

HOW-TO: TRANSFORM A CHANDELIER

By Brookelynn Morris

As the year comes to an end, I say, “Out with the old, in with the pretty!” The world needs beauty, and let’s face it — everything looks more lovely when it’s lit by a shimmering crystal chandelier. Transform a funky, rusty, metal light fixture in one afternoon with Krylon paints. Suddenly your dinner becomes a banquet, and your cocktail party is a lavish bash!

MATERIALS

- » An ugly metal chandelier
- » Krylon Fusion for Plastic spray paint in Gloss Black
- » Krylon Indoor/Outdoor Paint in Satin Black
- » Krylon Glitter Spray in Shimmering Silver
- » Drop cloth
- » Respirator
- » Sandpaper
- » Brush
- » Socket covers to fit the chandelier
- » Light bulbs
- » Wired strands of crystals
- » Wire cutters
- » Gloves
- » Paper towels

Note: If your chandelier has old or frayed wiring, it’s crucial to make it safe. Re-wiring a vintage light fixture can be very daunting, so if in doubt, look to a talented electrician.

Directions

Step 1: Remove the old light covers, and prepare it for paint by sanding the entire chandelier (Figure A). Sand it once with coarse paper, and then again with fine-grit sandpaper.

! WARNING: Be sure to protect your lungs by wearing a respirator when you sand metal or paint.

Step 2: Use a brush to clean off every last speck of dust and debris (Figure B). To keep the contacts from getting painted, stuff the lightbulb sockets with paper towels.

Step 3: Paint the light covers using Krylon Fusion (Figure C). Shake the can, hold it 10" from the plastic covers, and then spray using a smooth, sweeping motion to avoid drips. Set them aside to dry.

Step 4: Paint the prepped chandelier using the Krylon Indoor/Outdoor Paint (Figure D). Shake, point, and paint! Rattle the can as you work to keep the paint mixed, and be sure to use even strokes. To make sure I had the most perfect coverage, I hung my



chandelier over the drop cloth. Then I turned it upside down to make sure I painted the bottom perfectly. Keep in mind that when hung, the bottom of the chandelier will be the most visible.

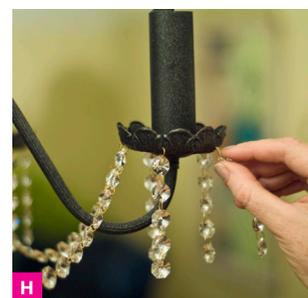
To achieve the best finish, apply many thin layers of paint. Let the paint dry for 10 minutes in between each coat (Figure E, previous page).

Step 5: When the last coat has dried, replace the freshly painted light covers, then spray the whole chandelier with Krylon Glitter (Figure F).

Because the sparkles in the paint will be settled at the bottom of the can, it's important to rattle the paint very, very thoroughly. A little goes a long way with the glitter, so to keep the finish even, keep the spray paint moving. When you have achieved just the right amount of bling, let the chandelier dry overnight.

Step 6: If your crystals are in long strands, use wire cutters to cut them into varying lengths (Figure G). Hang them everywhere on the chandelier (Figure H). I found tiny holes that once held crystals, but you can also attach the crystals using fine-gauge wire. Or just drape long beads and gems over the arms.

Step 7: Add the light bulbs and switch on the chandelier (Figure I). Immediately throw a black tie cocktail party to celebrate!



About the Author

Brookelynn Morris lives near the coast in Northern California. Her current favorite materials include moss and lichen, mushrooms and flowers, wool, and recycled sweaters. Her first book is called *Feltique: A Guide to Feltmaking in All Its Forms*.