

Having developed a very realistic brick and stone finishing system for dolls house exterior walls, we at Bromley Crafts quickly realised that we needed to turn our attention to producing realistic roof tile effects too. We looked at the products available and weighed up their advantages and disadvantages before producing our own roof tile finishes.

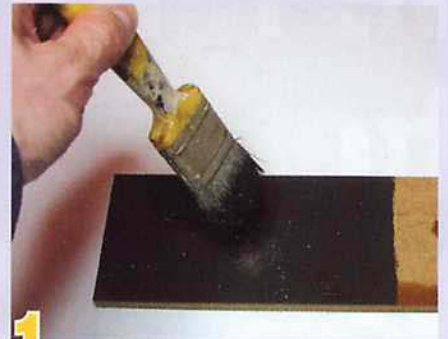
There are numerous considerations when finishing a dolls house roof including your budget, time and the quality of the finished effect required. The cheapest option is probably tile effect wallpaper which is quick and easy to apply, but doesn't look very realistic at all. At the other end of the scale you could choose real slate tiles which do look very realistic, but are rather expensive. Fitting real slate tiles can be fairly difficult and time consuming too as they are not easy to cut and they have to be fixed one at a time. Also the finished roof can end

up being very heavy, which may be a problem, particularly if the dolls house has an opening roof.

So we developed two different roof tile systems, which are reasonably priced, easy to apply and give realistic results.

Stencil Applied Roof Tile Effect

This method is based on the same principle as our realistic brick and stone wall effects. We now produce roof tile stencil designs in twelfth and 1/24th scales and a dark grey/slate compound to produce the slate tile effect (you can also use the red compound to create a terracotta tile effect). Using this method it is not possible to produce overlapping tiles, yet the finished effect does actually look very realistic and it is fairly quick to apply. The application method is as follows:



1 Paint the roof with a dark background colour using matt emulsion paint – this colour will show in-between the tiles.



2 Position the roof tile stencil on the roof and apply the compound over the stencil using a pallet knife. Keep the layer as even as possible.



3 Now remove the stencil to reveal the roof tile effect. The finish can be shaded if required using acrylic paints before finally sealing with a clear matt varnish. For a more detailed guide to applying our stencil applied finishes see our website at www.craft-products.com.

