

Hand painting Furniture



When we purchased our cabin, the previous owner left a few pieces of furniture. I don't consider them to be my style, yet it is nice to have furniture already there that doesn't

require moving. This plain, brown dresser is a large piece left behind that we moved into the family room. Placed under the flat screen television it houses all the television equipment and family games.

The Original Cabinet



A few years ago, my daughter and I painted it green, sanding the edges for a rustic effect. We left the top of the dresser the original brown. The drawers in the middle look like 8 individual small ones, but they are really 2 large drawers with 8 small pulls.



The Inspiration

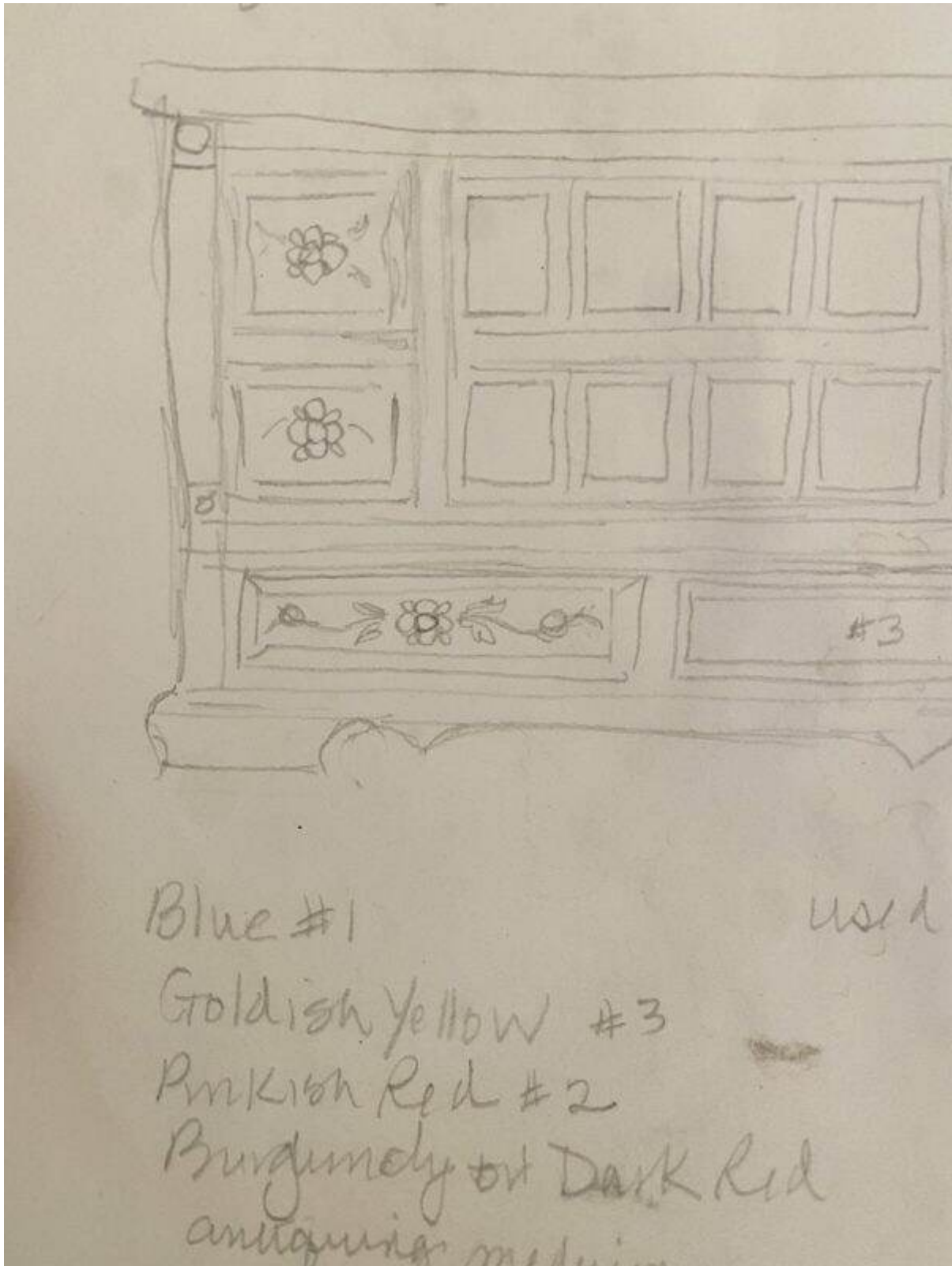
As you know I am trying to add a more Scandinavian/European flair to the cabin (see that previous post [here](#)). Since I have never been in love with this piece, the decision to hand paint

it made sense. Searching the internet for hand painted Swedish antiques, I am inspired by these photos.



The Plan

Starting with a rather rough sketch, the design and colors are developed.



The actual flower design is inspired by this photo.



Painting the Base

The blue and parchment paint choices for the base cabinet are historical colors from [Benjamin Moore](#). Instead of getting full size quarts, I purchase these in sample sizes from [Ace](#)

Hardware. The deep red is leftover paint from a previous project. The actual colors names are up at the cabin but if you need them, let me know.



Most of the cabinet is painted blue; the drawer faces are parchment, and the drawer detail is in red. I do need to put

on two coats of paint to completely cover the previous green. The hardware appears dated to me and I am looking for drawer pulls that are less bulky and intrusive.



At this point, the parchment looks more yellow and I am hoping to add an antique glaze at the end to tone everything down a

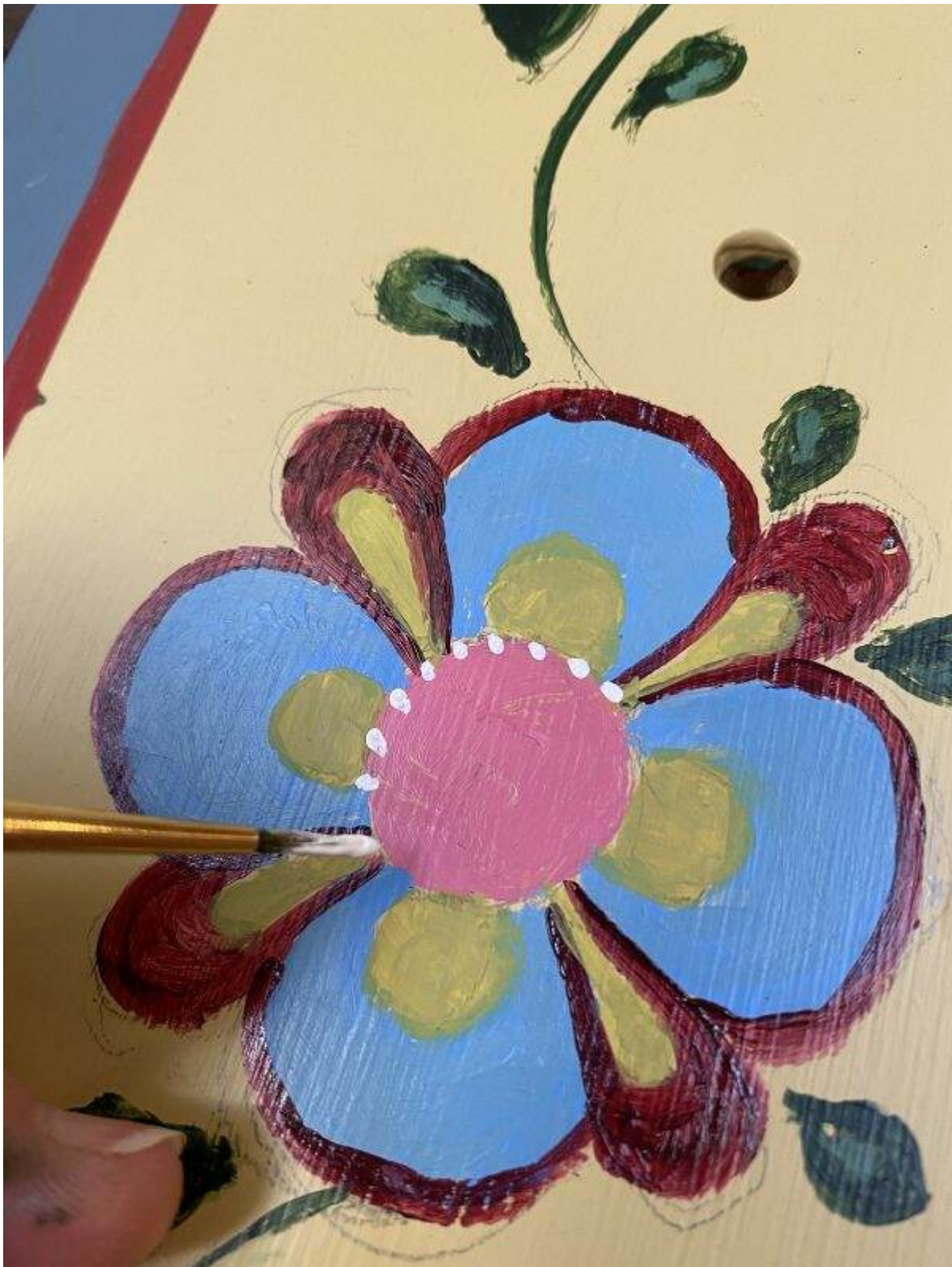
bit.

Adding the Detail



Next, I hand sketch the design on the larger drawers. Using my acrylic paints, I select the color combinations I want to use.

Any mistakes I make I figure I can clean up later.



I paint the large drawers first (2 of them) and then continue with the smaller drawers (4 of them).



The Obstacles

So far I am happy with the results. And now I struggle with what to do with the two center drawers. I attempt to paint them in the same fashion as the larger drawers, but think it

may be too busy. Do I leave them plain blue? So I sit and stare at my options for a few days.



I consult a few of my very artistic friends and ask their opinion. Whatever I do can be always painted over, right?



The new hardware finally arrives! These Restorers Classic Curved pull handles with rosettes are in antique brass. Their smaller profile will be less dominant than the existing ones. See the link [here](#).

But the sizes are wrong for the smaller ones and I am two short on the larger drawers. What was I thinking when I

ordered these? Here you can see the style of the new hardware vs. the old, but the pull is too long. So I wait another 2-3 weeks for the right size hardware.



Adding the Glaze

In the meantime, I decide to paint individual flowers on the 8 smaller drawer fronts and antique glaze the entire piece.





Before glazing



After glazing

The Finished Piece

So here is the finished piece....well, I think it's finished. I am wondering if I should add a red border to the 8 smaller drawer faces? And I am thinking about painting the top blue vs. leaving it wood. Your thoughts?





New pulls from Van Dyke's Restorers





Once I am certain it is "finished", I will put a coat of satin polyurethane over the hand painting to protect it.

Now I just need to find a way to hide the television equipment. It is so ugly, right? I do miss those huge armoires where you could tuck it all away and out of sight.

These colors go nicely with the oriental rug in the family room and adds lots of color to the rather bland walls. And I am so happy to have another daunting project in the rearview mirror!

Happy Tuesday to everyone. We are experiencing the most glorious cooler mornings and beginning to have my cup of coffee outside.....finally after the hottest summer on record.

Yippee!

Mary

If you enjoy this post, please share on Pinterest.

before

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after