

Hand-Painted Sign Sequence

Your cheat sheet for perfectly centered, bleed-free lettering every time.

Master hand-painted signs without frustrating bleed-through or layout guesswork. This sequence guides you from prep to topcoat for a flawless finish.

● Key Specs & Dry Times

220 grit

initial sanding for factory marks

2 solid coats

warm-white base paint layers

320 grit

scuffing sponge between base coats

24 hours

minimum base dry time before taping

Size 2 or 3

short-handled synthetic round brush

48 hours

lettering cure time before clear sealer

Base Coat Over Stencil

Brush a very thin layer of your background paint over the cut stenciled edges to create an invisible barrier that stops dark lettering from bleeding.



● The Lettering Sequence

- 1 Prep the Wood Canvas** Sand the surface, apply your base layers, scuff lightly, and wait before applying any adhesive.
- 2 Layout From Center Out** Mark the halfway point, align the exact middle character, and tape the top edge.
- 3 Chalk-Back Transfer** Rub chalk heavily on the reverse side, hinge the paper template, and trace firmly.
- 4 Thick Downstrokes Only** Apply heavy pressure downward, keep upstrokes thin, and peel while still wet for crisp lines.
- 5 Topcoat and Cure** Let the pigment cure completely, then apply multiple light misting passes of matte sealer.

● Match Your Room Aesthetic

Find your row: **Your room's decor**

Your room's decor	Your pick	Why
Rustic or weathered pieces	Distressed white base	Creates a timeless farmhouse aesthetic
Contemporary neutral tones	Warm beige background	Blends seamlessly into modern spaces
Indoor greenery focus	Deep charcoal base	Provides a striking, high-contrast focal point

● Checks Before You Paint

- Measure the total width of your prepared canvas with a metal tape.
- Count all characters and spaces to locate the true middle point.
- Check that your lettering paint flows smoothly like heavy cream.
- Ensure you have a sharp craft knife to lift inner stencil bridges.

● Project Notes

Enjoy creating a beautiful, professional-looking custom sign for your home!