

ARTOOL INSTRUCTOR SERIES:

MASTERING THE NEW Kustom Kulture STENCILS - PART 9

"ALL THE REST OF EM!"

**"Everything you wanted to know about
your new stencils, but were afraid to ask."**

By Craig Fraser

In the previous column, I covered the use of the *Sacred Heart* stencil, number three of the six-stencil series. Although I tend to jump around a bit in this column, I do try to present complete sets consecutively. This installment marks the grand finale of the Kustom Kulture stencil set of Artool's latest releases: *Aces n' Eights*, *Pistons n' Plugs*, and *Lucky 7*. This series is inspired by the hot-rod artwork of Ed "Big Daddy" Roth, Larry Watson, Robert Williams, Von Dutch, and the like who have defined the kustom culture that has so skyrocketed in popularity in recent years. I wish to dedicate this series to their legacy and continued influence on a new generation of artists.

Well, since it's pointless to try and describe them in writing alone, I'll just start paintin' with 'em!

Craig Fraser, author of *Automotive Cheap Tricks and Special F/X*, has been airbrushing for nearly two decades. The owner and operator of Air Syndicate, Fraser has also been the in-house airbrush artist and designer for Kal Concepts since 1992. Located in Bakersfield, Calif., Kal Concepts/Air Syndicate specializes in custom graphics, automotive airbrush, and the fine art of the custom culture. Craig divides his time between working in his shop, writing magazine articles, and instructing. He has also appeared in a number of instructional videos, and is credited with pioneering the original automotive custom paint workshop for the Airbrush Getaway more than 10 years ago. Craig works directly with a number of manufacturers to develop new and innovative custom paint products. You can check out his artwork at www.gotpaint.com.



STEP 1. I really like the way I've been doing the separated graphic on the panels the past couple of articles, so I decided to keep it up. This time however, I painted a tribal graphic instead of a flame. Laying out designs on small panels is a great way to discover new styles and shapes, and it only costs a roll of tape.



STEP 2. With the graphic masked off, I airbrushed a layer of House of Kolor's HoK BC-26 white with an Iwata TR-1 trigger gun, applied in a graduated pattern to create a slight smoke effect throughout. This provides a good background. Light on the right, and darker on the left to do the stenciling over.



STEP 3. *Aces n' Eights* is probably the easiest of the three to work with. By just moving the stencil and flipping it around achieves the illusion of a very random design that took hours to lay-out and cut. Of course, we know different. . . heheheh. All you have to do is position it, mask the edges, spray some black, and you have the cards.



STEP 4. Using the edge of the same stencil I airbrushed the dropshadows with an Iwata CS to add some depth to the cards.



STEP 5. With *Pistons n' Plugs*, I airbrushed a few of the stylized pistons, flames, plugs, and wrenches into the piece with white. These last two stencils are what I call "icon" stencils. You can use them to create cool images to detail later, or as background noise to your kustom kulture design.



STEP 6. Switching to *Lucky 7*, I continued to layer in the icons with the HoK white. The spider webs make a perfect corner design for any art piece.



STEP 7. I wanted the panel to have an even spacing and random placement of icons throughout the open area. The different sizes of plugs, V-8 symbols, flames, dice, et al, work perfectly for this. Don't forget that all of these icons add a very hip kustom kulture pattern to your graphics or mural work.



STEP 8. I came back with the same white to fill in some of the positive areas of the designs. The dice, pistons, and wrenches look cool right from the stencil, but a little filler gives them some body.



STEP 9. Using black in the Eclipse CS, I detailed and defined the white icons. This little extra attention to detail gives the stencil images that freehand look. Amazing what a little freehand airbrushing can do to your stencils, and what a few stencils can do to the time it takes to create a design!





STEP 10. In this step, I brought back the dice and airbrushed some of the furry edges. Perhaps the nicest thing about stencils is that you can always reposition them over the design with the identical image to spray through. This is definitely convenient when going back and forth with black and white in your rendering.



STEP 11. The final, and favorite part of any automotive graphic is the unmasking. Normally, I would pinstripe the separating graphic, but in this case I kinda liked the bare black and white edge.



FINAL: Well, there you have it: the final three installments in stencils can substantially reduce your work load and elevate your art to the next level. I never advocate stencils as a replacement to your creativity, or as a permanent alternative to freehand airbrushing, but merely as a tool to bridge your creativity and maximize your efficiency. So, grab your airbrush and your favorite stencil and get to work!



Tune in next issue for the continuation of our stencil adventures. Since I have completed the Kustom Kulture series, which one shall I drag out of the bin next???? Stay tuned and find out. If you have any comments, suggestions, or requests, please submit them to Craig Fraser at Fraser@gotpaint.com

Paint to live, live to paint.....and sometimes with stencils....Fraser