AirSick
Short Circuit

A HI-TECH STEP-BY-STEP

PAINTED BY SEAN CAHILL

Welcome to another exciting AirSick step by step tutorial! This time around we are going to be getting a little hi-tech with some killer circuit boards, tech-shapes, Diamond Plate and sci-fi inspired tubing. The stencils we are using throughout this tutorial will make great additions to any airbrush artist's arsenal, as they allow for the quick and easy layout of extremely complex elements. Thanks for taking a look, and don't forget to have fun and experiment.

Now... Lets get tech with it!

STEP 1

As with all airbrush projects, taking your time in the planning stage will really pay off in the end. We start this project by masking off our entire panel, which has been prepped and base coated black. The overall layout is sketched directly onto our masking material. We will be starting with the circuit boards, so those are the first sections that we will use a razor blade to remove (step 2 & 3)

STEP 2

STEP 3

With the two main sections carefully cut out and removed, we are ready to move onto laying down the background color for the circuit boards.

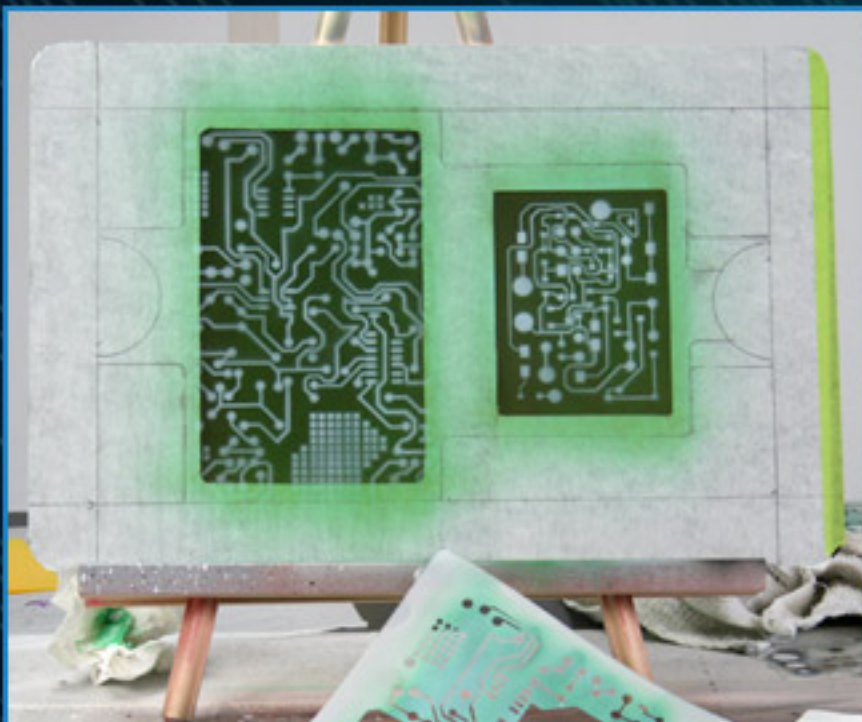Be sure to hold on to your cut-out pieces for re-masking to protect your artwork

STEP 4

A coat of HOK Limetime Green (PBC38) will provide the background to start the circuit board stencil work.
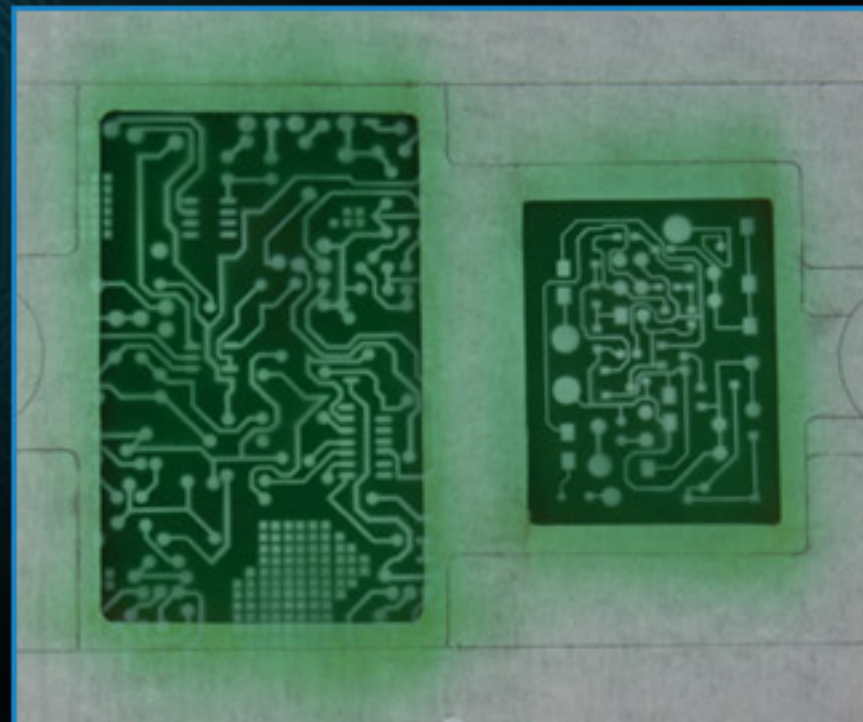
STEP 5

We want to build some depth into the circuitry for added complexity, so we will be working with multiple layers of paint. The first circuit layer (step 5) is simply sprayed lightly with white (BC26)

We are using the "CIRCUIT BOARD 1" stencil as well as the "MINI CIRCUIT BOARD" set
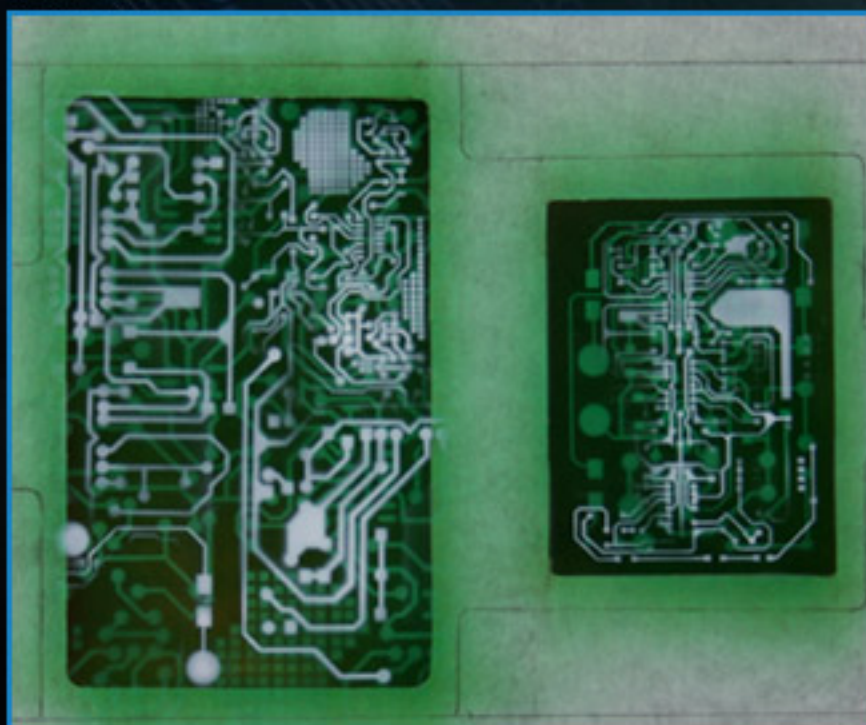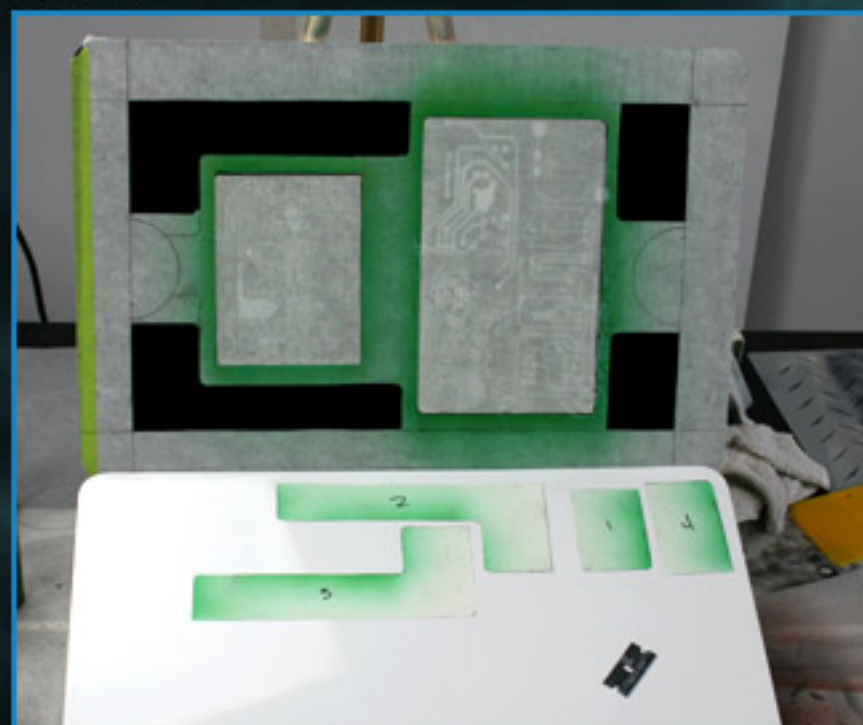
Available at AirSickStencils.com

STEP 6

In order to stack another layer of circuits on top of the first, we must tone down the white from the previous step. We Use Limetime Green (PBC 38) to apply a wash. This will blend the layer more with the background and provide the basis for adding the top layer

STEP 7

For the top layer, we are using a combination of the "CIRCUIT BOARD 1", "CIRCUIT BOARD 2" and "CIRCUIT BOARD 3" stencils with white (BC26). By using two layers of circuits, we create a much more complex and interesting look.
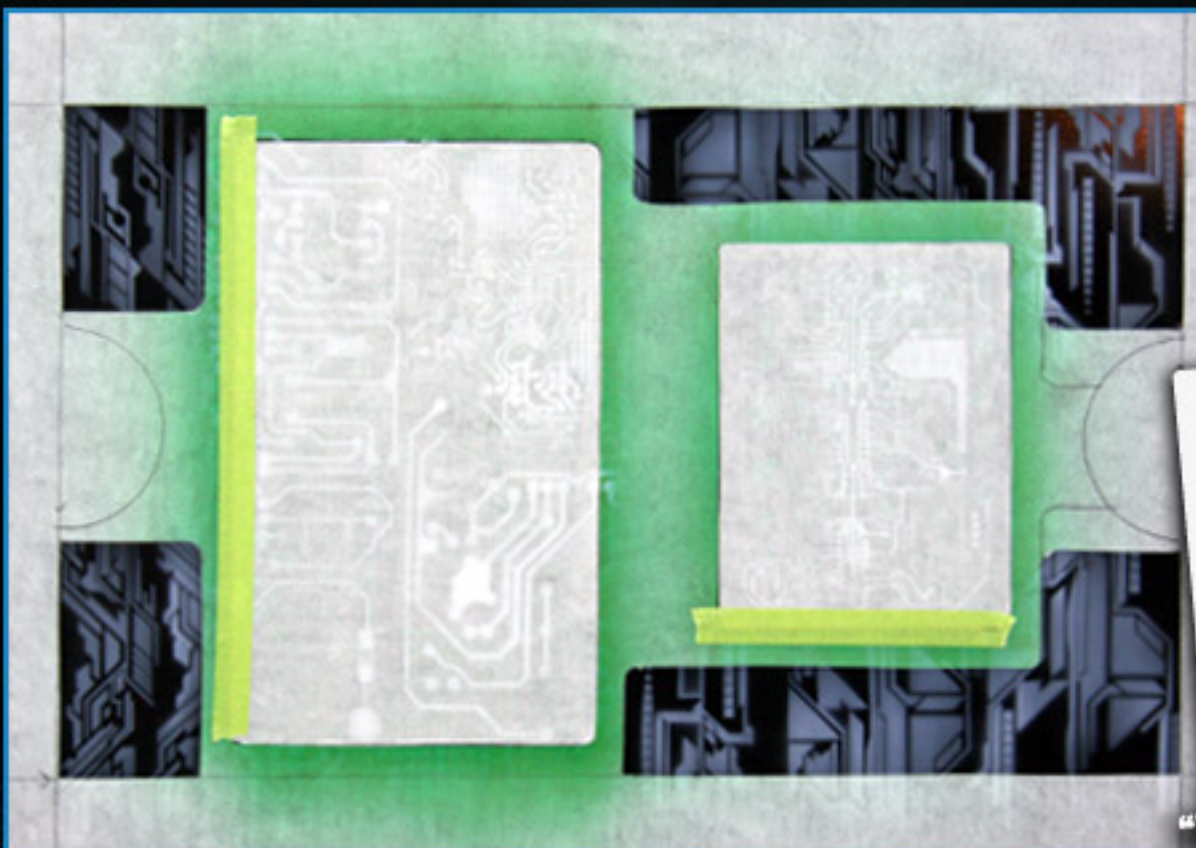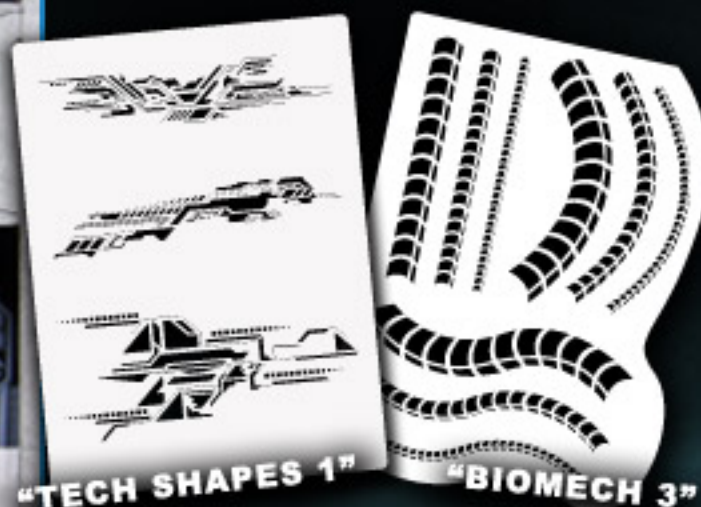
STEP 8

With the circuit sections re-masked, we move on to the secondary elements of the panel. Once again, this is where planning and patience really pay off. We label the sections as they are cut out, to better identify them when the time comes to re-mask the panel.
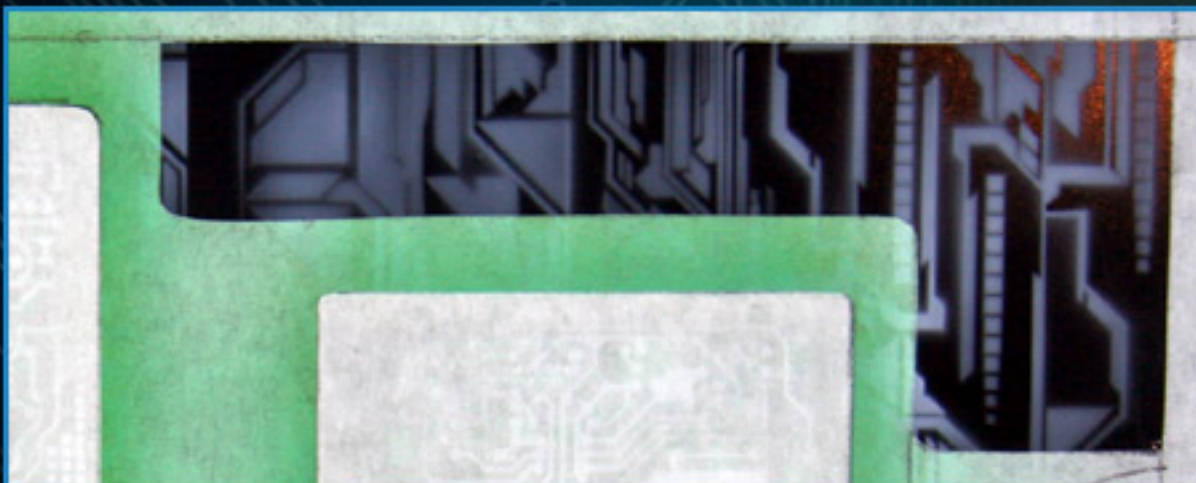
STEP 9

Keeping in line with the theme, we fill in the outer background spaces of the panel by using the "TECH SHAPES 1" stencil. This stencil is perfect for creating highly detailed futuristic looking circuitry and backgrounds
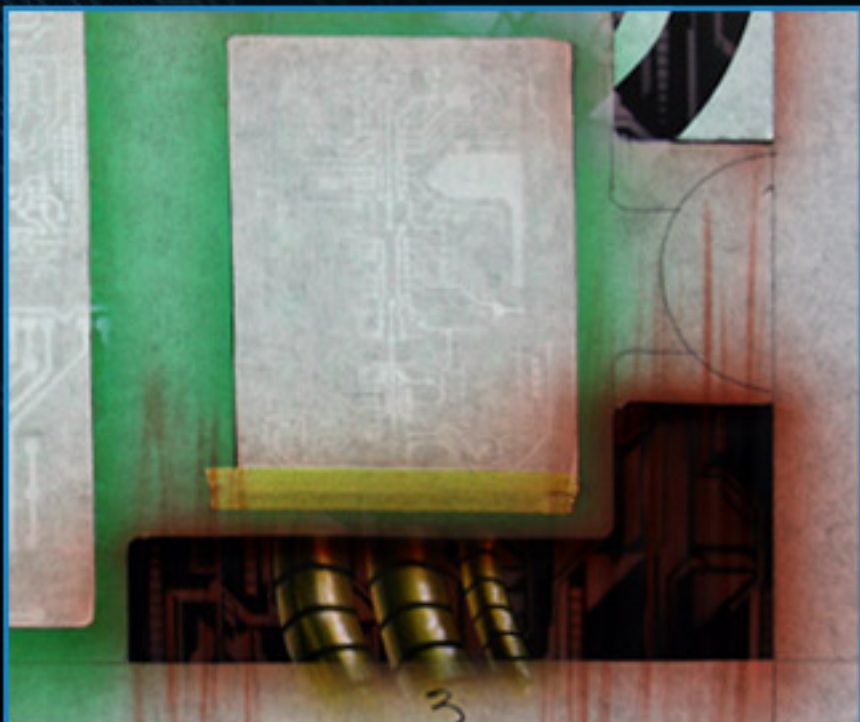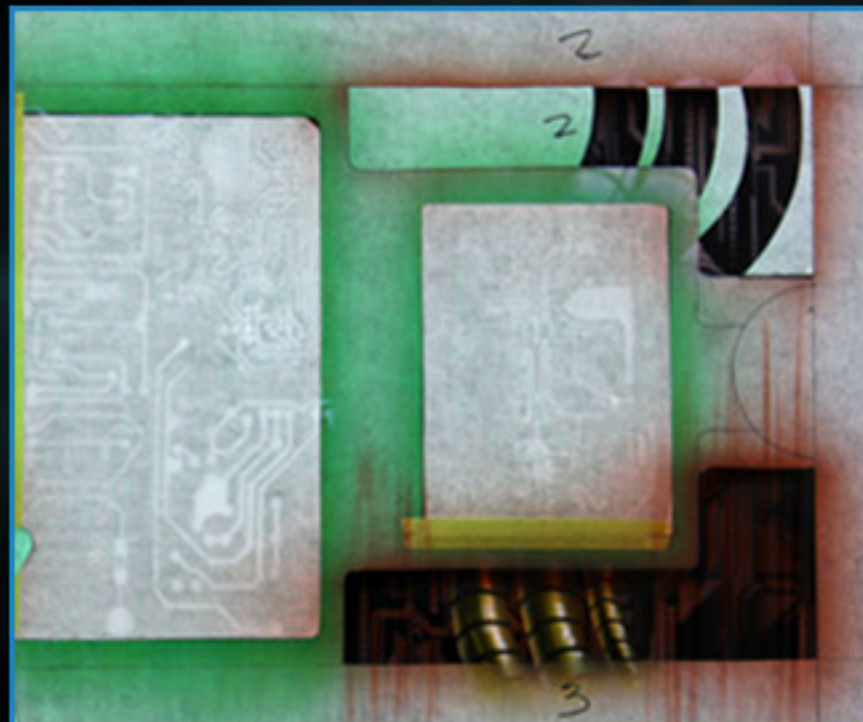
"TECH SHAPES 1"   "BIOMECH 3"

STEP 10

Detail

With The "TECH SHAPES 1" stencil work completed, we give the entire background a layer of Tangerine Candy (KK08), which gives us the rusty red tone. We now can add another level of depth to our panel. We decide on some pipes overlapping the background (STEP 11). The pipes are quickly laid out with our "BIO-MECH 3" stencil. For the color of the pipes, we use a combination of white, black and gold (BC26, BC25 and KK12). By quickly dusting the stencil onto the masking you are able to get the exact shape to cut out and remove to avoid unwanted overspray on your background design (see Step 12)
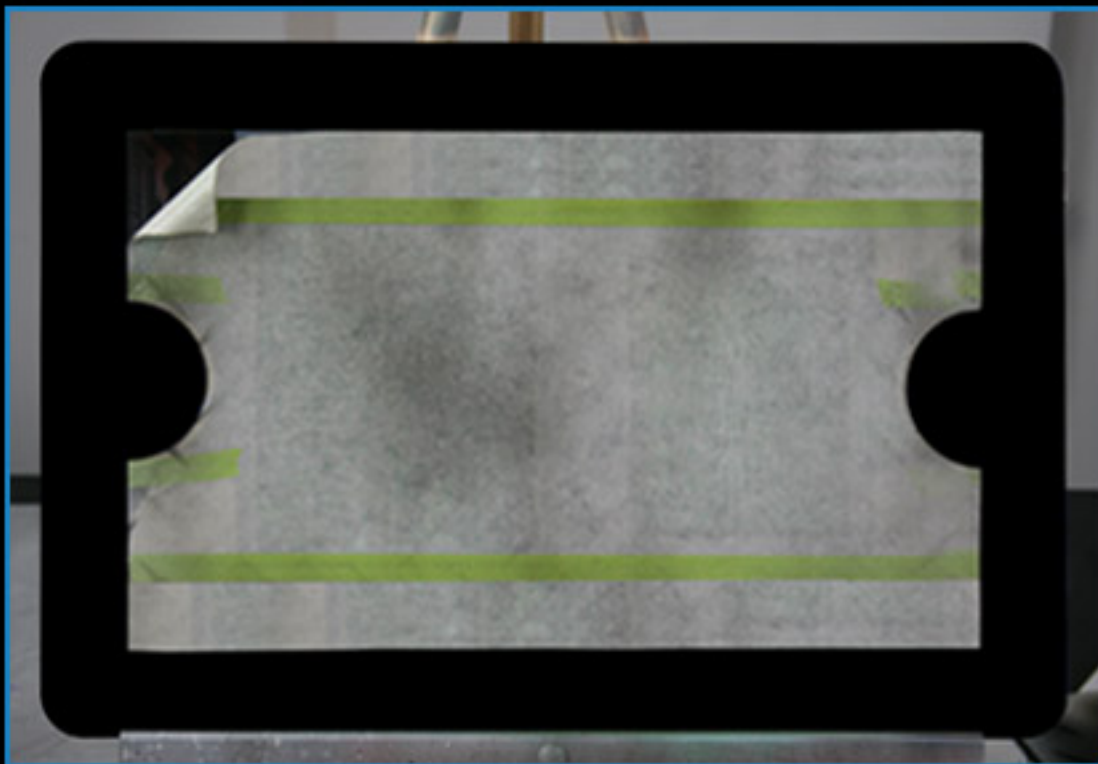
STEP 11

STEP 12

STEP 13

STEP 14

With the majority of the main artwork completed, we re-mask the entire center portion of the panel and leave only the border exposed (STEP 13). We use a stippling technique to achieve the granite/concrete looking base to lay our diamond plate on (STEP 14).

We are not going to go into too much detail on the diamond plate and stippling process in this tutorial (please see our "DIAMOND PLATE" tutorial on the main page for a full overview on this subject).
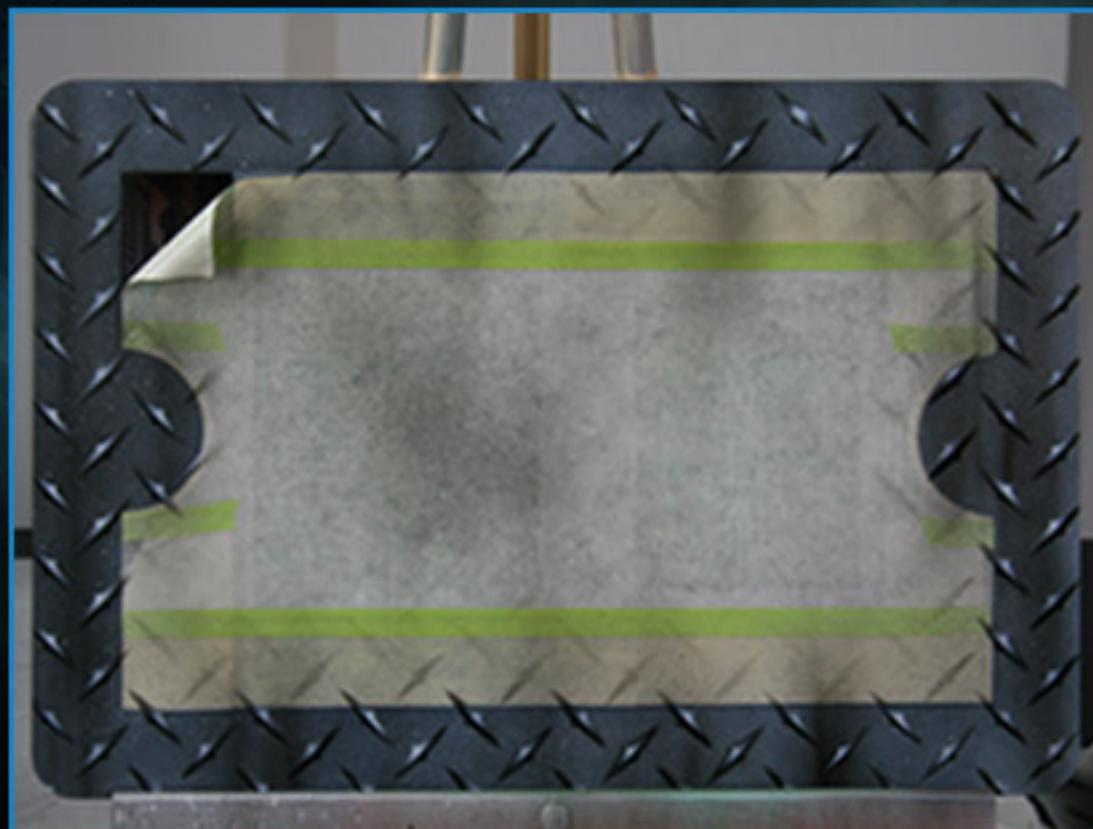
The AirSick "DIAMOND PLATE" stencils are easy to use, and can cover large areas quickly. Each set comes with a full sheet of both the diamonds and hilights. Laying out the diamond plate is a simple process of first spraying the diamond shapes into the panel (STEP 15), followed by setting the highlight page over the top and spraying the hilights with white. Check out the full length "DIAMOND PLATE" tutorial for a much more detailed overview.
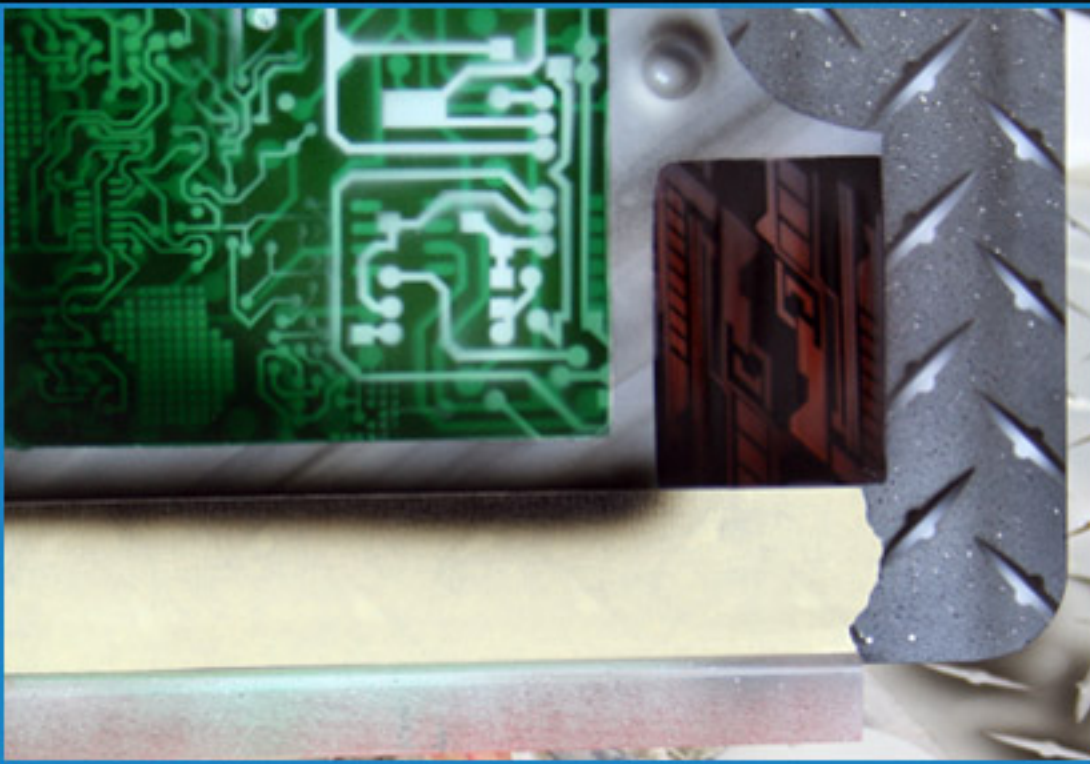
"DIAMOND PLATE 2"

STEP 15

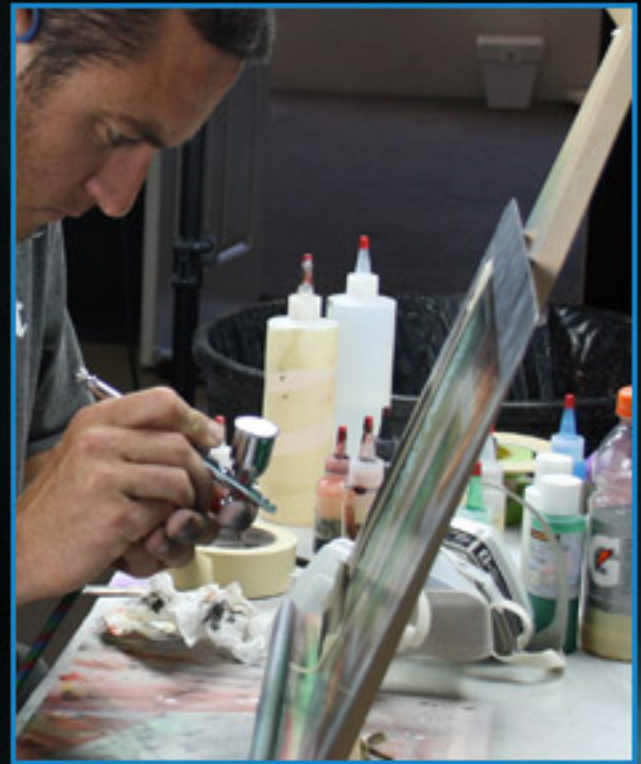**STEP 16**

STEP 17

STEP 18

The final stage of the painting is adding the drop shadows. This step is essential to enhance the illusion of depth. Since most of the composition is essentially squares and rectangles, this process is fairly quick. We start by masking along the bottom border (STEP 17), followed by the top border, and then the sides. Keeping a fairly good distance from our painting (STEP 18) and spraying in long sweeping strokes, we keep the shadows smooth and subtle.

We use the same process after masking the borders of the circuit board sections (STEP 19)

Step 20 shows the final result of the applied drop shadow
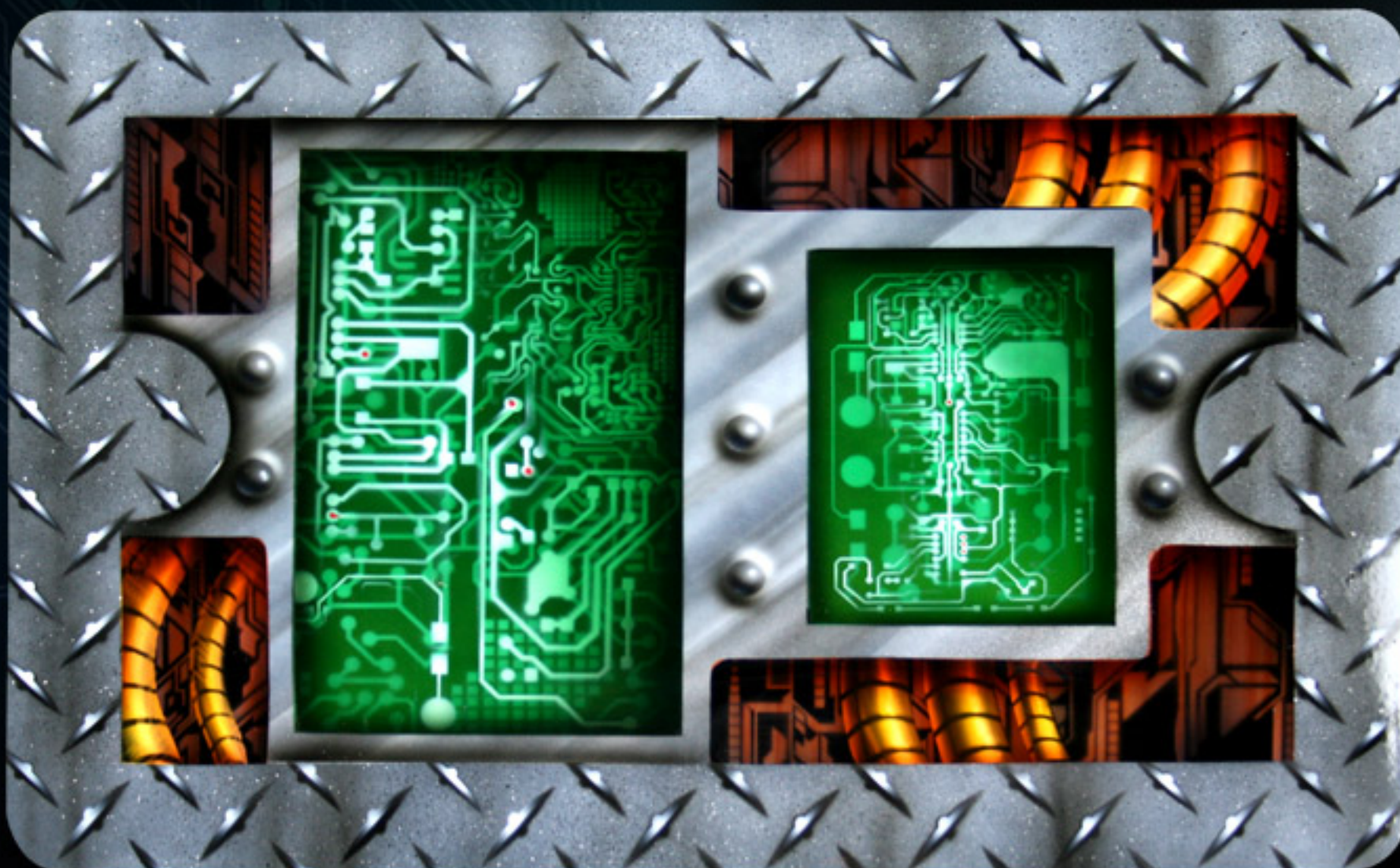
STEP 19

STEP 20

Fig 1

As easily seen in this detail shot (FIG 1), the drop shadows really enhance the illusion of the circuit boards being set underneath the metal hardware.

The potential applications for this type of artwork are nearly endless. Although this example was simply painted on a panel, this design would work great on computer towers, laptop covers, guitars or even motorcycle tanks.

We had a lot of fun putting this tutorial together, and we hope you all enjoyed it! As always feedback, questions and comments are appreciated

- AirSick Stencils -

PRINTER
FRIENDLY

AirSick Short-circuit

A HI TECH - STEP BY STEP

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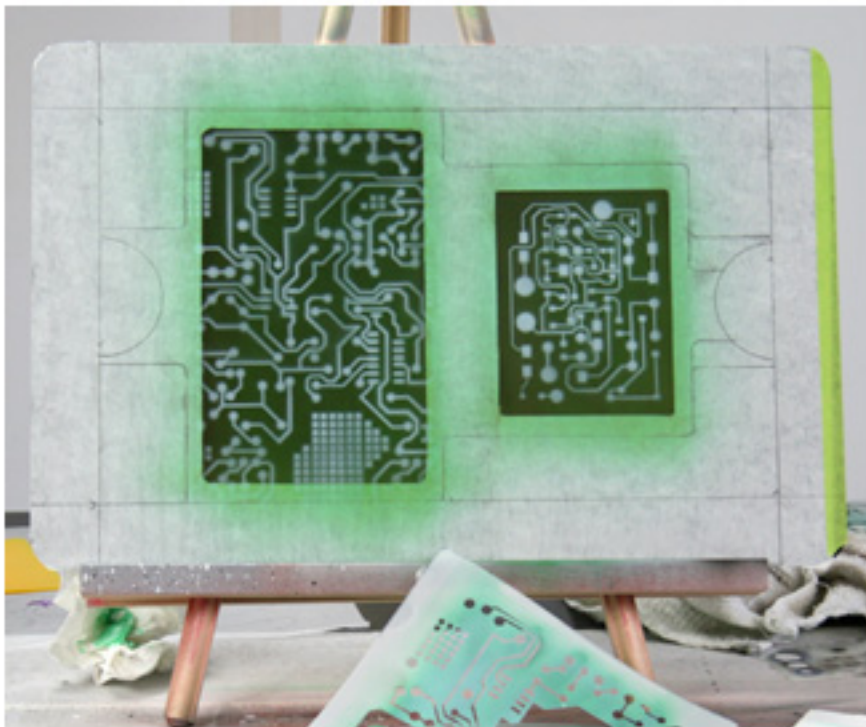Be sure to hold on to your cut-out pieces for re-masking to protect your artwork

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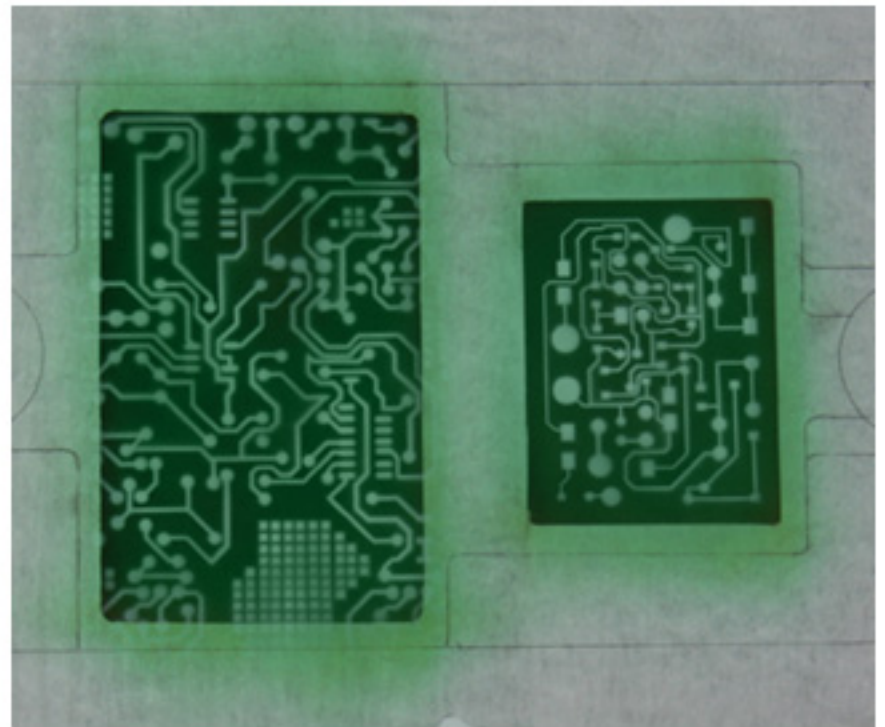
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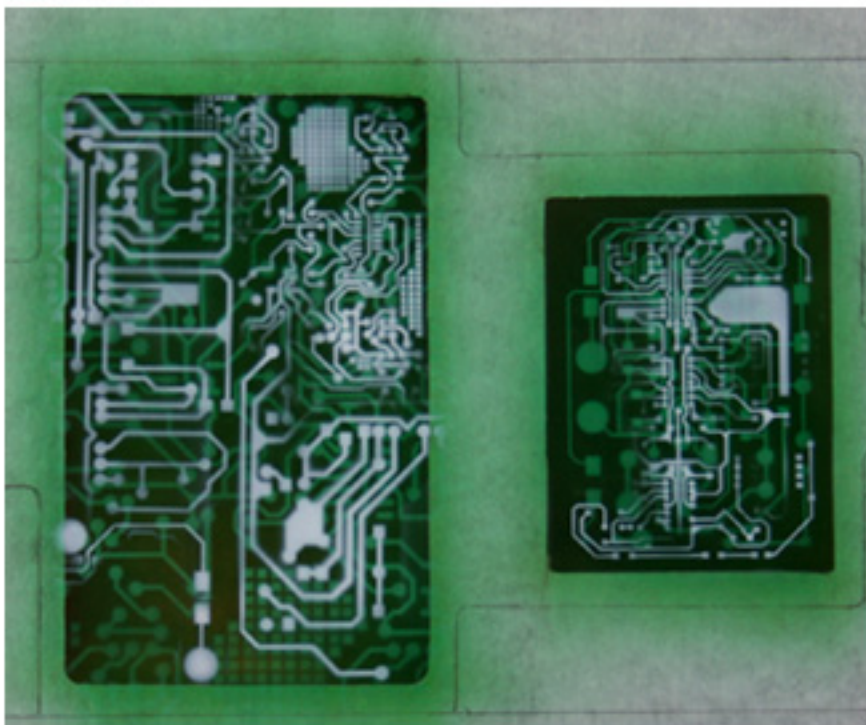
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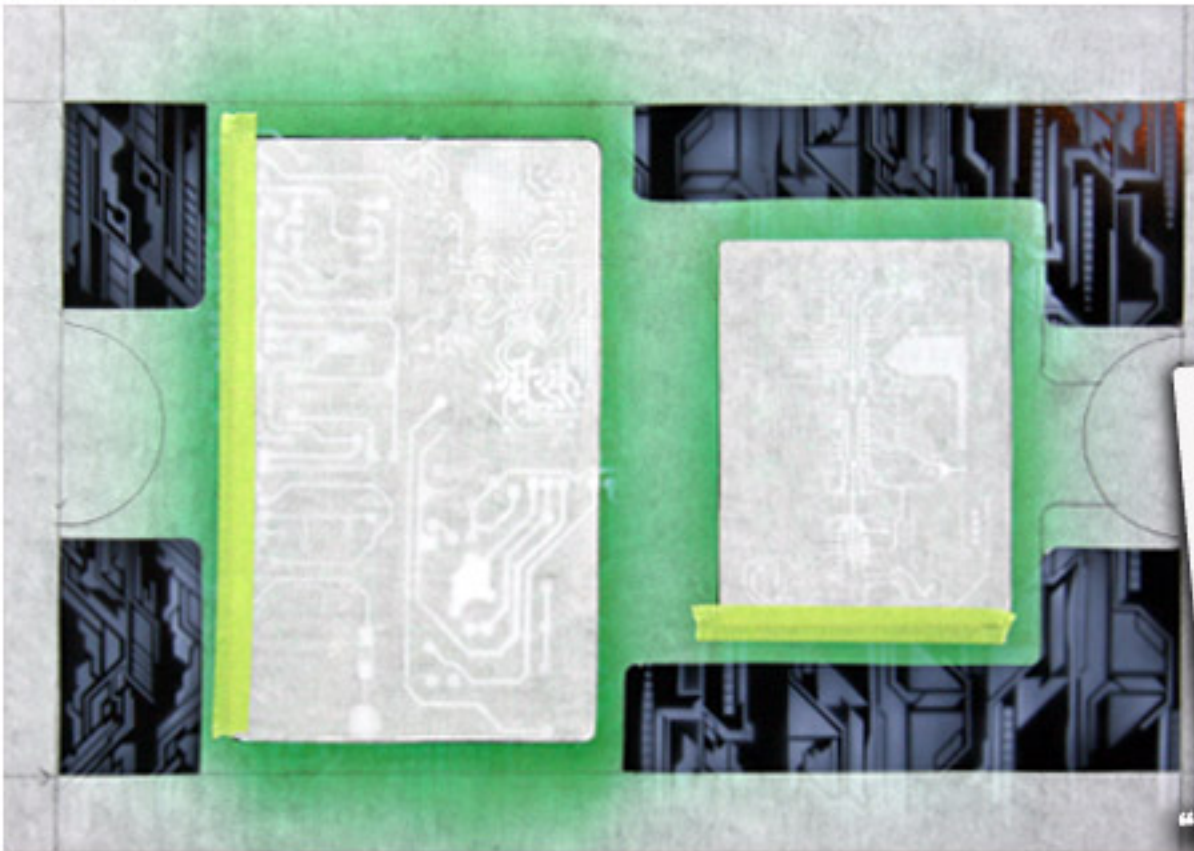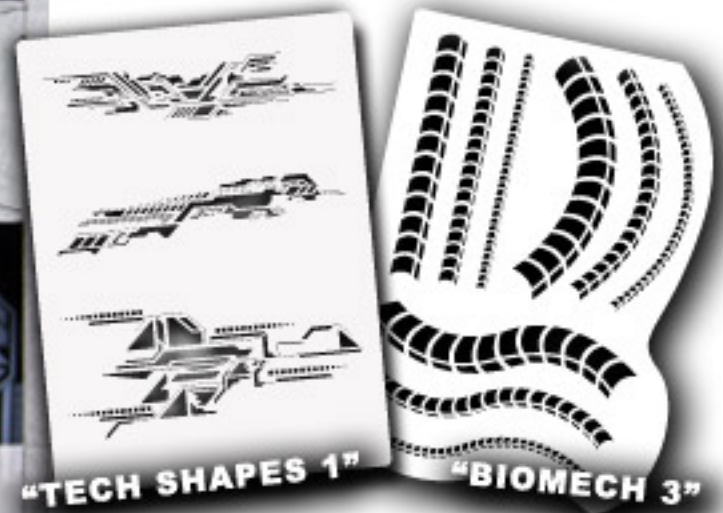
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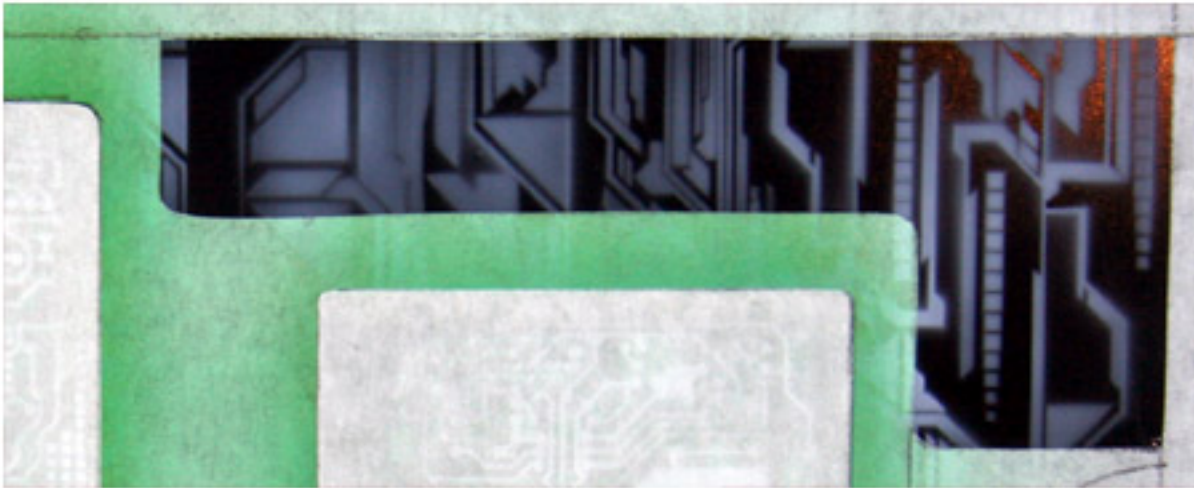
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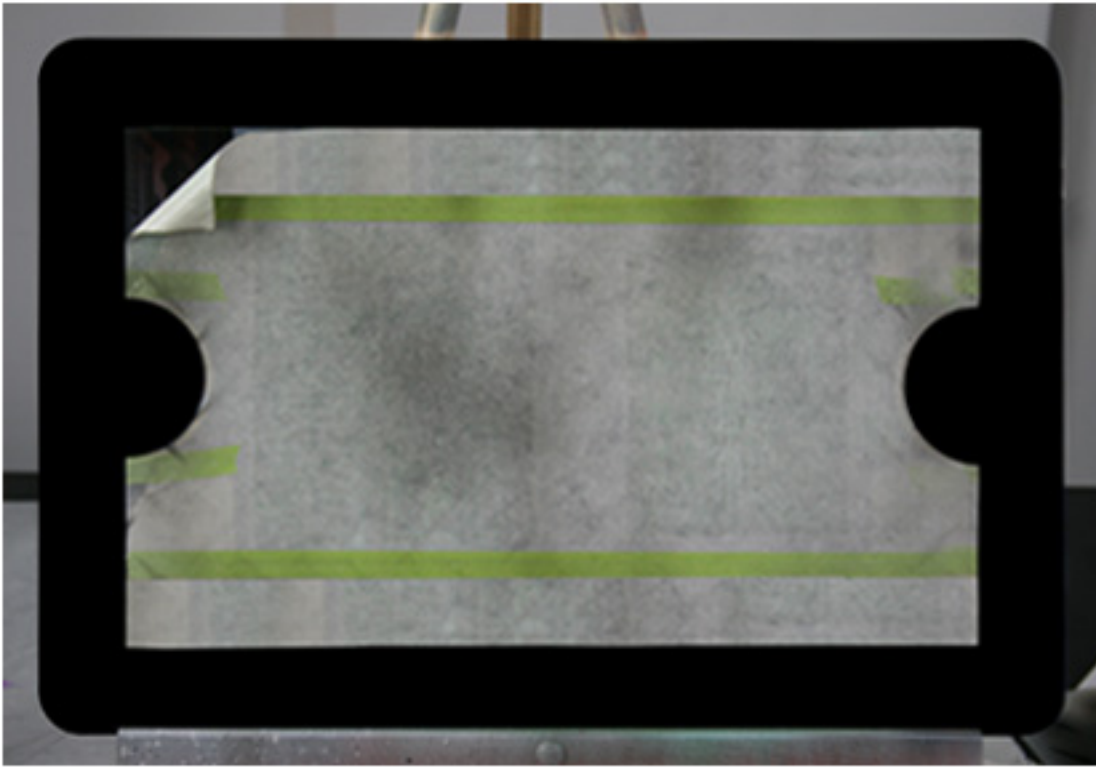
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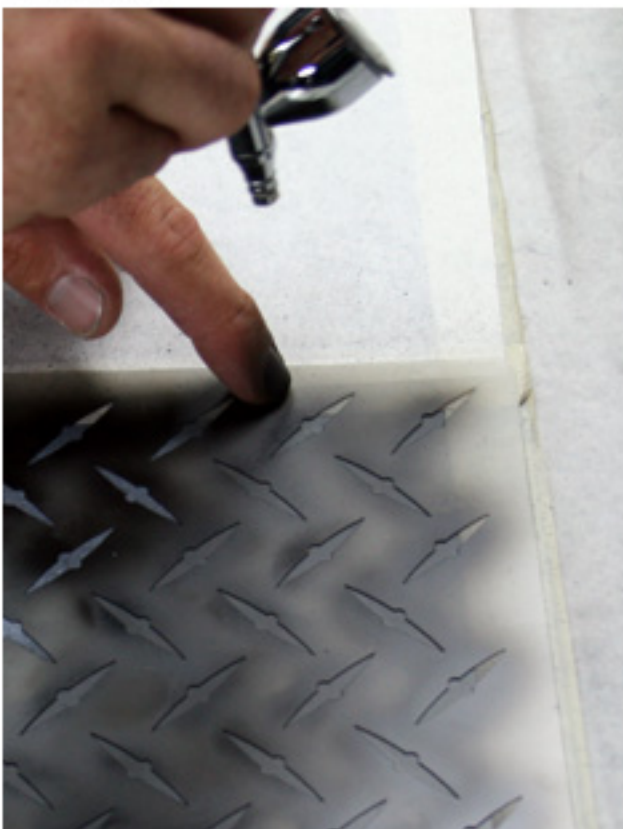## STEP 12

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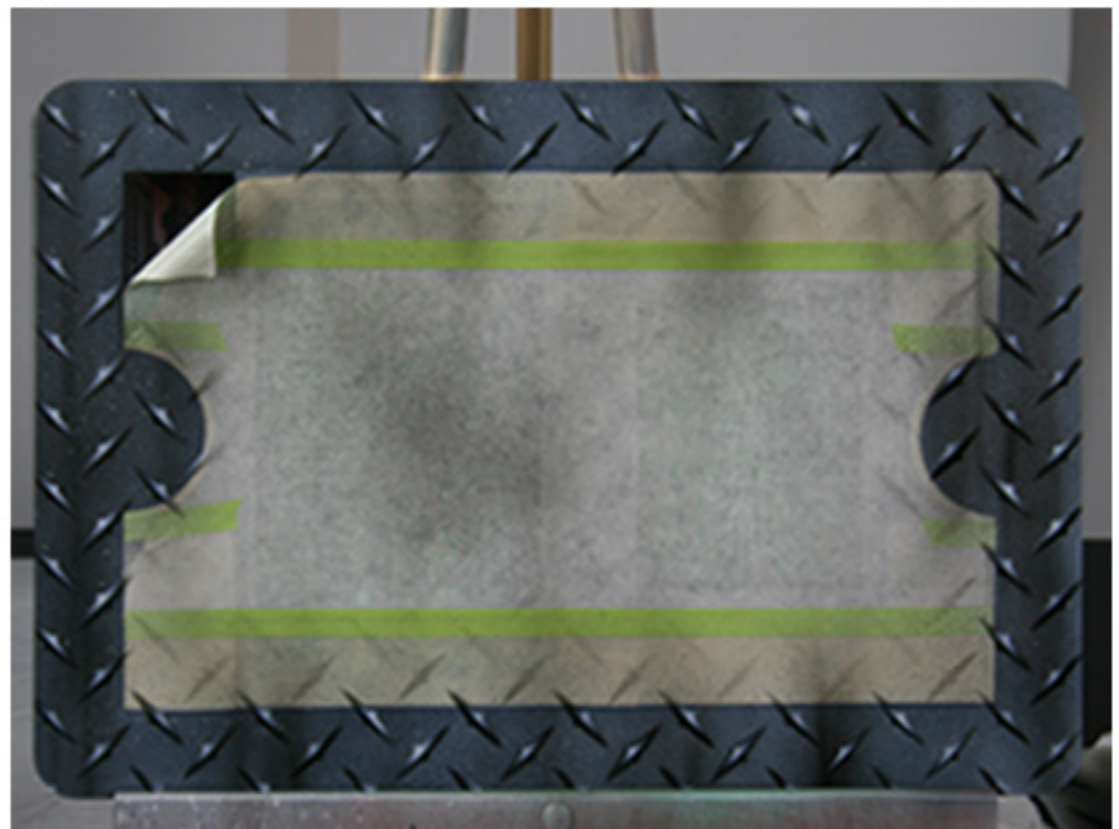
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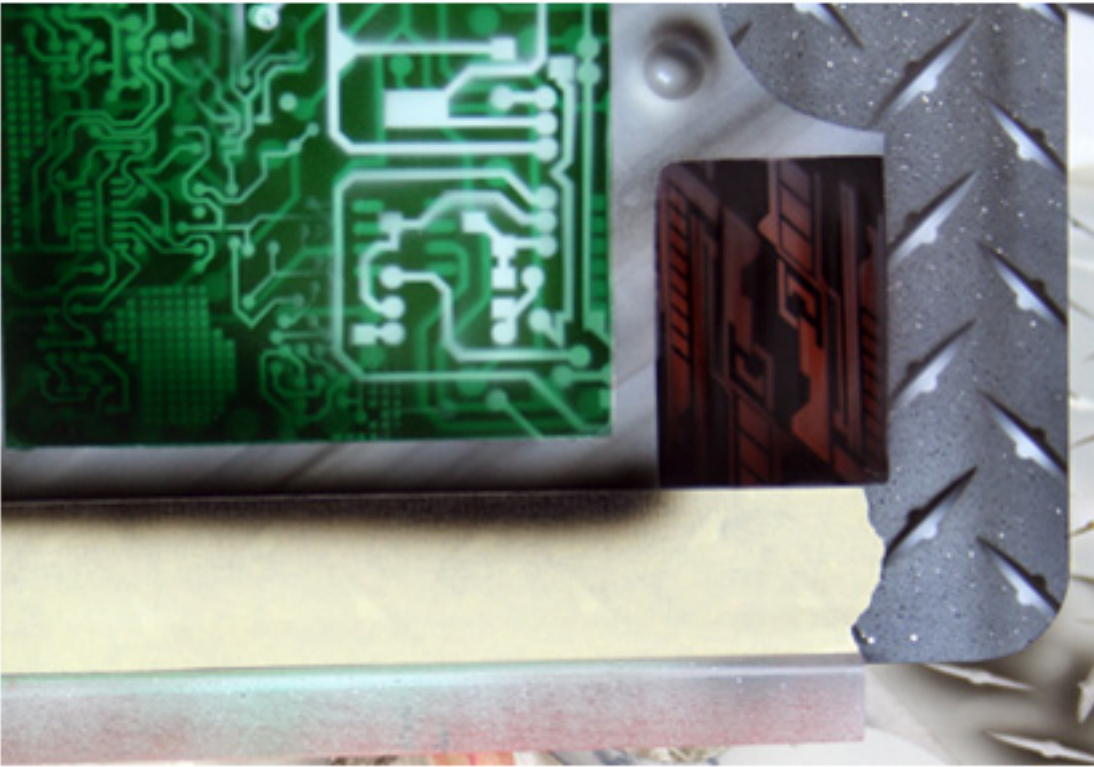
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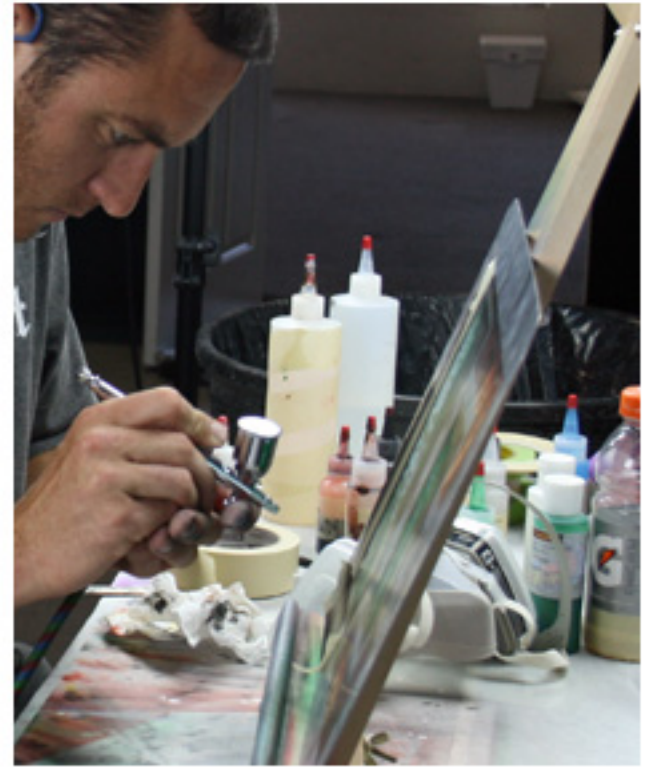**STEP 16**

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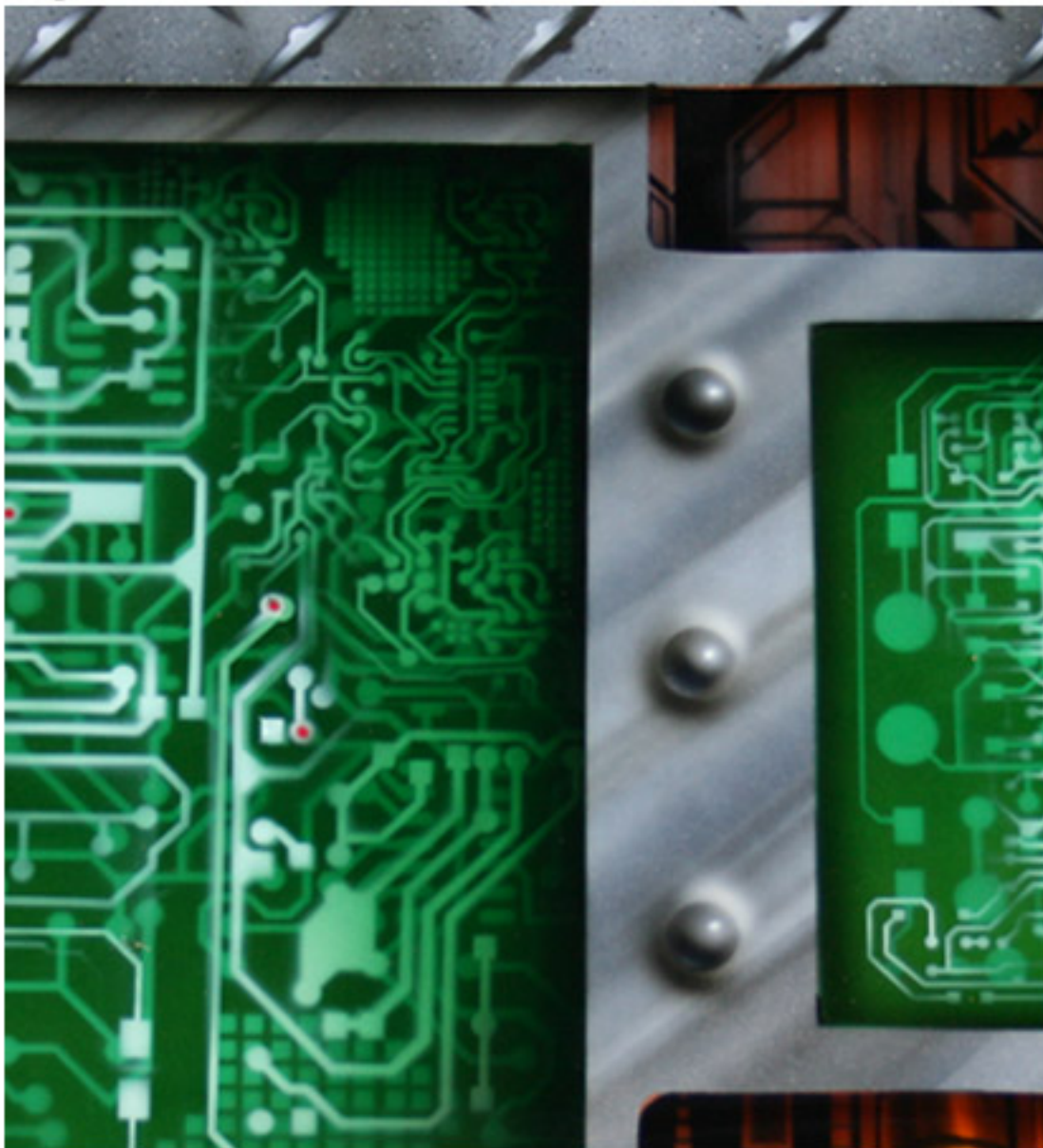Step 20 shows the final result of the applied drop shadow

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