

"Alessio's Brush"

(paint bottle cap opener)

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"I met Alessio (*the design's namesake*) on a recent teaching trip to Italy. He is a teacher of decorative painting there; we found him a very enthusiastic student while in class, very fun! He handed me this wood paint bottle cap opener that he had cut out, and asked me how I would paint it (*he wanted to see what I could do with this piece of wood*). Here is the design that I came up with and I thought it might be fun as a free design for the website.

You might already be familiar with this surface used to pop up the tops of acrylic bottles of paint (saves your fingers!), and if you would like to order one (in Italy and Europe), you can contact Alessio through his blog/email: <http://mycountrypage-alessio.blogspot.com/> * aleciaci@libero.it
We are still working on a supplier source for the US, so check the website for information to be posted.

Palette: DecoArt Americana Acrylics

Honey Brown, Milk Chocolate, Camel, Warm White, Lamp Black, Driftwood, Raspberry, Rookwood Red, Wild Orchid, Royal Purple, Jade Green, Plantation Pine.

Brushes: Jo Sonja Sure Touch

#3 and #1 rounds, #1/2 flat, #4, 2 and 8 flats; 10/0 liner, 18/0 liner; #8 Oval Dry Brushes (ODB); 1/4 or 3/16" rake; #6 filbert. LC Maxine Mop #1/2

Misc Supplies:

Stylus, (Optional: sparkle medium (Deco Art Star Lite Top Coat or Jo Sonja's Opal Dust); wood sealer; varnish; white graphite paper and basic painting supplies.

Preparation:

Step 1: Sand, seal and sand again.

Step 2: Using the 6 filbert loaded in Honey Brown, fill in the bristles of the brush; using the 6 filbert and Driftwood, paint the ferrule (metal section); using the #6 filbert loaded in Lamp Black, paint the handle of the brush.

Painting:

Top of Brush (bristles):

Step 1: Using the 1/2 flat and a side-load of Milk Chocolate, shade the brush at the top and next to the ferrule.

Step 2: Using the 8 ODB loaded in a brush mix of Camel + Warm White, drybrush scrub through the center area of the bristles (front, back and sides).

Step 3: Load the rake brush in thinned Milk Chocolate and rake the hair over the bristles (not too much in the center area of the bristles). Repeat using a brush mix of Camel + Warm White (not too much in the dark areas).

Step 4: Repeat shading from Step 1.

Brush Face:

Step 1: Apply the pattern for the features and using the 18/0 short liner, fill in the eyes, lashes, brows and mouth with Lamp Black. Fill in the nose with Raspberry.

Step 2: Using the 8 flat and a side-load brush mix of Camel + Warm White, float a highlight above the upper mouth lines. Using the 8 flat and a side-load brush mix of Raspberry + Rookwood Red, float the lower lip and the bottom of the nose. Using the 8 ODB loaded in a small amount of Raspberry + Rookwood Red, (scrub out most of the color on a dry paper towel) and scrub the cheeks on, using a circular motion. Using the 18/0 liner and a small amount of Warm White, add tiny highlights in the eyes, nose and cheeks.

Ferrule (center, metal section):

Step 1: Using the 4 flat loaded in inky Warm White, stroke the stripes down through the center section.

Step 2: Using the stylus and Lamp Black, add dots on the grey stripes and repeat on the white stripes using Wild Orchid. Let dry.

Step 3: Shade the upper part of the section with a side-load of Lamp Black using the 1/2 flat; shade the lower part of the section using a side-load of Royal Purple. Drybrush through the center of the section with a scrub of Warm White, using the 8 ODB.

Step 4: Using the 2 flat and Lamp Black, stroke the checks along the top and bottom edges. Using the 10/0 liner, line (and add stylus dots) along the top edge with Lamp Black; line (and add stylus dots) on the lower part with Wild Orchid. Using the liner loaded in Lamp Black, stroke the tie on, overstroke with Warm White for highlights. The center dot is Wild Orchid, when dry highlight the top of the dot with a stroke of Warm White. The little leaves are stroked on using the 1 round, loaded in thinned Jade Green and tipped in thinned Plantation Pine.

Handle of Brush:

Step 1: Using the 8 ODB loaded in a small amount of Warm White, scrub randomly over the handle.

Step 2: Apply the pattern for the daisy. Load the 3 round in Warm White and stroke the daisy petals on. (Pull strokes toward the center of the flower, two strokes should form each petal.) Let dry. Using the 1/2 flat and a side-load of Royal Purple, float the shading over the top of the petals, repeat twice. The center of the daisy is tapped on using the 3 round loaded in Camel and tipped in Milk Chocolate, tap toward the bottom of the center and then tip the dirty-brush in Warm White and tap toward the top. Add the little dots around the center using the stylus and Warm White.

Step 3: The stem is stroked on using the 10/0 liner and thinned Jade Green, pull through thinned Plantation Pine; the dot on the end is dotted using the end of a paintbrush (or stylus) using Wild Orchid, when dry, add a highlight dash of Warm White.

Step 4: The leaves are stroked on using the 3 round loaded in inky Jade Green and tipped in inky Plantation Pine (two strokes should form each leaf). Using the 8 flat side-loaded in Plantation Pine, shade the bottom of each leaf. Using the 8 flat and a side-load brush mix of Jade Green + Warm White, float the top of the leaves. Using the 8 flat and a side-load of Royal Purple, float a tint on the larger leaves. The vines attached to the leaves are painted similar to the stem.

Finishing Details

Step 1: Using the stylus and Wild Orchid, scatter random dots over the black handle. Erase any remaining graphite and varnish. If you would like to use a sparkle medium, use the 6 filbert to apply over the daisy petals, center, bow tie, bristles, center section (ferrule) and/or the handle! *Wherever you like!* Enjoy!



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Jamie
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Happy
Painting!