



SHABBY ART BOUTIQUE

by Woodberry Designs

## *French Bunnies*

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# French Bunnies

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When I designed the bunnies I wanted something that could be used not only for Easter, but at any time of the year for home décor displays. I've given the bunnies my trademark chippy/distressed shabby white appearance and beautiful hand painted eyes, but the icing on the cake is definitely the gorgeous French graphics.

Measurements: Standing bunny - 26.5 cm x 12 cm, sitting bunny – 18 cm x 18 cm



Please read all instructions before beginning

## Materials:

16 mm MDF – 30 cm x 40 cm,

Scroll saw and protective face mask,

Fine sandpaper,

Tracing paper, pencil and Graphite paper,

White household candle,

Mod Podge and sponge brush,

Normal painting supplies.

## *Paint:*

2 oz DecoArt Americana acrylics:

Warm White, Lamp Black, French Mauve, Burnt Umber, Soft Black.

Matt spray varnish.

## *Brushes:*

½" flat brush,

¼" angle shader,

No 4 round brush,

Fine liner or script liner,

Old toothbrush.

## *Preparation:*

Trace the patterns from the pattern sheet onto tracing paper and transfer onto MDF. Cut the bunny designs from MDF using a scroll saw – always wear a mask when cutting MDF. Lightly sand and dust your project pieces.

## *Painting Instructions*

### Step 1



On your palette, mix the Warm White with a little Lamp Black to form a medium toned grey. This is the colour that will show through on the distressed areas of your bunnies.

Randomly paint the grey on areas around the perimeter of the bunnies, especially in areas that would naturally chip or wear. Avoid the nose area. Paint the sides and back in the same manner.

### Step 2



Take a normal household white candle and rub over the grey areas. This will form a wax resist which will prevent the paint from adhering in the areas rubbed.

### Step 3



**Base coating** - Cover both bunnies with 2 smooth, even coats of Warm White using the ½" flat brush.

Allow paint to dry thoroughly between coats. A hairdryer can help speed up the drying process.

### Step 4



Using fine sandpaper, gently rub over the surface of the bunnies to remove the dry paint in the wax resist areas. It will crack up and fall away without much effort. You may like to continue sanding the edges to further distress the look of your bunnies.

### Step 5

**Shading:** On your palette, mix a soft grey using the Warm White and Lamp Black (approximately 4:1). Dampen angle shader brush with clean water. Dip point of brush into paint (about 1/3 of the brush will hold paint), and blend on the palette. The paint should not travel completely across the brush. The paint should appear darkest at the loaded corner and gradually fade to clear water.



Shade both bunnies around ears, eyes and paws – see photo for indication of shading. The sitting bunny also has shading under the jaw line.

Shade inside ears and around nose and snout with French Mauve... note: this is a soft, subtle look.

Dip your stylus in the grey mix and add a few whisker dots on the snout. Add a little water to a small dot of the grey mix to make an ink like consistency. Run a moist script liner or fine liner brush through this mix and use to make several wispy like whiskers on the bunnies snouts.

### Step 6



The eye is blocked in with Burnt Umber. When dry, shade the top half of eye using Lamp Black. Shade around the upper eyelid using Soft Black.

Outline the eye and paint lashes using watery Lamp Black and the script liner.

Add a highlight of Warm White to both the top and the bottom of eye using the side-load technique and your angle shader.

### Step 7

**Flyspecking:** For this technique you use an old toothbrush. Dip the brush into water and flick the bristles with your thumb to remove surplus water. Then dip the toothbrush into grey paint and rotate the brush on your palette to work

up the paint on the bristles. Run either your thumb or the end of a paintbrush over the bristles of the toothbrush to splatter the paint lightly over your bunnies - practice on a scrap piece of paper before lightly flyspecking your project.

### Step 8



**Adding a reverse transfer:** Print out the 2 graphics at the end of this pattern... don't be concerned that they are in reverse, they need to be.

Cut the graphic design out allowing about 1 cm of negative space around the image.

Using the sponge brush, apply Mod Podge to the area in which you wish to place your graphic, as well as on the front of the graphic (over the image). Putting Mod Podge on both surfaces will allow you to move it around a bit without it instantly sticking.

Place your image face down on the bunny and smooth out any bubbles and excess Mod Podge. Remember to wipe away any Mod Podge that oozes out the side. Leave bunny to dry fully over night. I know you are eager to see your image, but trust me on this one, leaving over night will reap the best results.

The next day, apply water over the paper and start rubbing your finger lightly in a circular motion over the paper. The paper will start to peel off. This is a technique that requires patience and time. Just peel a little and then leave to dry again. If it is a sunny day I place in the sun and it only takes minutes to dry again. When it is dry you'll notice that any areas that paper remains will have turned white. Re-apply water and start process again. Continue doing this until the image feels smooth and there is no more paper rolling off the image.

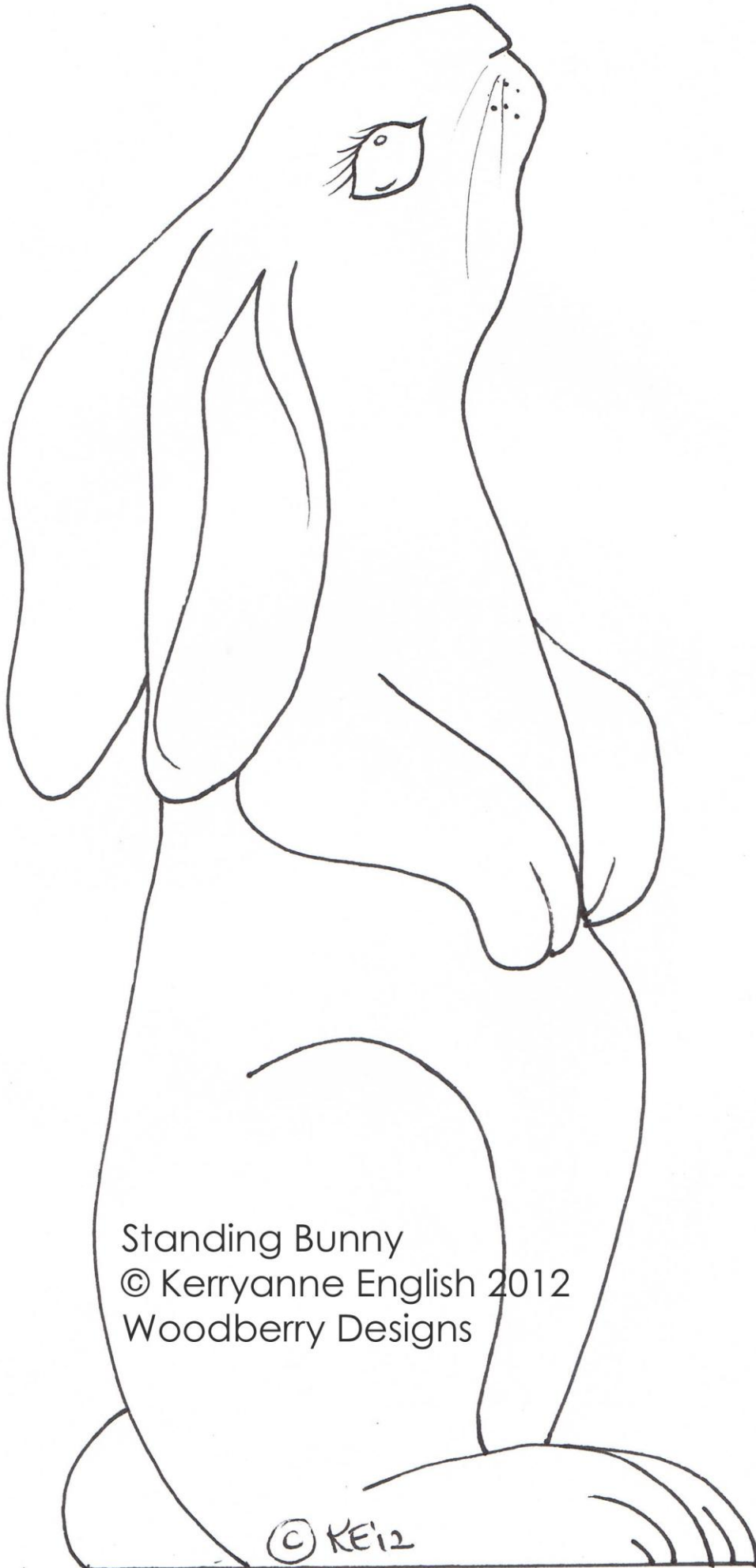
Leave to fully dry before applying several coats of spray matt varnish.

VINS & SPIRITUEUX



SPÉCIALITÉ  
DE  
VINS • FINS

Chocolat  
GOUTAIN  
Prépare sans Rival  
Partez & comparez!



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