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Dolly up a trolley

Give your old drinks server a touch of bling with silver leaf and chalk paint.

By Shelly Bergh • Photographs Francois Oberholster

EASY

QUICK PROJECT GUIDE
Hard labour 1/10
Skill level 1/10
Time needed 2 hours



You will need

SHOPPING LIST

- Annie Sloan Chalk Paint in Graphite
- Annie Sloan Clear Wax
- silver leaf (available at craft shops)
- gilding size (adhesive)
- mirrors cut to fit on both trays

TOOLS

- paintbrushes: one for paint, one for adhesive and a soft-bristle brush to apply silver leaf
- soft cloth



Watch the video at [news24.com/home](https://www.news24.com/home).

step by step

Get started...



1 Paint the bottom third of the trolley with two coats of Annie Sloan Chalk Paint in Graphite, allowing it to dry between coats.



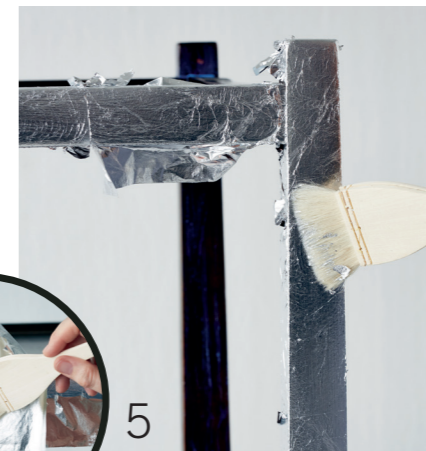
2 Once the second coat has dried completely, apply the wax with a soft cloth to seal the paint. **3** Apply the gilding size to the top section; let it stand for a few



minutes to get tacky. Do this in sections, rather than all at once. We created an 'organic' line where the paint and silver leaf meet.



4 Gently place the silver leaf sheets on the tacky adhesive and brush with the soft-bristle brush to make sure it adheres everywhere.



5 Let the adhesive dry completely then use the soft-bristle brush to wipe away any excess silver leaf.



6 Put the mirrors in place on top of the trays.



[HOW TO WORK WITH SILVER LEAF]

Home contributor Shelly Bergh shares her top tips:

If you want to create a truly shiny surface, paint won't cut it. Some spray paints might give you the look you're after, but silver leaf (or gold or copper) is the way to go for a metal finish.

Back in the day, these leaves (or sheets) were made of real metals; you can still get real gold leaf or sterling silver, but it's pricey! Nowadays, the sheets are very thin and delicate and your first attempt might be quite frustrating.

Make sure your hands are clean and dry; put baby powder on your fingertips to help prevent the leaf from sticking to you. It's best to use an adhesive known as (gilding) size. Use a clean brush to apply the adhesive; a cheap brush is the way to go, since

you will have to throw it away afterwards. I've never been successful in cleaning a brush after I've used it for size!

Now start to apply the delicate sheets to the sticky adhesive. Be patient, you'll get the hang of it! Work carefully and gently; the sheets tear easily. Position the sheets as close to one another as possible - you can even overlap them by a millimetre or so. Once you get into a rhythm, you'll find that this material is actually very forgiving and you can always add bits of leaf over areas you might have missed.

For best results and to make your leaf last longer, finish it with an oil-based varnish. Have fun!

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