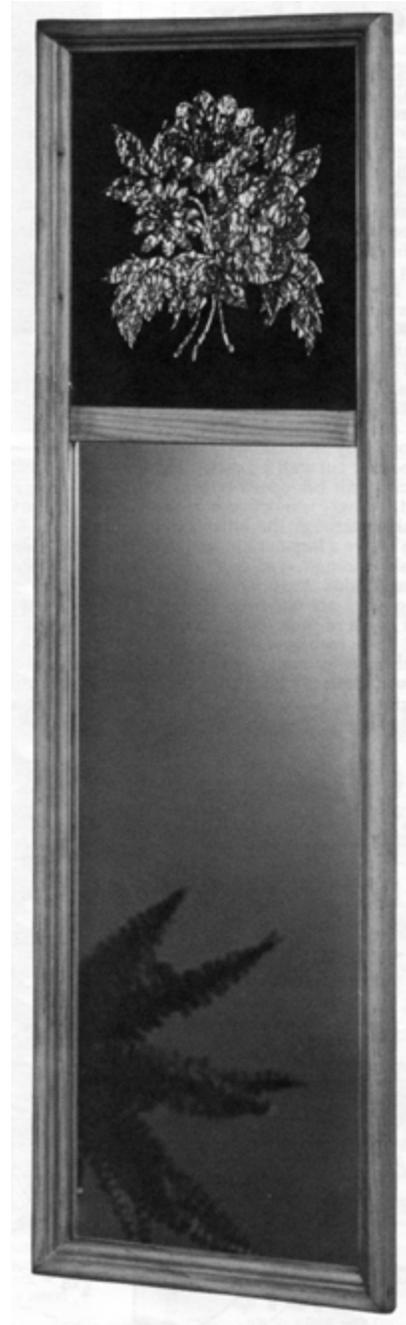


Project 15812EZ: Tinsel-Art Mirror

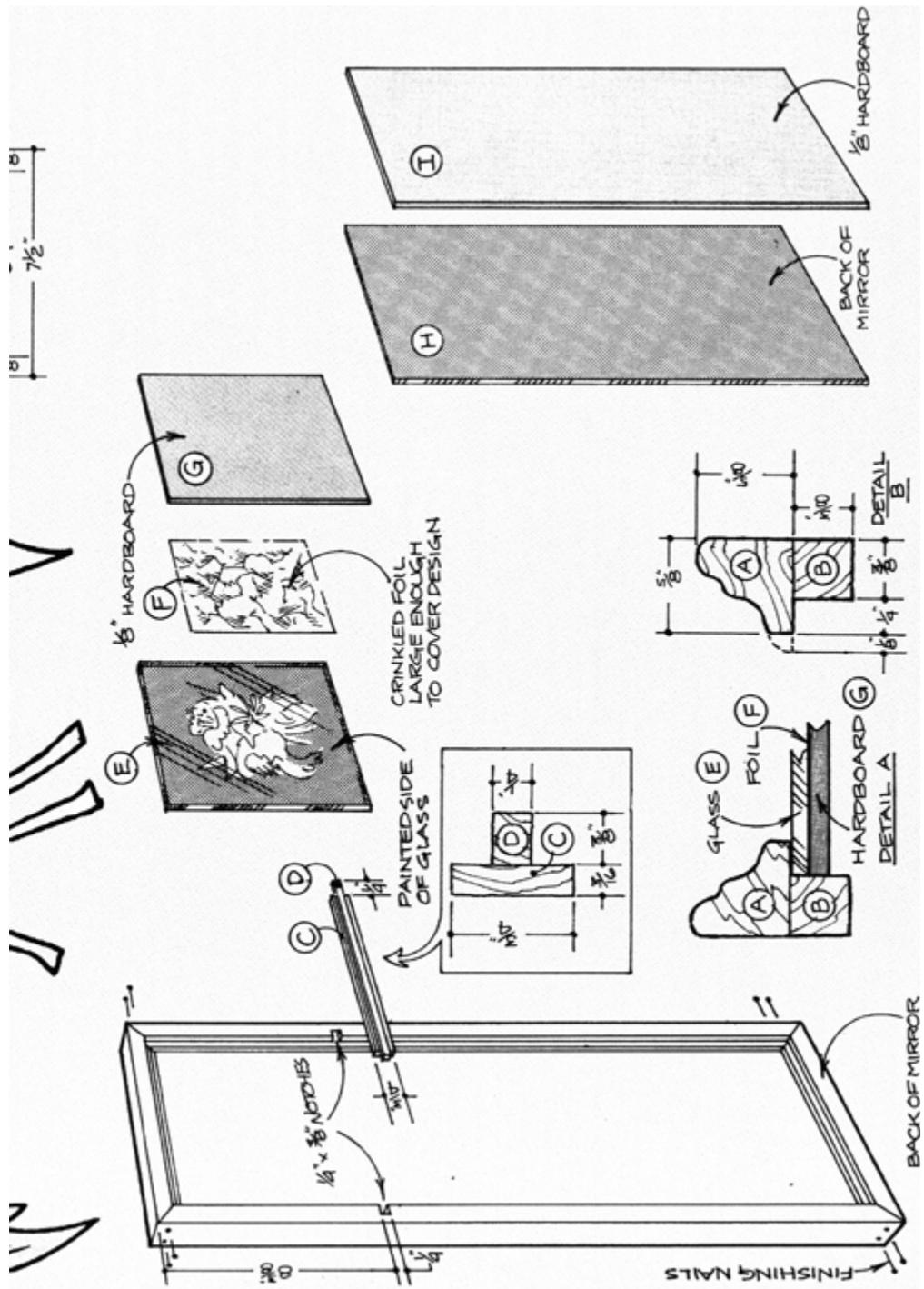
In the 1840's, clipper ship captains discovered tinsel pictures in China and began to bring examples of this lovely art form home to New England where the technique was soon imitated.

Our black and white photo hardly does justice to the vibrant colors in the tinsel picture of this lovely small mirror. The frame is made of ordinary nose and cove molding with a strip glued to the back. The reverse glass tinsel picture can be reproduced with very little, if any, artistic ability.



Tinsel-Art Mirror Complete Schematic





Tinsel-Art Mirror Step-by-Step Instructions

1. Purchase about six feet of nose and cove molding for part A.
2. Purchase six feet of backing strip (part B).
3. Cut the backing strip to 3/8" thick and 3/8" wide.
4. Set up the table saw to rip 1/8" of molding stock along one edge as shown in Detail B.
5. Glue the backing strip to the molding.
6. Use brads to hold the molding in place as it dries. **NOTE: DO NOT drive the brads all the way; instead, leave the heads exposed so they can be pulled out with pliers after drying.**
7. Set a miter joint to 45 degrees to cut four miter joints.
8. Apply glue to the joints.
9. Use two small finishing nails at each corner to assemble.
10. Lay out the location of the notch for the divider backing (D).
11. Use a sharp chisel to cut out the notch.
12. Cut part D to size (1/4" x 3/8" x 6-3/4").
13. Use glue to secure part D in the notch.
14. Cut the divider to size (3/16" x 3/4" x 6-1/4"). **NOTE: Use care when cutting it to length so that it fits snugly between the molding.**
15. Glue the divider in position.
16. Fill the finishing nail holes.
17. Sand the frame completely.
18. Finish as desired.
19. Use two small hook-eyes and a short length of picture wire to make a hanger for the mirror.
20. Cut the mirror (H) and 1/8" hardboard (I) to size.
21. Install the mirror in the back rabbet.
22. Use several small brads to secure both parts.
23. Use the glass, waterproof India ink, a drawing pen, a couple of small camel's hair brushes, flat black enamel, and three tubes of oil colors to reproduce the tinsel picture.
24. Center the clean pane of glass over the full size drawing.
25. Use the drawing pen and India ink to trace the drawing on the glass.
26. Use a small brush to carefully outline flowers, stems, and leaves with flat black enamel.

27. Paint the entire background black when the outline is done.
28. Allow the first background coat to dry.
29. Add another coat and allow to dry.
30. Squeeze small amounts of Prussian blue, alizarine crimson, and thalo green on a non-absorbent surface.
31. Mix a small amount of green with turpentine.
32. Use a small camel's hair brush to paint this transparent mixture over all the leaves and stems.
33. Cover all areas smoothly without brushing the paint out too much.
34. Use alizarine crimson for the rose on the left and Prussian blue for the flower on the right, keeping the paint thinned enough to be transparent.
35. Paint the upper flower purple by mixing crimson and blue.
36. Set the pane aside to dry for a couple of days.
37. Go over the painting in the areas indicated by diagonal lines.
38. Work with smooth strokes to apply darker colors to the centers of the leaves and flowers. **NOTE: Don't lay the paint on too thickly; just make it darker than the previous work.**
39. Cut a piece of ordinary aluminum foil to the size of the glass.
40. Crumple the foil.
41. Flatten out the foil and lay it shiny side down on the painted glass.
42. Cover this with the 1/8" hardboard backing.
43. Fasten this "sandwich" to the frame to complete the project (see Detail A).

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