

## Adding the Magic of Gold and Silver Leaf to Holiday Décor With Gilded Pine Cones



There's no better way to create unique, sparkling decorations than waving your magic wand - except by gilding with beautiful Imitation Gold and Imitation Silver (Aluminum) Leaf! We use high quality leaf from Italy – it produces a superior shine. We'll gild using both water-based size and oil-based size. Water-based size is ready to gild very quickly, offers a tack time that lasts indefinitely and produces a softer looking gilded finish. Oil-based size usually produces a shinier finish. Both sizes give excellent results, so it's really a matter of your preference.

### What you'll need -

- Set of pine cones – bought or gathered!
- Small foam brush for applying size (adhesive)
- Soft brush for skewing off excess leaf
- Cotton gilding gloves
- Sepp Gilding Workshop (SGW) Water-Based Gilding Size (glue for leaf) OR SGW Oil-Based Gilding Adhesive
- SGW Primer in Red and Gray
- SGW – one book (25 leaves) each Imitation Gold, and/or Aluminum Leaf – each square of metal leaf will cover 1/2 – 1 whole pine cone, depending on size of cone.
- Colorful ribbon



Sepp Gilding Workshop (SGW) offers **Gilding Kits** with various colors of leaf and primers, along with water-based or oil-based size (see illustration above), brush, stir stick and even gloves.

SGW also offers Red, Yellow and Gray primers, and Imitation Gold, Aluminum, Variegated Red, Blue and Green Leaf separately.



Sepp Gilding Workshop Leaf – Imitation Gold, Aluminum, Copper, and Red, Blue and Green Variegated

### Gilding With Oil-Based Size



Priming with a vibrant red



Primed pine cones

Using a foam brush, apply SGW Red primer for Imitation Gold, and Gray for the Imitation Silver. When the primer is dry, apply SGW oil-based Gilding Adhesive with a foam brush to the painted areas. Allow to come to tack (usually less than an hour). When it feels sticky but dry it's time to gild.

### Gilding Over Oil-Based Size





Wrapping the cone in imitation gold leaf



Buffing the leaf with your gloves

With gloved hands, Drape a piece of leaf over the cone and add leaf as needed to cover. You can use a soft brush or your gloved fingers to buff the leaf and remove excess. Be sure to save the flakes – they can be mixed for creating two-tone pine cones if desired!

### Gilding With Water-Based Size



The size goes on milky white



and turns clear and shiny as it reaches tack

Load your foam brush and apply enough SGW Water-Based Size to leave a white coating on each scale tip. The SGW Size will quickly shift from milky white to glossy and clear (in about 20

minutes), then the pine cone is ready to gild. Check that the glue feels dry but tacky. We applied the leaf directly onto the pine cone. If you like you can paint the tips first with Red or Gray Primer for added bits of color, as we did for the oil-size method.

### Gilding Over Water-Based Size



Wrapping the pine cone in leaf



beautiful flakes leftover from gilding

With gloved hands, lift a piece of your Imitation Gold or Imitation Silver leaf over the pine cone, wrapping it like a blanket. Repeat as necessary to envelope the pine cone. Press to ensure full contact. Buff down the excess with a soft brush or by rubbing gently with your gloved hands. Flakes of excess leaf can be used to gild more pine cones or decorate another project!

### Decorating

Gilded pine cones bring a lovely twinkle to wreaths, centerpieces, swags, and Christmas trees. You can easily tie a festive ribbon the cone to dangle it from a pine bough or doorway! Happy Holidays!



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