

Illumination for the Artistically Inept

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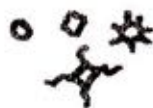
1. Start with a nice curvy line. Continue around the entire area reserved for illumination.
2. Begin to add stems. Keep in mind that this is a vine. All the stems should come off the main vine in the same direction.
3. Add leaves to each stem.
4. Continue to add leaves and stems. Don't be too concerned if there are open areas or if a leaf doesn't come out just right.
5. Fill in the open spaces by adding little squiggles for vines or use some of the seed variations. Continue to fill in the open spaces until the design pleases you.
6. The leaves can then be painted with gold gouache for a fancy gilded look. Outline each leaf and seed with black. Ink over the lines for your vines.
7. You're finished! Now sit back and admire your work!

To fancy this up even more you can evenly space flowers throughout the vinework, or you can add a thin border and have the vine weave around it.

Take a look at the real thing! This illuminated page is based on plates found in the Visconti Hours, a 15th century book of hours.



leaf variations



seed variations

