

## Helping Artist Project of the Month

# Bear Tote Bag and Pin

Created by Betty Bowers, Helping Artist



Betty Bowers, who began painting in 1979 as a way to stop smoking, believes that you "never know where we are going in life, what path we'll travel." A designer, artist, and author of 11 books, Bowers' work has taken her places that she never dreamed of. And...she hasn't smoked since picking up a paint brush.

This charming bear tote bag and pin is a great project for young children and can be personalized for a special children's overnight tote. Betty can be reached at [www.bettybowersdownhome.com](http://www.bettybowersdownhome.com) or by calling 803-286-5505.

## **DecoArt Products Required**

### **Americana Acrylics**

- DAO7 Moon Yellow
- DAO18 Country Red
- DAO58 Antique White
- DAO65 Dark Chocolate
- DAO67 Lamp (Ebony) Black
- DA239 Warm White
- DA259 Cocoa

### **Craft Twinkles**

- DCT3 Gold

### **Craft Twinkles Writers**

- DCTW03 Gold
- DCTW05 Christmas Red

### **Mediums**

- DAS10 Fabric Painting Medium

### **Americana Gel Stain**

DS28 Maple; DS29 Walnut; DS30 Oak (your choice)

### **Sealers/Finishes**

- DAS13 Americana Matte Spray

### **Surfaces**

- Tote bag, Artist Club #40010; 800-845-6507
- Wood bear pin, Betty Bowers; 803-286-5505

### **Brushes**

- #6 & #10 shader
- ¼" & ½" angular
- Liner
- ¾" stencil brush
- #8 flat brush

### **Supplies**

- Pin back
- Super Glue
- Palette or plastic plate
- Water container
- Paper towels
- White transfer paper
- Iron
- Cardboard covered in plastic

## **Instructions: Bag**

### **Preparation**

- Pre-wash tote bag; do not add fabric softener.
  - Dry and press with iron to remove any wrinkles if needed.
  - Cover cardboard in plastic and insert into bag to provide firm surface to paint on.
1. Using white transfer paper, trace on basic lines.
  2. Mix 1 part Fabric Painting Medium to 1 part Americana Acrylic color on palette or plastic plate.
  3. Using #8 fabric brush, basecoat bear and chalk board with Warm White/Fabric Painting Medium mix and let dry.
  4. Remove board from inside and place thin cloth over Warm White-painted area and heat set with warm iron. (This will help the color not bleed through and give good, finished color.)

### **Instructions: Bear**

1. Using #8 fabric brush, basecoat bear Cocoa. Using ½" anglur brush shade with Dark Chocolate
2. Float cheeks and inside ears with Country Red; deepen shading in ears with Dark Chocolate; highlight cheeks with Antique White.
3. Basecoat nose, eyes, mouth, and paint squiggles lines around bear with Lamp Black. Highlight eyes with Antique White; dot eyes and cheeks with Warm White; paint dots with Dark Chocolate.
4. Basecoat frame with Country Red; highlight with Warm White; paint dots with Moon Yellow.
5. Basecoat center of frame with Lamp Black; paint letters and numbers with Warm White.

### **Instructions: Stars**

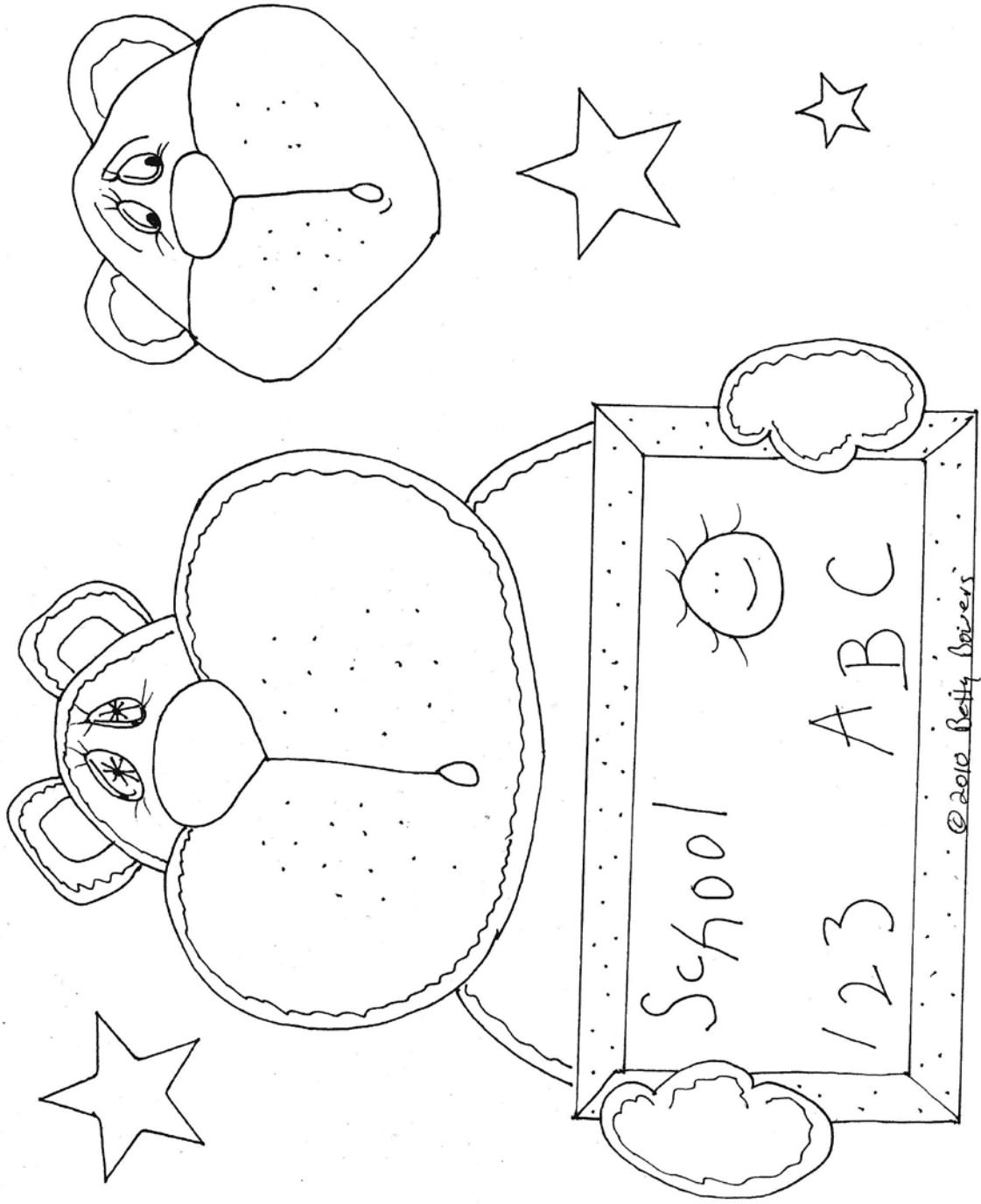
1. Basecoat with one coat of Warm White; let dry
2. Brush Gold Craft Twinkles over each star.
3. Using Christmas Red and Gold Craft Twinkles Writers, dot randomly all over bag, pulling at Gold Craft Twinkles Writers dots with stylus. (This gives them a tail like they are flying.)

### **Finishing**

1. Let dry.
2. Heat set with warm iron.
3. Follow instructions on Fabric Painting Medium package for washing bag.

### **Helpful Hints**

- This is fun project for pre-school children.
- Put child's name on chalk board and use for bag for overnight at Grandma's or friend's sleepover.



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