

# Decoupage Finishing Techniques for Home Decor Elements

*by Dyan Agustin*

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## Decoupage Finishing Techniques for Home Decor Elements

Dyan Agustin\*

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Department of Architecture, Architecture and Design Faculty, Universitas Pembangunan Nasional "Veteran" Jawa Timur, Surabaya 60294, Indonesia

\*Corresponding author:

E-mail:  
[dyanagustin.ar@upnjatim.ac.id](mailto:dyanagustin.ar@upnjatim.ac.id)

### ABSTRACT

Decoupage is an art of decoration by sticking pieces of paper on the surface of objects with glue media. This decoupage finishing technique can be used in many elements of home decor, it is easy to teach and the materials are easy to get. Therefore, this finishing technique was chosen as a service activity to train PKK women in RT 6 RW 2 Lowokwaru Malang which is close to several tourist sites. The method used in this training is counseling on how to sell decoupage products and training on making products with the decoupage application. At this stage, examples of good creative product designs are also shown to explore creativity in the context of making products later. The types of products made include wall decoration products, pandan wallets, cake jars, etc. With this service activity, it is hoped that it can improve the skills of PKK members in the village so that they can increase household income and make RT 6 RW 02 Lowokwaru Malang a tourist village.

Keywords: Decoupage, home décor elements, Malang

### Introduction

Home decor or interior decoration is the art of making a room more beautiful and comfortable to look at and feel. The object in question can have benefits for its inhabitants. The role of home decor is very important in making the house more comfortable and enjoyable as a place to rest. A room requires an ornament or complementary element called accessories. Accessories are very important as the final touch that revives the atmosphere of the room so that people in it can feel the atmosphere such as relaxing, refreshing, evoking the atmosphere, awakening creativity, etc (Chressetianto, 2013). Some examples of home décor that are much liked are paintings, photo frames, wall decorations, mirrors, clocks, trays etc. There are more and more home décor enthusiasts with various materials and finishing. One of the finishing techniques that is easy to apply in home décor is decoupage. Decoupage is the art of layering goods using imported tissue with various media, including for home decoration. The art of decoupage is the craft of cutting paper materials which are then affixed to objects and coated with varnish or varnish (Hommy et al., 2018).

Women have a big role in poverty reduction activities through community and group empowerment. Besides that, the role of women in the economic sector is quite important and is one indicator of increasing welfare (Hunaepi et al., 2017). One of the proofs is by carrying out household productive business activities (VH & Susilowati, 2016). This women's empowerment activity was held in Lowokwaru District, which is a sub-district located in the northern part of the Malang City area. RT 6 RW 02 has a group of women who are members of the PKK (Family Welfare Development) with various backgrounds, including elementary, junior and senior high school graduates, most of whom are housewives. PKK women are classified as productive workers and need to be trained in order to raise awareness, motivation, and independence in doing business. Training on

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making home decoration elements with decoupage techniques is very suitable to be taught, especially for mothers because it is easy, can produce good and unique works and can be sold (Nurmaya et al., 2017, Ajsuksmo et al., 2019). With this activity, it is hoped that there will be an increase in knowledge of skills from PKK women so that it will be able to lead to economic empowerment and potential opportunities to become a tourist village. The solution of this activity can be seen in the table 1.

Table 1. Problems and solutions offered

No.	Information	Problem	Solution to problem
1.	Many PKK women in RT 6 RW 02 Malang do not work, only as housewives	Have no productive activities	Decoupage application training on multiple media
2.	The economic level of the citizens is low	Minimum household income	Training to make home décor products that can be sold

## 1 Material and Methods

Referring to the solutions and problems above, the steps taken are as follows:

- Conduct counseling first to PKK women in RT6 RW 02 Lowokwaru Malang about the importance of having additional skills, especially in decoupage application skills on home décor products such as bags, flower vases, flowers, hanging lamps and household furniture. In addition, the opportunity and market share of the product is also conveyed which is still wide open. After that, some examples of products that have been finished with decoupage are also shown so that they have a unique and interesting shape picture so that in the making, creative creations will appear.
- Conduct training on making home décor products by finishing decoupage application.

The training will be divided into several groups and differentiated by product, including groups made from wood and pandanus.

The benefits of this training program are:

- 1) As a medium of knowledge transfer from campus to society
- 2) Fostering the spirit of entrepreneurship (entrepreneurship) to PKK mothers in terms of making home decor products with decoupage finishing
- 3) Improving the image of UPN Veterans East Java, especially FAD UPN Veterans East Java in working, creating and serving the community

## Results and Discussion

This activity involves PKK women in RT 06 RW 2 Lowokwaru Malang which aims to awaken the potential and active role of PKK mothers. The stages carried out in this activity are counseling and training which are attended by about 15 people while still implementing the health protocol



Figure 1. Participants in the training for PKK RT 06

### ***Introduction to tools and materials***

In making home décor with decoupage finishing, the tools used are not many and easy to obtain. Some of the tools needed include (Trisniawati & Ratri, 2020):

- a. Scissors  
Scissors are used to cut tissue decoupage motifs
- b. Paintbrush  
This brush is used for the process of attaching tissue paper to the media. 2 types of brushes are used with each function, namely to spread the glue and to apply a layer of varnis.
- c. Sponge  
This sponge is used to flatten the tissue after being pasted on any media. Because by using a sponge, the glue liquid that is on the affixed paper will also be absorbed so that it can dry quickly
- d. Hairdryer  
The hairdryer here serves to speed up drying, both painting drying and glue dryin

The materials needed in making this decoupage finishing include:

- a. Tissue (napkin)  
The tissue used is the type usually used for lunch and cocktails in Europe. These wipes are available in various motifs and consist of 2 coatings of the same material but plain white. Many themes are available for napkin motifs including floral themes, houses, animals, coffee etc. Each of these motifs has its own character and can be adapted to the media that will be pasted.
- b. White glue  
White glue is used because it is transparent, so as not to damage the appearance of the motif. This is because the tissue used is very thin so if there is another color at the bottom it will affect it.
- c. Acrylic Paint  
Acrylic paint is used for basic paint on wood or other media. As for pandanus media, do not use car acrylic because the basic media can be used directly. There are various colors available. The choice of color must be adjusted to the basic color of the tissue or paper to be pasted, so that when applied it looks more natural
- d. Varnis  
This material is used for the decoupage finishing stage so that the tissue that has been pasted can blend together and gloss is the effect to make it shiny and make it more durable

### ***Training stage***

Basically there are 5 stages of how to make it with the decoupage technique (Trisniawati & Ratri, 2020):

- a. Choose the image or motif on the paper or tissue you want
- b. Cutting activities
- c. The activity of sticking with glue. In this case, white (transparent) PVC glue is used
- d. Gluing paper
- e. Coating with varnish

The five steps above are basic or basic in the application of finishing decoupage. If we want a more different look, we can paint the media that will be pasted first

### ***How to make home décor with decoupage finishing on wood media***

- a. Prepare tools and materials  
Tools needed include scissors, brush, sponge, hairdryer. While the materials include home décor media wood, tissue motifs, white glue, varnish, acrylic paint. For wood media, a

cleaning process is needed first with sandpaper so that the paint and glue can stick and blend well on the media (Ceria, 2017).



Figure 2. Tools and materials

- b. Prepare adhesive paper for decoupage, such as special decoupage tissue, gift wrapping paper, etc. The character required for adhesive paper is soft and flexible so that it can be pasted on a curved surface.



Figure 3. Tissue decoupage

- c. The paper material is cut according to the desired image pattern. Besides cutting, you can also use tearing techniques to get more natural results. If using special decoupage paper, it needs to be separated into 3 parts.
- d. Put the cutouts / torn paper on the desired media. Put it here in order to create a composition. After finding the right composition, you can make a design sketch or take a photo so you can remember the composition that has been produced. In the arrangement it is necessary to consider the intent, meaning, color, and texture in order to obtain maximum results.
- e. Prepare the surface of the object to be pasted. The surface must be dry and clean. If the wood surface is to be finished, it must be painted or polished before pasting.



Figure 4. Painting on the sheet media



- f. Prepare glue that matches the surface of the object. The glue that is usually used to stick is white glue mixed with water in a ratio of 1:1
- g. Apply glue evenly on the surface of the object and sheet of paper using a soft brush. The varnish must be thin and evenly distributed so as not to cause tears in the paper and bubbles when the paper is attached to the media.



Figure 5. Handling media glue

- h. Put the paper one by one onto the object carefully according to the pattern so as not to cause indentations and wrinkles. To display a more complicated design, you can stack the pattern by placing the first layer and then pasting the next layer on top of the first layer, partially covering the layer below it. After that wait until the glue dries. Likewise with those who accumulate patterns.



Figure 6. Sticking the tissue on the cutting media

- i. Give a layer of varnish on top of the paper patch. For this varnish layer, several layers can be used to produce a maximum design. Coating must wait for the previous coat of varnish to dry.



Figure 7. Applying varnish

- j. Decoupage home décor work on wood media is ready



Figure 8. Finished decoupage works

#### How to make home décor with decoupage finishing on pandan media

The surface of the media temple on pandan is smooth enough and ready to be pasted with tissue motifs without the need for painting. This makes making finishing decoupage for home décor from pandan media quite easy.

- a. Prepare tools and materials

For pandan media, it is easier because it can be directly attached to the pandan media. Tools needed scissors, brush, sponge, hairdryer. As for the materials, the patterned paper or tissue, glue, varnish are prepared



Figure 9. Tools and materials

- b. The paper or tissue material is cut according to the desired image pattern. Then it is separated into three layers and the patterned layer is used.  
 c. Putting cutouts/tears of tissue on pandan media and arranged with the desired composition.  
 d. Apply glue evenly on the pandan surface using a soft brush.



Figure 11. Provision of pandan media glue

- e. Put the paper one by one into the pandan media carefully then let it dry. To speed up the drying process, you can help with a hairdryer.



Figure 12. Sticking the tissue on pandan media

- f. Give a layer of varnish on top of the paper patch. For this varnish layer, several layers can be used to produce a maximum design. Coating must wait for the previous coat of varnish to dry.
- g. Home décor work with decoupage finishing on pandan media is ready



Figure 14. Decoupage works on ready-made pandan media

### Conclusion

The decoupage finishing technique in home décor is very easy to apply and can produce a beautiful work. The materials and tools needed in this decoupage finishing technique are also easy to obtain and affordable. Therefore, it is highly recommended to be trained on PKK women in RT 06 RW 2 Lowokwaru Malang who do not know much about fast and good finishing methods. The skills taught are basic techniques on wood and pandanus media. These two media are often used for making home décor interior elements. After attending this training their level of understanding is very high. This is evidenced by experiments carried out at their homes and uploaded to the whatsapp group. With this training they will be able to process home decor products that are widely available around Malang into creative products that are needed by the community and can be souvenirs at tourist attractions in Malang so that they can increase their household income and later become superior products in RT 06 RW 2 Lowokwaru Malang.

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