



**AUTO-AIR
COLORS**

custom automotive paint

Marcel Venable of Venable Concepts prepares the hood with a base color of Auto Air Iridescent Electric Blue which is next cleared then wet-sanded with 1000 grit sandpaper to create a smooth, flat surface for Blake to paint his newest creation - Sweet Heart.



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Blake begins by sketching his rendering with chalk onto the hood. By working over a clear, the chalk will later wipe away clean without risk of blemishing the underlying base paint. Although a top-coat clear was used, the base paint may also be protected by using an inter-coat clear such as House of Kolor SG100.



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Using Auto Air Transparent White reduced with 4011 Flash Reducer, Blake begins to create the image by following the outlines drawn in chalk.

The white base will later work to highlight the dimensional shadowing of the contours on Sweet Heart.



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Transparent Black outlines Sweet Heart's dark edges and creates form against the blue background. The outlines are made in the areas where the figure will be at its darkest and its shadows deepest.



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After the white and black shadowing and outlining cures, HoK KC-20, a post-sanding degreaser, is used to clean the hood of the chalk. The degreaser also removes some of the over-spray, leaving behind a cleaner image to work from. Not all degreasers work the same with Auto Air as some will remove the paint. Test first.



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Facial features are first created with Transparent Black allowing some over-spray for a soft edge. Transparent White is used to highlight the lightest portions of the face such as the bridge of the nose. The value of over-lying colors used for shadowing and skin-tone will reflect the white and black, creating dimension.



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Where a crisper line is needed, such as the eyes, colors are over-reduced with 4011 Flash Reducer so a lower operating PSI can be used to achieve detail without over-spray. The white highlights will later be tinted with top-coated transparent colors used for the skin tone, creating dimension.



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A grey mixture of Auto Air Transparent Root Beer, Blue and Smoke Black begins the shadowing over the white and black shades. Transparent Black is added to the mix for darker shadowing and for facial lines. The grey mix marries the black and white for smoother transition and helps fill in any grainy texture.



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Sweet Heart is surrounded by flames. Transparent White is applied as a base to highlight the Transparent Apple Green and Candy Emerald Green mixture. The green candy mix is reduced 1:1 with Auto Air 4004 Transparent Base for the UV protection necessary to prevent the candy from fading.



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The green candy mixture tints some of the white highlights in the darker shaded areas, portraying the flame's warmth. The flames serve as a secondary source of reflective light on Sweet Heart, the first being the source of light coming from above.



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Only a sparing amount of the green candy mix is needed to tint the highlights in detailed areas. As the water-based colors come to life once the clear is applied, the candy green highlight's effects are more pronounced than they appear prior to being viewed through the clear's gloss.



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The flames cover portions of the arm, making Sweet Heart appear to rise from the flames. Strips of skin between the arm's bones create a decayed look.



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Transparent Root Beer is mixed in generously with the grey shadowing mixture used in step #8 to create the skin tone. Being of the same colors, the skin tone blends well over the facial shadowing.



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The transparent colors used to make the skin tone allow it to darken gradually the more color is built up for shadowing along the skin's folds and contours.

The skin tone color is over-reduced with 4011 Flash Reducer to pull fine lines used for the cracks along the skull and ears.



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The transitions from light to dark are gradual to avoid any stark contrasts between black and white. The dark areas are a grey from the skin tone mix instead of black.

The white is generously over-reduced, allowing the underlying color to tint the white for a subtle blend. The candy green from Step # 11 illuminates the white highlights closest to the flames.



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Transparent Red Oxide is over-reduced to make the blood-shot detailed lines in the eyes. The over-reduced white glazes the pupil for a sickly-sinister look.



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*Hooks and strings are anchored into Sweet Heart,
making his airbrushing subject to the whim of someone else.*



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Mark Remling applies several coats of a catalyzed urethane clear over the artwork. When top-coating water-based paint, a slower reducer in the clear works best for optimum adhesion to the paint. A few light acclimation coats are first applied, followed by several wet coats, burying any surface texture and ridges between the artwork and base. After the initial application is sanded flat using 1000 grit wet, a few flow coats are applied before the finish is cut and polished.



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*Cross-Eyed's
Sweet Heart*



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