Scrapbook Dress-Up... With Paint

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WITH A FEW DABS OF PAINT, a little ingenuity and patience you can make your scrapbook pictures more life-like by tinting them.

You can learn to tint, and you'll join many college girls who tint pictures for a hobby, coloring fireside and formal photos to fill their scrapbooks or to brighten their bulletin boards.

A complete tinting set, which includes a basic set of oil colors, round tooth picks, long fibered cotton, carbon tetrachloride, kneaded eraser, plate or saucer and thumbtacks, costs around $5.00. With the renewal of two or three of the most frequently used tubes of paint, this set will last you at least six years.

Before you start to tint be sure you are comfortable. Good lighting is important. As soon as you are situated, fasten the picture down with thumbtacks. Next squeeze the paint, making BB-shaped balls, into the saucer. Apply the carbon tetrachloride solution with cotton over the entire print, and you're ready to start tinting.

Skin coloring

Now, with another piece of cotton wipe the entire background with a neutral color. Don't worry if it over-runs the figures, for one color erases the other. Apply the hair color evenly over the hair in the picture. Next go over the face and neck with the flesh color, rubbing the color right over the eyes and teeth. Try to blend the hair color with the flesh to avoid a harsh outline.

One advantage of tinting is that if you make a mistake, all you have to do is smear some carbon tetrachloride solution on the print and start over again.

Using a tuft of cotton apply the girl's cheek color delicately over the flesh color, blending it outward. Do this step lightly or the flesh color underneath will be removed, making an unnatural blush. Blend into the skin with dry cotton.

Now you're ready for the finishing touches. With a toothpick wrapped with cotton highlight the hair, nose, forehead, cheekbones and chin. Remove flesh color from the eyes and teeth with the kneaded eraser. With dabs of paint, color the lips, eyes and clothing.

Stand back and look at the finished photo. You'll see more depth and a color reality that'll have you teaching others the hobby of tinting.

Applying your tint

For best results use a neutral color for the skin tone. Use the paint sparingly and blend it evenly. If you make a mistake don't worry. With a little cotton and carbon tetrachloride you can easily wipe the picture clean again.