

Pretty in Pink



Here's a great idea for a spring make-over of a child's room, particularly one with sloping walls or deep dormers.

This girlish approach wraps up the room in one pretty package with a ribbon and bow motif. Full of adorable detail, the bi-color scheme draws the eye down from the irregular walls (cloaked in a solid color) to the plaid base. And though the end result looks complex, the individual steps are a cinch.

What You'll Need

Supplies:

- Low-tack painter's tape
- Carpenter's level
- Mixing pails
- Brushes
- Roller
- Roller tray
- Pre-cut lengths of molding for chair rail
- Tennis balls
- Latex gloves
- Several plastic plates



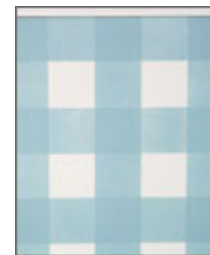
Paint:

- Chair rail: (Bermuda Breeze 1345 in Regal® Matte paint; Regal® AquaGlo® Semi-Gloss White)
- Plaid: (Clearlake 738 in Regal® Matte paint , mixed with Studio Finishes™ Latex Glaze.)

Step-By-Step Instructions

Step 1: Prime the entire surface with Benjamin Moore Fresh Start® primer, if needed (new construction, a dark hard-to-cover color, or a glossy finish). Allow to dry.

Step 2: Measure the wall, floor to ceiling, and mark the space where you plan to install the chair rail. Again, divide the wall using a 60/40 ratio, with the smaller part on the bottom. Using a roller and tray, paint the top portion of the room down to the chair rail with the solid color (pictured: Bermuda Breeze 1345 in Regal® Matte paint), making sure to extend a bit below the top edge of the rail.



Step 3: Install the chair rail, which can be any piece of simple molding, in the shape or detail of your choice. As a short cut, prime and paint the molding the day before installation (pictured: Regal® AquaGlo® Semi-Gloss White). Fill any nail holes with putty, then sand and touch up with White when dry.

Step 4: Starting from a corner, place a vertical strip of tape, running from the chair rail to the baseboard. Now rip off several small tape sections as spacers, placing them at the top, middle and bottom of your first strip.

Step 5: Line up your next strip, using the spacers as edge guides. Repeat around the room. When all the vertical strips are up, remove the spacers.

Step 6: Brush or roll paint between the sections of tape (pictured: Regal® Matte paint in Clearlake 738, mixed with Studio Finishes™ Latex Glaze). Pull off the tape strips as soon as you're finished painting, then allow the paint to dry overnight.

Step 7: Repeat the taping procedure, working in a horizontal direction. Place your first strip under the chair rail, then work down, checking occasionally with a carpenter's level to make sure your strips are straight.

Step 8: Brush or roll paint between strips. Again, remove tape as soon as painting is complete.

For Bows

Step 1: Choose two or three colors for the bows, then pour a small amount of each on separate plastic plates.

Step 2: Roll a tennis ball in your first color. To avoid drips and smears, remove excess paint by rolling the ball on some paper.

Step 3: Using the palm of your hand, roll the ball against the wall in the shape of a bow. Allow to dry. Repeat with additional colors. Touch up any mistakes with a piece of sponge and paint, or if paint is still wet, simply wipe off with a damp cloth.

Helpful Hints

- For a more balanced and harmonious effect, don't divide the wall right in the middle. Measure the space floor to ceiling, then use a 60/40 ratio, with the solid upper wall color covering the larger portion.
- The hand painted bows are easy to produce by dipping a tennis ball in paint, then rolling it against the wall with the palm of your hand. Practice first on a big piece of cardboard or plywood to get the hang of the technique.
- Think big – or at least, mid-size. The plaid pattern and bows look busy and cramped if you make them too small. As an added incentive, the bigger the pattern, the faster the job.