information, please see our Cookie Notice and our Privacy Policy. I don't know about you, but making any permanent markings on physical books feels very sacrilegious. Dog-earring pages, annotating directly in the book in pen, etc. makes my bookish heart howl in pain. However, there is this trend going around the book world that has peaked my interest. So, what is the trend, I hear you asking? Well, my dear friend, I have two words for you: [Click here if you want to skip my love letter to sprayed edges and go straight to the tutorial.] What is sprayed edges, you might ask? It is where the edges of a book's paper is sprayed with color. A normal book looks like this: It's your average hardcover. It's still beautiful and very functional. (Also if you haven't checked out We Hunt the Flame, I highly recommend it.) Now, let's look at book with sprayed edges. Shazamo! It looks pretty neat, eh? It's basically a bit of color (what I'm assuming is spray paint) that is sprayed on the edges of the book so special. You might've seen sprayed edges on a number of published books such as Six of Crows and its sequel The Crooked Kingdom (pictured above), Frankly in Love, and Aurora Rising. Most of the time, books with sprayed edges are limited/special edition items that comes with ordering from a certain bookstore or a specific subscription box. They are usually more expensive than their non-sprayed counter parts. Personally, while having sprayed edges is fun, it doesn't add much to the actual story. That is why I usually stick with getting the normal book. I know for some of you guys, getting your hands on a book with sprayed edges is significantly harder when you live outside the US and the UK. So... what if I said there was a way that you could create your own sprayed edge look with some paint and a paintbrush? I don't know the first person who came up with this technique, but there are a good amount of tutorials online. If you saw my Instagram story recently, you know that I first learned about this technique through Fin (@findangoh on Instagram, please check her out!). Every once in a while she does Instagram Lives where she paints books and talks. She's been doing this thing for a while, so she's kind of a pro. She was super patient with me and answered all my questions during her livestream. I'm going to go over what I did and the things that I learned along the way. My First Experience I bought a secondhand copy of A Reaper at the Gates online the other week. When it came in the mail, I noticed that the outside edge of the pages had this weird brown/red stain on one of the corners. It wasn't unnoticeable either. It looked weirdly like a blood or ketchup stain. I really hoped it was ketchup. Anyhoot, because it didn't look super pleasant, I decided to paint the edges green. I wish I took some progress shots, but I didn't because my hands were covered in paint. It turned out pretty good, if I do say so myself. There was little to no fuss while I was painting. Overall, it's a relaxing activity. It's fun to sit there, listen to some music or watch a video while you paint. It's weirdly addicting, and after my first book all I wanted to do was paint all my books. How to Paint Your Book Edges I'm going to be talking in the context of painting a hardcover (since that's all I know), but the steps are basically the same when it comes to paperbacks. Supplies a physical book (if it's your first time, preferably one that you wouldn't mind screwing up)heavy things (dictionaries, textbooks, weights, the crushing pressure of student debt... okay, maybe not that last one but anything heavy lying around in the house should work)paper and tape (preferably painter or washi tape)paint (I used this brand called Apple Barrel. Use whatever brand you like, as long as it is matte acrylic paint. Don't use glossy paint. It will not turn out the way you want it to. I've seen people use liquid watercolor, but I think acrylic paint works better.) a paintbrush (I recommend having a medium size one to cover larger areas and a smaller brush to get into the nooks and crannies. Use an old/cheap brush that you wouldn't mind fraying a little.) Step 1: Prepare your book Take off the inside where the cover meets the paper. I used washi tape in the picture just so you can clearly see what I mean, but covering the inside with paper should work just fine. I recommend using either painter or washi tape when sticking down the paper because it is easier to peel without ripping up the book. Make sure to clean off the dust from the paper because it is easier to peel without ripping up the book. Make sure to clean off the dust from the paper because it is easier to peel without ripping up the book. Make sure to clean off the dust from the paper because it is easier to peel without ripping up the book. Make sure to clean off the dust from the paper because it is easier to peel without ripping up the book. Make sure to clean off the dust from the paper because it is easier to peel without ripping up the book. Make sure to clean off the dust from the paper because it is easier to peel without ripping up the book. Make sure to clean off the dust from the paper because it is easier to peel without ripping up the book. Make sure to clean off the dust from the paper because it is easier to peel without ripping up the book. Make sure to clean off the dust from the paper because it is easier to peel without ripping up the book. Make sure to clean off the dust from the paper because it is easier to peel without ripping up the book. Make sure to clean off the dust from the paper because it is easier to peel without ripping up the book. Make sure to clean off the dust from the paper because it is easier to peel without ripping up the book. Make sure to clean off the dust from the paper because it is easier to peel without ripping up the book. Make sure to clean off the dust from the paper because it is easier to peel without ripping up the book. Make sure to peel without ripping up the book. Make sure to peel without ripping up the book. Make sure to peel without ripping up the book. Make sure to peel without ripping up the book. Make sure to peel without ripping up the book. Make sure to peel without ripping up the book. Make sure to peel without ripping up the book. Make sure to peel without ripping up the book. Make sure to peel without ripping up the book. Mak through the pages while you re painting. I used a nerty dictionary, thick magazine, and two eight-pound weights. Is that overkill? Probably. It works, though. If you have a book press, that works too. Step 3: Plan what color do you want to gaint the edges? Maybe you want to gaint the edges? Maybe you want to gaint the edges? Maybe you want to gaint the edges? you want to. You can use the color straight out of the bottle. It is up to you. That's the beauty of this craft. You can personalize the sprayed edges to your first time, one thing I recommend is to first do a book with a color straight out of the paint bottle just so you get an idea of how much paint you use without the risk of running out. Then you'll know how much paint to mix up next time you want to do this craft. Step 4: Paint This is important: use the dry brush technique. DO NOT WET YOUR PAINTBRUSH WITH WATER. Adding water will not only dilute your paint, but it could lead to the pages buckling and maybe even water damage. Just stick your paintbrush in the paint, and go crazy. That being said, don't overload your paintbrush with a bunch of it like spray painting. Your outcome will look much better with several thin layers rather than one thick layer. I touched up on this in the supplies section, but make sure to use a paintbrush you don't have any attachments to. When I first did this craft, I used my expensive watercolor brushes and don't hold their original shape. Step 5: Let it dry Let your paint dry a bit before starting the next layer of paint. I start off painting the bottom. After I'm done with my first layer, I turn the book and paint the top, Because my paint layer is thin, by the time I'm done with the top, the bottom is pretty much dried and I can start on my second layer. You can paint in whatever order makes sense to you. Step 6: Layer your paint Your first pass of paint will probably be a bit splotchy. Don't worry! That's natural. If it comes off as uneven, give the edges another layer of paint. Once again, make sure to paint lightly. However, don't do too many layers, as it could bog down the paper and damage it. Step 7: Separate the pages This is, in my opinion, the most tedious portion of this whole thing. Before the paint completely dries (but is almost there), start separating the pages so that the paint doesn't glue them together. You can take all the pages and wiggle them around a bit to loosen them up. Then start going one by one and separate all the pages from each other. The longer the book, the longer this step takes. You have to be gentle, because there is a potential that your page can slightly rip. Some people like to use the end of their paintbrush to separate the pages, but I use my index finger and it works just fine. I make sure to wash my hands to get rid of all the paint before doing this step. If two pages are stuck together and you can't seem to get them apart, wiggle them around a bit to loosen them up. Step 8: Let your book completely dry After I separate the pages, I leave the book alone for an hour, just to be safe. It should be pretty much dry and readable once you're done separating the pages, but I don't take my chances. Once it's dry, you can remove the protective paper/tape and put back the dust jacket. Voilà! You're done! Now you have your very own book with "sprayed" edges! I hope that you give this fun, bookish activity a try! It was nice to listen to music and paint for a bit. It's cool to put my own personal touch on my books, and you bet your bottom dollar I'll be doing more of these while in quarantine! If you try painting your own books, let me know what you think! I'd love to hear your stories and see pictures of the books you painted! Also, if you have any questions or need clarification on things, shoot a question down below! I'll try my best to answer them. Stay awkward and amazing! I'm Jessica, a.k.a. The Awkward Book Blogger. I'm a 20-something shy introvert who loves reading books, looking at books, and talking about books! I hope you enjoy the bookish content I post here and stick around for more. Thanks for stopping by! 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