French Style "Cafe" Sign

This crafting project is quick and easy and a cute, cute, cute addition to your kitchen (or any other room in your home!)   All of the materials you'll need can be purchased at your local crafting or discount retailer store. You can probably find many--or all--of the materials around your house.

Materials:

A piece of wood in your choice of size. For the "Cafe" sign, a 16-inch board was used.
acrylic crafting paint
crafting wire
small nails
stencils (optional)
old rags

Tools

hammer

Let's get started:

1) Choose the paint colors for your sign. You will need one color of paint for your "base" coat (the bottom layer of the sign) and as many other colors for the lettering and design as you choose.
 Quick tip: To keep this project simple and quick only two colors, red and white, were used and white was chosen as the "base" color.

2) To complete the "base" of your sign choose the base color. I used white with varying shadings and painting techniques (like the "weathered" finish with the checkerboard pattern). Check out your local crafting stores for a wide variety of stencil options that you could also use to complete a "base". Let the base coat dry.

To achieve the "weathered" look of this sign I first painted the entire board with white crating paint, wiped it with a slightly wet rag, and then repeated. Then apply the stencil (or freehand). Let this "base"coat dry completely.

3) Next you will be painting your wording on the sign. Again, I just free handed the lettering, but lettering stencils are available. A tip on lettering: Look through magazines at story titles for type settings you like and try to duplicate it. You really can't go wrong with this part of the craft because you want the sign to look old and weathered. Just let your creativity guide you!

Let the sign dry.

4) To prepare the sign to be able to be mounted you will use the small nails, crafting wire and a hammer. Turn the sign over and place a pen mark where you will place the nails.

5) Select the length of wire you want to use to hang the sign. I didn't want the wire to show after I mounted my sign on the wall, so I stretched the wire taunt across the back before I hammered in my nails. I used a 26 gauge crafting wire because I already had it handy with my crafting supplies. To ensure that it was strong enough to hold my sign I doubled the wire over to increase the thickness. You local crafting store should have several wire gauges available.

6) Take your nail and wrap the crafting wire around it 4 to 5 times. Place the nail on your marked spot and hammer it in. Repeat on the other side. And that's it! Choose to display the completed craft in heavily trafficked areas of you home so everyone can remark on your beautiful sign. And be prepared to answer "Where did you get that adorable sign?"

The options with this project are unlimited. Make them as gifts for friends and family-personalizing them for each individual. These signs are so easy to make-and so inexpensive-you may even want to make 2 or 3 for yourself.

IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS:

Garden theme signs

Bathroom theme signs with phrases such as "BATH 5 cents" etc...

Kitchen theme signs such as "Daily Special"

Instead of using nails to secure the wire to the sign, get creative and purchase inexpensive hooks from a hardware store and create a "hanging" style sign. Hang this sign above your house plants!