

# *AirSick* ZOMBIE THEMED COFFIN TANK

BY SEAN CAHILL



In this tutorial we have chosen to paint a wild looking old-school coffin gas tank. If for some reason you don't have a coffin shaped tank, don't worry. The design we have come up with can be easily transferred to most any size tank available. We will be using the new Zombie Stencils by **AirSick** and an intricate border that has been cut using a plotter for speed and accuracy.



# PROJECT SUPPLIES

- ANY PAINTABLE SURFACE
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- RAZOR BLADES
- DOUBLE ACTION AIRBRUSH
- MINI GUN OR LARGE SPRAY GUN FOR BASE COATING
- MIXING CUPS, STICKS

## PAINT



WICKED  
BLACK



PTHALO  
GREEN



WICKED  
YELLOW



WICKED  
WHITE



## STENCILS USED AVAILABLE AT [AIRSICKSTENCILS.COM](http://AIRSICKSTENCILS.COM)



ZOMBIE CRAWLER 1



TOMBSTONES 1



MAUSOLEUM 1



ZOMBIE SILHOUETTES 2B

*AirSick*



## STEP 1



### Grey Basecoat

I'm using two shades of grey that I have pre-mixed using HOK black and white. The lighter grey is made by mixing 20% Black base and 80% White. The darker is a mix of 40% Black base and 60% White. Your specific tone may vary and you may have to adjust to your liking.

I base-coat the tank first in the lighter grey. When it is dry, I apply the vinyl border decal (STEP 1) and get ready to re-base the tank in the darker grey color. (See our tutorials on mixing and base-coating at [Airsickhowto.com](http://Airsickhowto.com)) I begin spraying the darker grey color using light passes to build the color slowly (STEP 3). If I really hammer the color over the decal I can run into problems when the masking is removed. If done right, the design will really pop off the tank because of its contrasting lighter color. We will be adding a drop shadow for even more separation later in the tutorial.

Don't get impatient! It's not time to remove the masking just yet. We need it to stay down until all the artwork has been completed.

## STEP 2



## STEP 3





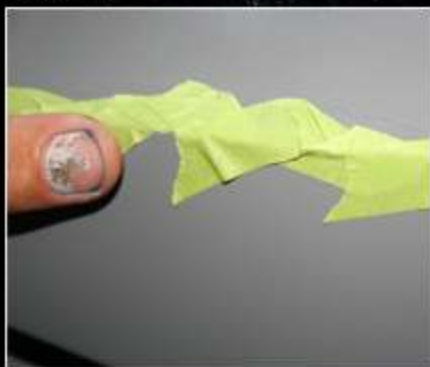
#### STEP 4



#### Masking

Dark grey has been applied evenly over the entire surface (STEP 4). The next step will be to mask off any and all areas we want to keep grey. I'm using 1/2" masking tape and needed to get a little creative with it due to the fact that we are working with a quite busy design.

#### STEP 5

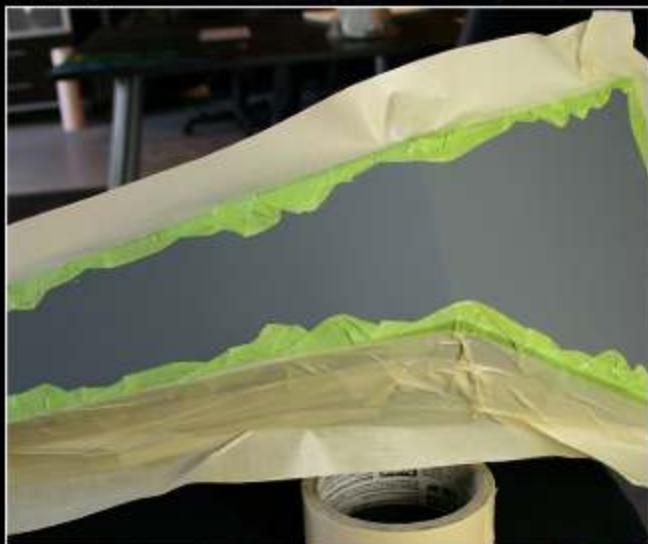


#### STEP 6



I am careful to follow the lines all the way around, making sure all the edges are pressed down. I use the 2 1/2" tape to mask larger areas around the tank (STEPS 5,6). You can use paper or auto mask to do this as well. I left each end of the design open and unmasked. I don't want any hard edges made by tape so I will come back in later with my base (dark grey) color to fix any overspray issues I may have in that area. Now that the areas around my design have been protected from overspray, I can use my airbrush to lay down a few light coats of black base in the empty spaces (STEP 8).

#### STEP 7



#### STEP 8





## STEP 9



After I darken in both sides tank where the artwork will sit (STEP 8), I move into composition and placement of the stencils (STEPS 9,10,11).

I begin with the front portions of the tank's sides using the "Zombie Silhouettes 2B" stencil as a positive shield to block paint as I create an eerie smoke effect in the background (STEP 9). Using white base I move quickly to make the outer rim of the objects glow - also, taping these stencils down while you work will give you nice sharp lines. With the silhouettes in place and looking good, I add a row of tombstones down the side of the tank using the "Tombstones 1" stencil from the AirSick Zombie Series (STEP 11).

## STEP 10



The Zombie Silhouettes stencil really does all of the work for you. With just a few passes of paint, I have achieved a highly detailed scene featuring two lurking zombies, an old gate, rocks and broken tombstones.

## STEP 11



Just like the Silhouettes, the positive tombstones at the top of the stencil makes this step fast and easy.



## STEP 12



I then load a brush with Wicked Yellow and another with Wicked Phalo Green. I remove the stencils and fog the yellow - over the white from the bottom up (STEP 12), and the green from the top down, (STEP 14) fading them into each other. I do this lightly as to still see the design through the color.

During the painting of the yellow and green, I am using the stencils for quick masking to keep the colors off the black as much as possible (STEP 13)

## STEP 13



## STEP 14



Just like painting realistic fire, I want the background fog to have a lot of depth, so I need to build up multiple layers. The green and yellow are starting to look good, but I need to add some white to help boost the contrast and depth.

I go back to white and refine my design by laying the stencil back in place and fogging in some more lines (STEPS 15,16). This will act as my base for the final green and yellow washes.

## STEP 15



## STEP 16





## STEP 17



Here are some detail shots of my final layers of white on this side of the tank (STEPS 17,18).

I make this final layer of white much more intense than the last, then proceed to use the same green and yellow combination. The final result is shown in STEP 19.

## STEP 18



## STEP 19



By building multiple layers of fog, the dark silhouettes really stand out against the background, and will deepen even more when the clear-coat is applied. I repeat this process on the opposite side of the tank, being very careful to copy my steps as close as possible, and achieve a uniform look.



## STEP 20



I am using the exact same tombstone layout as the first side, but I use the second stencil from the "Zombie Silhouette 2B" set, to give this side it's own unique element. After closely looking over the layout and composition of both sides of the tank, I decide to add some interest to the tombstones, by slightly off-setting the stencil - this results in a slightly beveled edge, which give the tombstones a more three-dimensional look (STEP 21).

## STEP 21



This slight bevel will add quite a bit of dimension to the background elements.

## STEP 22



With everything on this side looking good, I begin my final layer of white fog, following the same steps as the previous side of the tank, and As before, I finish off this side with light washes of green and yellow.



## STEP 23



After completing the sides I move on to the top. I have completely masked off the sides of the tank to protect the artwork, and fogged in the whole top of the tank with black (STEP 23).

I then fog in the "Mausoleum 1" stencil with white on the upper part of the tank (STEP 24).

## STEP 24



## STEP 25



Using the "Tombstones 1" stencil again, I add a few silhouetted tombstones and background fog off to the side of the mausoleum.

## STEP 26



I then fog in my "Zombie Crawler 1" stencil near the bottom of the tank.



## STEP 27



Before beginning the detail work, I add a slight drop shadow around my masked border (STEPS 28,29). I begin following the lines provided by the stencils (STEPS 30,31). This design takes a lot of brush control and you may find following such tight lines to be challenging, but take your time and use these images as reference for your rendering.

## STEP 31



With the stencils layed out, I want to add a few quick details that will help out my composition before moving on to detail work.

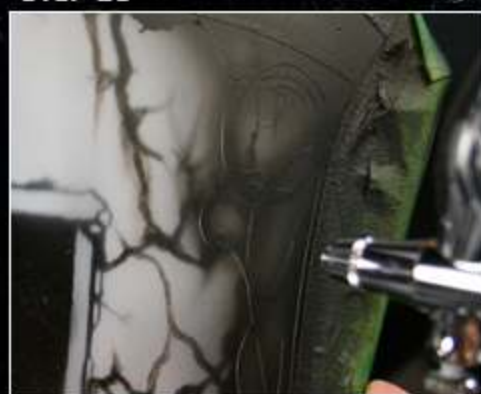
Using white, I add some ground below my zombie crawler (STEP 27). This will ensure that he appears to be crawling accross the ground, and not floating above it.

I then load my brush with a fairly reduced black with a few drops of violet for color. I keep my black over-reduced to help with the paint flow while I am up close to the surface

## STEP 28



## STEP 29



## STEP 30





### STEP 33

I want the Zombie Crawler's finger to slightly break out of my masked border - this will give the illusion that he is actually crawling right out of the tank - pretty scary huh! I carefully cut the masking around his finger with a blade (STEPS 32,33)

The rendering of the mausoleum is a pretty easy task, just follow the stencil lines to enhance the cracks and add some shading for depth. We also added a stipple effect by spraying some black & white paint against a paint stick (STEP 33).

### STEP 32



### STEP 34



### STEP 35



Here I am adding the drop shadow below the border masking on the left side of the top of the tank (STEP 34).

**For a more in-depth tutorial on stippling, check out our Diamond-Plate tutorial at [AIRSICKHOWTO.COM](http://AIRSICKHOWTO.COM)**



## STEP 36



I continue following the lines and cracks. I lightly shade and render the rounded surfaces and push the dark spots into black. I render the entire piece in this fashion until I have the look I want. Because of the subject matter, I am going pretty heavy on the dark elements and background shadows.

I then come back in with white and use the stencils to define edges and brighten spots closest to the light source (STEPS 36,37). This will help the images to stand out from the background and appear to have dimension. If for some reason you are unhappy with the way things are turning out, simply secure the stencil back down and start over with white. I may do this several times in certain areas during a painting.

## STEP 37



Using the stencil as a mask allows me to quickly brighten the eyes, as well as the highlights for the top of the zombie's head and teeth.

## STEP 38



Here I am adding highlights to the top of the mausoleum, as well as the walls and the broken pillar. Keep your light source in mind during this stage of the painting.



#### STEP 39



#### STEP 40



I now have the image just the way I want it. I keep the contrast on the bright side so I can keep as much detail as possible when the color is applied.

Wicked Yellow is now used to tint my artwork by laying down a few light coats over the entire surface (STEP 40). In the next step I will be coming in with green for the darker areas of the piece.

#### STEP 41





## STEP 42



I then come in with green and begin fogging it into the dark areas of the piece. This will push the dark areas far into the background (STEP 41).

I also use the green to enhance the drop shadows of my masked border (STEP 42).

## STEP 43



## STEP 44



As I did with the sides of the tank, I come back in with white to brighten the brightest highlights on each image (STEPS 43,44,45). Because I want the Zombie Crawler's hand to be the topmost element, I add some of the brightest highlights to it (STEP 45).

## STEP 45



## STEP 46





## STEP 47



After the highlights have been punched up, I fog another few light layers of Wicked Yellow over the piece (STEP 46).

As you can see, all of my white highlights turn a much brighter yellow. The highlights still need to be intensified, but the tank is looking pretty good at this point.

## STEP 48



## STEP 49



I come in with my final layer of white highlights (STEPS 47,48) - Here I am mainly focussing on the zombie's brain, eye sockets, face and hand. With the final white highlights completed (STEP 49), I fog in one last light layer of yellow (RESULT IN STEP 50).

## STEP 50



## STEP 51





## STEP 52



I now compare my latest work against both sides of the tank, making sure that all 3 sides are equal in brightness and intensity. You may have to adjust color as needed.

This step is extremely important to consistency of a paint job like this. With all of the time and effort that has gone into this project, it would be a disaster if the color/intensity of the top and sides of the tank did not match.

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When I am happy with my artwork, I remove all masking except for the border design. I can now follow the border with reduced black and create a drop shadow to help separate the border from the base color of the tank (STEPS 52,53,54).

Now that the drop shadow has been added to all borders, I finally remove the border mask revealing the light grey color underneath (STEPS 55,56).

## STEP 56



## STEP 57







We hope that you all enjoyed this AirSick Step-By-Step, and learned a few new tricks along the way. The new AirSick Zombie Stencils are a great time saver for projects like this - they allow you to get quick layouts accomplished, so that you are able to spend your time on the rendering and details of your projects.

Feedback is always appreciated, so feel free to drop us a line with any questions, comments or feedback.





**PRINTER  
FRIENDLY**





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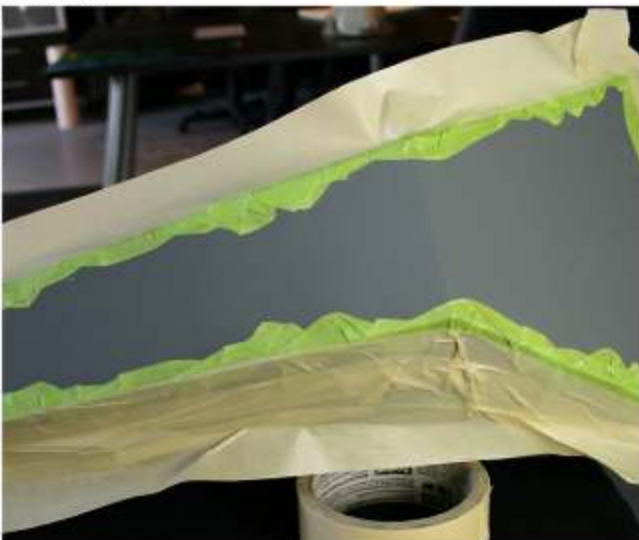


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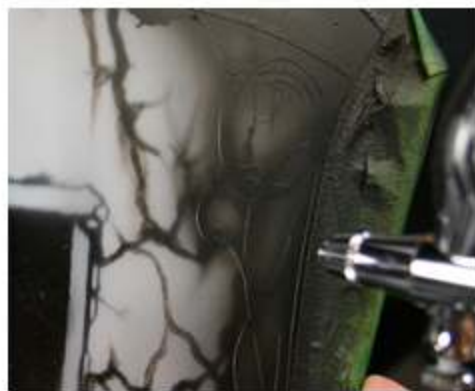


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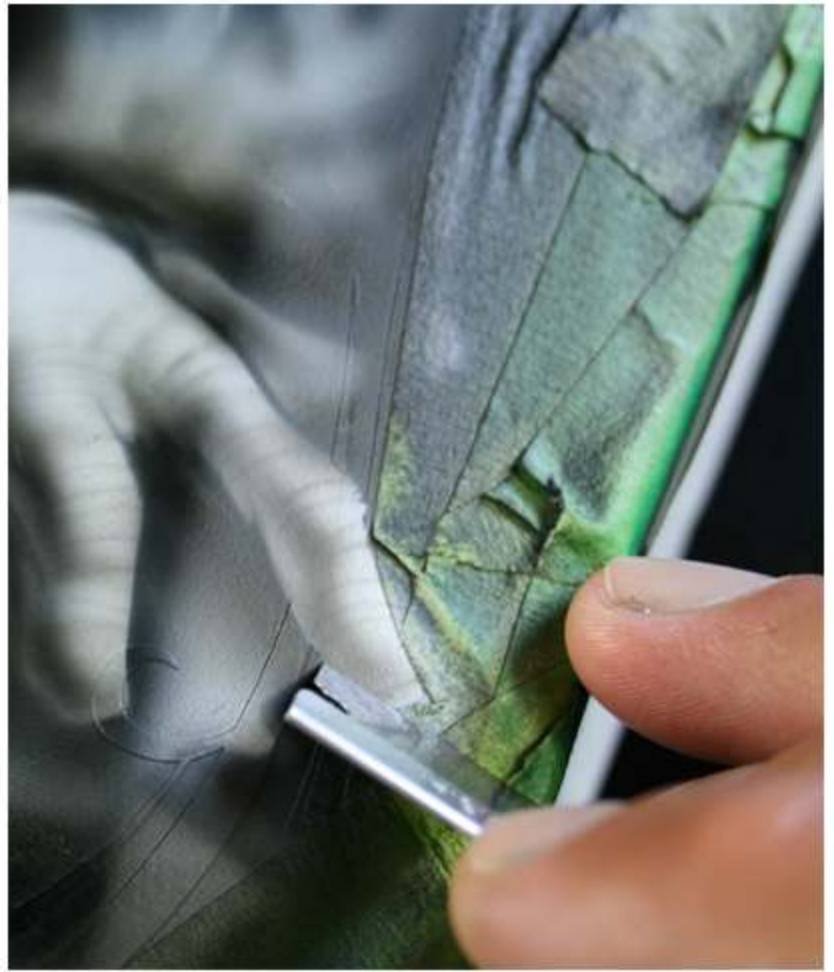


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