

STEAMPUNK LIGHT SWITCH COVERS

A SIMPLE PROJECT TO STEAMPUNK YOUR SPACE - A GRIMM DESIGN



Hello! I wanted to share a simple project that is one of many DIY Steampunk Home Decor Projects that I am compiling into a single work.

Customizing your Light Switch Cover is simple, easy and rewarding. This is the simple basics on creating your own version. Let your imagination play!

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MATERIALS:

- Light Switch Cover
- Rub'n Buff (color of your choice)
- One step Crackle Clear Coat
- Mod Podge Glue
- Decorative Paper
- Rub on Letters
- Tim Holtz Alcohol Ink (color of your choice)
- Razor

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STEP ONE :

Find yourself a light switch cover to use as a base. You can find a selection at any hardware store. In this project, I used a cheap 87¢ plastic cover.

Take your Rub'n Buff and cover the front of your base. The back of your switch plate will not be visible. Do the same for the heads of screws that came with it. **TIP:** If you find the Rub'n Buff won't stay on, paint a thin layer of Mod-Podge for it to stick to.



STEP TWO :

After the Rub'n Buff is dry, coat with a thin layer of Mod-Podge. While you wait for the coat to dry, find a piece of decorative paper to use. Avoid glossy scrapbooking paper, it will not work for this project. Cut your paper to fit.

For this project I ripped it to roughly the correct size. I traced the holes for the light switch and cut them out with a razor. I cut them out a little small to help line up. Cutting the holes to correct size comes later.



Coat the plate in Mod-Podge, then carefully align the paper and place it down on the switch. Using your finger to firmly smooth out air bubbles. After it's flat and no corners or ends are sticking up, use the Mod-Podge to coat the entire thing again. Let Dry.

Tip: You can find a wide array of scrapbooking paper and rub-on's at your local craft store.

Tip: If you do not care where the switch holes line up on your paper, don't worry about cutting the holes until after the Mod-Podge has dried.

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STEP THREE :

Let the layer of Mod-Podge to completely dry before continuing on. Once it's dry, take your straight razor and cut out the switch holes. Use the tip of the razor to puncture screw holes.

Now that you know where your holes are, you can begin to decorate with rub ons. Don't forget to use your imagination. This plate cover is for my porch-light and my living room light, thus labeled 'Out' & 'In'.

Once you are happy with the design, it's time to put on the finishing touches.

STEP FOUR :

Now that you have it looking how you want, it's time to add the age effect. Coat the front in One-Step-Crackle, leaving some places thicker than others. This will allow for a difference in the size of the cracks that appear and makes for better effects in the final step. Let Dry.

STEP FIVE :

After you've let the clear coat dry and crack, it's time for my favorite part. Making the cracks come alive. Take your choice of colored Alcohol Ink and apply it to various places. I usually allow the tip of the applicator to drag, drip, and bleed across edges. The ink will follow the cracks making them more defined. You can use as much ink or as little as you want. I used Tim Holtz Mushroom colored Alcohol Ink for this project.

After you've allowed the piece to dry over night, you can replace your current and bland plate cover with the one that you just made.

Simply remove the old plate cover by unscrewing the screws that are on the outside of the plate cover. Replace the cover and screw back into place.

WARNING: Working around electrical fixtures can be dangerous. Never stick your screwdriver or any other object into the box once the cover is removed. You risk electrocution.

The only screws you will need to access are on the outside of the switch plate cover.