

## Gilding for Dummies

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This is for anyone who really doesn't want to learn gilding.  
It's very simple, very effective and you won't have heard about it before.

Here's what you need to do this - all for around £15.

30ml bottle of acrylic gold size

- <https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/143205654203> ... Swhh9b1GZv



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100ml bottle of French Polish

- <https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/324210887029> ... haoxDeEGzG



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Tube of Black acrylic paint - any brand will do, cheap student quality.

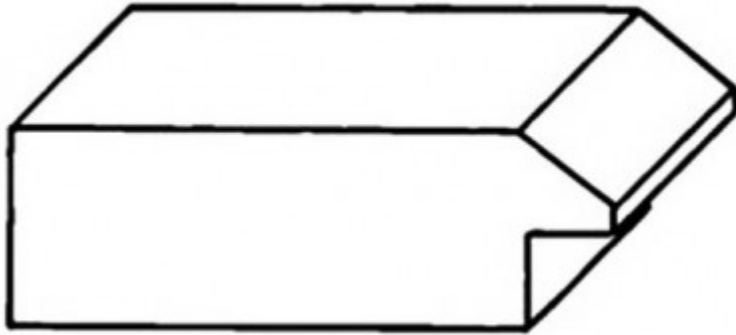
122m of gold blocking foil

- [https://ratchford.co.uk/product/coloure ... llic-foil/](https://ratchford.co.uk/product/coloure...llic-foil/)



There's enough foil there to get you gilding to the moon and back.

So let's take this plainwood moulding from R&H, A286



Go ahead and paint it whatever way you want, black, blue, yellow or pink with yellow spots.

Now run a length of masking tape across the top so as to expose the front sight edge only. That'd the bit we're going to gild. Paint this a solid black with the tube of paint.

Now take a square of cotton fabric and fold it into a small pad. Open the bottle of French Polish and get a bit of polish on the pad by tipping it over onto the pad. Squish the polish into the pad a bit and now rub it over the black sight edge. Wait for a few minutes and do it again.

Leave it now for about 1/2 hour.

Take the acrylic gold size and paint it freely over the black sight edge. It will go on as a milky paint.

Immediately afterwards, peel off the masking tape.

Wait now until the milky effect disappears. That can take up to 1/2 hour.

Cut off a length of the gilding foil.

lay it onto the sight edge and press along firmly with your

finger.

Now peel away the foil.

TA - DA!

Now you'll want to be my best friend.

The gilded surface will need sealed with some more French Polish.

Pour a cap full into an old yogurt pot. Add a cap full of meths and now paint this over the gilding.

Aim for long continuous strokes.

The polish will bloom a bit as it dries but don't worry, it should go clear after an hour or so.

You may now be quite delighted with the brightness of the gilding but if you want to tone it down a bit, I'll tell you in my next post.