Installation Instructions

Important info	
• when planning your project keep weather in mind. Temperature and humidity will affect dry times and if its over 90 degrees it can be difficult to install. Try to pick a couple days in a row with no rain forecasted. If the basecoat or texture coat get rained on it'll be ok, but rain will mess up the stain if it hasn't been sealed yet. Also do not apply sealer if there is a chance of rain within 6 hours of applying it. Make sure sprinklers wont spray on the patio.	Weather & Drytimes
• Before you begin you must determine the appropriate method of prep. If your concrete is porous, meaning water soaks into it pretty fast then you can pressure wash to prep. • If your concrete is smooth troweled and is slippery when wet or somewhat shiny then it is probably not very porous. In this case you should acid etch it to make it more rough and porous. • If your concrete is painted, sealed, or coated with anything causing it to be non-porous you will need to remove the coatings by diamond grinding	Porosity & Prep
• Plan your project according to your ability and the size of your project. There are certain steps where its ok to pause and come back a day or few days later and those pause breaks will be outlined in this manual. A 300 sf patio will usually take 2 people 2 days to complete. A 600sf patio will usually take 3 people 2-3 days to complete. An 800 sf patio would probably take 3 people 3-4 days to complete.	Pausing the project
• Highly mineralized water can have a weird affect on the stain changing the color to green or black. If you have well water or your tap water has minerals its best to use distilled water to mix with your stain.	Water types
• Clean your tools often and scrape out any left over material into a trash bag then throw away the trashbag AFTER it hardens. You can clean the buckets and reuse them.	Clean up

PREP

Concrete must be free of dirt, oil, sealers, paint, or defects. It must be structurally sound and all issues patched/repaired before coating. It must be porous for DIY Basecoat to bond properly. Depending on the condition of your concrete you will either Diamondgrind, acid etch or simply pressure wash it. If you're not sure please post photos of your concrete to the group at www.facebook.com/groups/designcretediyersclub and we can help you determine the best method of prep

PRIMER

Primer is necessary if you determined that you need to acid etch your concrete because its not very porous or its just very smooth. This is a special polymer that creates a strong bond between your existing concrete and the DIY Basecoat. Most outdoor concrete is already pretty rough and porous so primer isn't necessary but still recommended.

- Primer increases bond strength between existing concrete and DIY Texture
- Primer slows down water absorption during install which extends the worktime making it easier to install
1. Premix primers at a ratio of 1 bag of primer to 1 gallon of cool water.   Mix well until clump free.
2. Apply primer by brush, roller or pump sprayer. Roller is the preferred method. Apply as heavy as possible without leaving puddles. Don't worry about leaving roller lines they wont show later.
3. The primer is dry and ready to coat when it is no longer tacky and the white color has dried clear.

TINTED BASECOAT

You will only need the color pack if you want to tint your basecoat dark grey. We recommend this for medium to dark colored wood looks. If you're doing a very light color you wont need to tint your basecoat however it does help make the score lines stand out darker.

Before mixing your basecoat soak the patio well so it can start hydrating.

- Mix 1 color pack with 3qts cool water in a 5 gallon bucket until clump free
- Add ½ box of DIY Basecoat and mix making sure there are no clumps of dry powder stuck to the bucket
- Add the remaining ½ box of DIY Basecoat and mix well, adding tiny amounts of water as needed to reach a pancake batter consistency.
- 4 quarts is the max amount of water you should add per box
- Let the mix sit for 5 minutes to allow it to hydrate then adjust the consistency by adding cool water if needed and give it a quick final mix.

- Apply basecoat to vertical areas and around obstacles with a chip brush
- Spray water on the area you're ready to coat, just enough to make it damp with no puddling
- Pour out a small puddle of basecoat and spread evenly with magic trowel until the entire area is coated.
- Depending on weather conditions the basecoat may take between 1-4hrs to dry. It is ready to scrape and sand when it is a uniform lighter color

Possible Break point : Stop here if you cant make it to the next breakpoint

TEXTURE COAT

Once your basecoat is dry you will remove any lumps or imperfections by scraping or sanding with a 30grit masonry stone, then sweep or blow the dust off your patio.

Before mixing your texture coat prewet your patio so the water can start soaking in.

- Add 3 Quarts cool water to a 5 gallon bucket
- Add ½ box of DIY Texture and mix making sure there are no clumps of dry powder stuck to the bucket
- Add the remaining ½ box of DIY Basecoat and mix well, adding tiny amounts of water as needed to reach a pancake batter consistency.
- 4 quarts is the max amount of water you should add per box
- Let the mix sit for 5 minutes to allow it to hydrate then adjust the consistency by adding cool water if needed and give it a quick final mix.
- Apply DIY Texture to vertical areas with a chip brush
- Spray water on the area you're ready to coat, just enough to make it damp with no puddling (Spray the entire line from one end of the patio to the other end in the direction your woodgrain will go)
- Pour out a small puddle and spread using your magic trowel. Its important to spread it in lines from one end of the patio to the other end quickly so the texture can be added before it dries
- Pull a broom through the line of DIY Texture you applied in order to create the wood grain texture. For best results pull it all the way across the patio without stopping.
- Repeat this process line by line until the entire patio is coated
- Depending on weather conditions the texture coat may take between 1-4hrs to dry. It is ready to scrape and sand when it is a uniform lighter color

SCORING LINES

Once your basecoat is dry you will remove any lumps or imperfections by scraping or sanding with a 30grit masonry stone, then sweep or blow the dust off your patio.

We recommend using an 8" Hardie Siding board from Home Depot as your straight edge guide but you can use anything. If your guide board is smaller than 8" you'll be scoring more lines.

Try to plan this so that you are able to score the lines as soon as the texture coat is dry so that its still very soft and easy to score. If you wait until the next day it'll take more effort.

- Determine where the first line will go by dividing the width of the patio by the width of your planks. For example: if the patio is 84 inches wide and my planks will be 8inches wide then I will have 10.5 rows of planks. I can either put the half plank near the house or near the edge. Then I would measure 40" from the edge I want the full width plank and pop a chalk line.
- Line up your guide board to the chalk line and score the line with the carbide score tool. You only want to cut through the texture coat to reveal the black basecoat so you don't have to cut all the way down to the concrete
- Repeat this until the entire patio is scored
- Use a framing square to cut your wood plank end cut lines. Where you place them is up to you
- Blow the dust of the patio or sweep/ vacuum

Possible Break point : Stop here if you cant make it to the end

STAIN

There are several ways to stain depending on the look you're trying to achieve and the size of your project. On a very small patio I would use a deck brush or paint brush, on a medium size patio I would use a deck stain pad and on a large project I'd use a car wash brush.

We recommend 2 coats of stain for a more even and realistic wood look

- Mix your stain with distilled water for most uniform color. For a very opaque concentrated color mix 1qt stain with 3qts water (150sf coverage) we recommend a more transparent mix of 1qt stain with 3 gallons water (450 sf coverage)
- Apply stain using the tool of your choice by starting at one end of the patio and staining the entire line before moving on to the next line.
- Since there will be another coat added its ok to leave some white areas
- Let stain dry completely before adding second coat
- Apply the second coat just like the first paying special attention to make sure all white areas have been coated.

SEALER

Before applying sealer check the weather and make sure there's no rain forecasted that day. The patio and stain must be completely dry before sealing. Solvent based sealers are only intended for outdoor use, wear a respirator if the fumes bother you.

- Pour a small amount of sealer into a container in order to brush in the verticals and around any obstacles
- Pour the Sealer into a paint tray and use a ¾ nap roller to apply

- On the first coat roll in the opposite direction of the wood planks making sure to overlap each line
- Do not over-roll the sealer
- Do not allow the sealer to puddle
- Allow first coat to dry to the touch before applying second coat
- Apply the second coat in the same direction as the wood planks

MAINTENANCE

- Clean patio by spraying water and using a soft foam floor squeegee to push the water off.
- Pressure washing is not recommended
- If you want to clean with soap use a mild dish soap and scrub it around with a floor broom then hose off
- If cracks appear add sealer to the crack as soon as possible to keep it from getting damaged
- Add one coat of sealer every couple of years to protect your floor and keep it looking like new

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