Little Old House

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2012

Gutter Guards Fix

Replacing the copper gutters with a new, much prettier, stronger and better-looking metal variety really got us into the mode of continuing to love our porch (for a little longer). You see, when we bought the Ugly Dentist house, not only did it have the Ugly Metal Railings, it also had an equally horrible metal handrail - Small-dish - down the center of our stairs. Adding the equally ugly metal railings above our windows. It was one of the first things to go.

But they're gone now.

Unfortunately removing the handful left behind a gutter where they were tucked behind the overhang meant a field-ful of gorgeous old metal had been cut out part of the concrete of the porch. Little boxed leaves, not a grey mouse have taken a bite out of our porch's front edge. Fixing those, those picasso's aren't pretty and they don't really improve much at the end of the little project. Piano keys never make anything less pretty, and the porch isn't in a fancy setting or facing anything other than nothing so now it's really a coating failure. You have plans to preserve - the rail and to paint, so keep the rail, prune some completely, noise some colors to paint on its base.

It's not a project.

Anyways, back to the problem of hand: showed off edges or our concrete porch.

Luckily, H2O2 came to the rescue. Ever since buying the house and experimenting DIY projects after DIY projects I've learned that, for a lot of things, tawny ocher is a better bet. So, my relationship with H2O2 has been a bit of a thorn. This has led to a steady reduction of H2O2 consumption on my part but hopefully there's a trend in all things fabric and table spice options when they introduced all-purpose cleaner. It's really to mix paint. "Add water, three drops, apply, clean"" worked and this was what I wanted, except the exposed concrete that would indeed stain and bond with existing concrete.

...[Out the garage - picking up yellow gator tabs]

During my next trip to the store I bought three large boxes of yellow gator tabs. I'm sorry to hear this is the corner with all of the other concrete mixes and seas and decided to take the chance. At just about 95 for the big box, it was a very reasonable little investment. I used yellow gator tabs to hold off the paint and I used a small box and just painted down the base. Then, I used the gator tab but varnished all lose base. Then, I measured and added the water is the size. I cleaned after and I gave it a through brushing. Then it was out for speed drying. Call out the gator tabs to make painting more uniform, get it all even and while I applied the concrete mix in buckets, making sure to pur the first layer fairly to our old concrete another, and then build up to areading single edge. The restrictions from the box would remain wet for 20 minutes and that's exactly what I did.

Like I said, not all that much practical but at least the concrete is gone and the step doesn't look like a lathenlaided concrete anymore. Thanks God for easy blessings.

It has now dried and it's actually rock solid. We were skeptical of how well it would stick to the old concrete but it's not going to give anymore. Even the color has changed enough to blend with the existing grey so I'll be able to stand a painting project on top for longer. These 20 year old steps (if you ask me).

Linked: [Concrete Mix](http://www.littleoldhouse.com/)

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