Making Your Barn Quilt

Supplies:

- Two—4 x 8 foot 3/4” MDO board, sometimes called sign board—available at some lumber yards; call to reserve
- Cardboard or plastic to cover the floor
- Saw horses or table top
- Diamond Vogel Sure Grip Latex Primer
- Pencil for drawing pattern
- Measuring tape, yard stick, or framing square
- Painters tape or masking tape
- Razor blade or craft knife
- Can opener
- Self-Stick notes of your design colors
- Foam roller and paint tray
- Brushes-2” angle for Latex paints
- Paint
- Diamond Vogel V Cote 222 Maintenance Semi-Gloss
- Diamond Vogel Nu-Cling Latex Enamel Satin Finish
- Plastic containers used for paint
- Paint stir stick
- Paper towel or rags
- Six-8 foot cedar 2 x 4’s
- Gorilla Glue
- Clamps
- Two inch torque screws
- 3 3/4” wide, 8 foot tin strip to cover top ledge
- “L” brackets

Painting

1. Select your quilt pattern or design your own.
2. Set up a work area that is dry and dust free for painting.
3. Prime the two Medium Density Overlay (MDO) boards using a foam roller and the high quality primer.
4. Enlarge the quilt pattern using graph paper or another preferred method to scale leaving a three inch border on all sides. Then draw the pattern on the primed boards using a pencil and measuring devices.
5. Using the tape, outline the areas that will receive the lightest paint color and press the tape firmly to ensure a good seal.

Hint: Use a razor blade or craft knife to cut definite angles in the tape. To help designate which areas receive which color you can place corresponding colored self stick notes in those areas. This would be very helpful with a pattern using multiple colors. If you do not connect the two boards it will be easier to paint the center.
6. Paint the areas with the lightest color first. It may be necessary to repeat this step to ensure good coverage. You may leave the tape in place until you are finished with each color.
7. Repeat steps 5 and 6 as needed for each new color.
8. If darker colors bleed into lighter colors, be sure to touch up those areas as needed.

9. Lastly, tape on the inside of the three inch border and paint either the preferred color of black or an alternate color.

Hint: Place a picture of your quilt design on a wall or easel in front of you for reference. You can also check at the Le Mars Arts Center for availability of paint.

**Framing and Mounting**

1. Prime and paint the cedar 2 x 4’s for the frame the same color as your quilt border.
2. Glue two of the 2 x 4’s to opposite sides of the barn quilt back. Cut seven inches off the ends of two other 2 x 4’s and glue them to the remaining two sides of the quilt back. Clamp all four sides down.
3. To make the vertical brace on the backside of the seam, seven inches off one of the remaining 2 x 4’s and glue into place.
4. To make the horizontal brace, cut the last 2 x 4 into two 3’ 6 3/4” sections and butt up to the vertical board and glue into place.
5. Drill holes and insert the screws in the 2 x 4 boards. Do not let the screws pierce the front.
6. Paint the ends of the boards to match and trim off any excess glue.
7. Cut a piece of tin about one inch wider than the quilt and the frame so it can be bent to serve as a cap for the quilt allowing about one-half inch of the tin to wrap over the front and one-half inch to wrap over the back side. Paint the tin the same color as the boarder and frame.
8. Screw four brackets into the top of the quilt frame and the bottom of the quilt frame to serve as hangers on the building. Brackets could be L brackets from the lumber yard or you could use pieces of galvanized angle iron.

Hint: The center seam of your barn quilt should run vertically so rain and snow will drain off and reduce deterioration. Do not pierce the front or top of the quilt with screws. Two eye bolts can be screwed into the frame to aid in the hanging of the quilt.