DIY: Fireplace Tile Refresh

SUPPLIES:
PAINTERS TAPE
PAINT
RULER / STRAIGHT EDGE
PENCIL
STENCIL

LEVEL: ADVANCED
TIME: 48 HOURS

Christa's studio already had a working fireplace surrounded by tile, but the room was so dark and lacked the bold, energy that Christa possessed. We worked together to develop a simple pattern that would be an instant focal to the room.
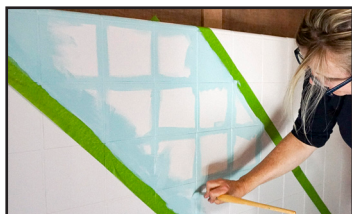

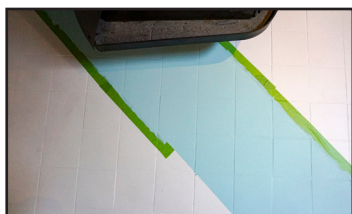**SELECT A LOCATION FOR THE FOCAL POINT.** This should be where you want your eye to be drawn to.

CREATE YOUR PATTERN. Christa wanted the pattern to align with both her aesthetic and that of the house. Christa and her husband have a killer sense of art and design (both being professionals in the industry) and we agreed on a simple, but bold graphic X.

CHOOSE YOUR COLORS. Since her studio is on the lower level, I wanted to inject light into the space and incorporate a bit of color.
Prep the area. We used painters tape to protect the fireplace and surrounding wall. We also used a bit of Goo Gone to clean the area and remove the residue from usage.

PAINT YOUR BASE. We used Valspar Flat Latex Paint in Alabaster for the base color. The type of paint is a paint and primer, which was helpful when painting white over a darker tile. To achieve our final, crisp white, Christa ended up painting three coats. As mentioned, Christa had the background painted prior to our arrival (thank goodness), which meant we didn't have to wait for the background to dry. If you are doing this at home, be sure to wait until the background color is completely dry before outlining your graphic.

OUTLINE YOUR GRAPHIC. We used a yard-length metal ruler and compass to mark out the angles of the project, using a light pencil to draw an initial line. To achieve the crisp, hard lines we wanted for the graphic, we again used painters tape to mark out the area.

PAINT. As you can see, we painted the edges and grout first, to ensure hard lines and full coverage in the grooves between each tile.

Once this detail work is done, you can go in with a larger brush/roller (depending on your needs) to cover a larger area.

This appears to be more work, but trust me, you'll notice if coverage isn't even in tile grooves.

GIVE IT SOME TIME TO DRY Incredibly important to follow this step. Let the paint completely dry before removing the tape. If the tape is removed too early, lines might not be as crisp and there is a chance for smearing (I speak from experience).

Ed. Note: When painting a high-traffic area, such as the floor or fireplace tile, we recommend using a sealant to ensure paint isn't damaged and can be easily cleaned.