

Objectives

- Combine airbrushing and brushwork
- Complete a design with fired translucent colors



Poinsettia Platter & Tureen

By David Hoff

Before starting this project, be sure to review general airbrush instructions as shown in Fired Arts & Crafts issues March 2012 through May 2012. You can view these issues at www.firedartsandcrafts.com under the Archive link.

- S**tep 1: Carefully clean ware with a damp sponge.
- Step 2:** If desired, fire ware to shelf cone 010 to prevent breakage. Since the tureen is so large, the soft firing may be a good idea.
- Step 3:** Damp sponge the ware lightly with water to condition the piece for decorating and to remove any fired dust.
- Step 4:** Transfer the line design onto the tureen, lid, and platter using clay carbon and a red pencil for tracing.

Brush work

Place the E-Z Strokes on your palette as they are needed. Thin as needed with a drop or two of water to ensure colors are of a cream-like consistency.

Step 5: Fully load the #10 shader with Chartreuse and block in the green leaves with a smooth coat of color. Follow the contour of each leaf and be sure to work from the base of each leaf to its tip.

Step 6: While the Chartreuse is drying, load the #7 round with Neon Red and block in the red "petals" of the poinsettia flowers (they're actually leaves). Work from the base outward to the pointed tip. Press, pull, and lift this base coat in place to all petals, again following the contour of each petal.

Step 7: Generously load the #10 shader with Chartreuse and side load the left side with both Irish and Ivy Green. Blend the three colors on the palette before shading the green leaves. Keeping the darker tone (Ivy Green) to the outer edge, begin to shade the entire leaf. Repeat the process on each leaf, making sure the entire leaf has this second coat of blended color over it. Note if the middle of the leaf does not have a second coat of color applied, this area will fire lighter. Blend out all heavy ridges of color before proceeding to the next leaf.

Step 8: Lightly pencil in the center vein lines of each green leaf if they cannot be seen through the two coats of applied color. With the same loading and blending as Step 7, pull in a center vein down each leaf. Follow the penciled line and shade down both sides of the line. Remember to use the shader on the flat, apply plenty of pressure, and smooth out all ridges.

Step 9: To allow the leaves some drying time, go back to the red "petals" of the poinsettias. Using the #7 and/or #5 round as needed, begin applying color to the back petals as follows: Load a round with Neon Red and tip generously in Passion Red. Starting at the base of the petal, tip, press, pull, and lift, cutting the color in place over the previously applied Neon Red. Complete all the smaller back petals. Reload as needed and be sure the colors are blended.

Step 10: When all the back petals have been completed, tip a smaller round generously in Passion Red and feather in additional shading to the base of each back petal. The color should taper off at varying lengths.

Step 11: While the Passion Red is still slightly damp, reload a round with Neon Orange and pull in highlights to the edges of the tip of each back petal, feathering the color so that it meets the Passion Red shading. Be sure the two colors are soft and look blended and feathered. Distinct lines will not be attractive.

Materials

Suitable plain greenware
soup tureen and platter
Cleanup tool
Sponge
Palette knife
#1 liner brush
#5 round brush
#7 round brush
#10 shader brush
Glaze fan brush

Colors by iLoveToCreate

EZ 003 Irish Green
EZ 010 French Brown
EZ 011 Sienna Brown
EZ 012 Cobalt Jet Black
EZ 016 Grass Green
EZ 018 Chartreuse
EZ 033 Ivy Green
EZ 068 Roasted Chestnut
EZ 075 Passion Red
EZ 104 Neon Orange
EZ 106 Neon Red
CC 201 Neon Yellow
Pure Brilliance gloss glaze

Miscellaneous

100-grit sponge sander
Clay carbon
Paper towels
Page protector or 2 6-inch
glazed tiles for palette
Scissors
Red pencil
Soft lead pencil
Water bowl
Practice paper
Airbrush with #3 tip by
Paasche
3 oz. plastic bottle
Turntable for airbrushing
Old bath towel





Step 12: To complete the larger front petals, load a round with Neon Red, side load with Neon Orange, and tip generously in Passion Red. Blend the colors by patting the brush on the palette in one location. Working from the center out, press firmly, pull, and lift one side of the petal in place. Reload if needed and repeat for the other side. While colors are still wet, go back and smooth out the center. The Neon Orange color should be to the outer rounded edge of the petal. Where petals overlap one another, the top rounded petal should be more Neon Orange and the lower, slightly covered petal should have more Passion Red. Complete all of the front petals. Let the petals dry.

Step 13: Use an appropriate size round to add additional highlights of Neon Orange to the tips of all the petals and to the rounded outer edges of the overlapping (front) petals. Be sure to blend and smooth the color out. Do not let color ridges form when applying highlighting.

Step 14: Apply additional shading with rounds loaded in Passion Red, blended from the center of the flower out and to the area where the top petal overlaps the lower petals. Again, a smooth application is needed.

Step 15: To enhance the depth of color on the green leaves, float in Grass Green along the outer edges of the leaf and down one side of the center vein using the #10 shader. Either side works; there's no specific light source for this project.

Step 16: Load the #1 liner with Sienna Brown and proceed to pull the liner one time through both Roasted Chestnut and French Brown. Holding the liner al-

most flat to the ware, press and twist the branches in place. Slowly lift up on the liner so that each branch narrows, and be sure to rotate the brush between your thumb and index finger. The pine branches should look gnarled. Be sure to pull out fine lines for twigs, as well.

Step 17: Load the #1 liner with slightly thinned Cobalt Jet Black and detail and outline the petals with thick and thin broken lines. To achieve thicker lines, add a bit of pressure to the liner. The center veins in the petals should be smooth. A few shading lines can be added to the base of each petal.

Step 18: Use long, smooth, even, flowing strokes to outline the leaves with Cobalt Jet Black — more in the style of a coloring book than the outlining on the petals. The leaves also have center and side veins.

Step 19: Accent the pine branches with fine lines of Cobalt Jet Black using the #1 liner.

Step 20: Use a sponge to lightly pounce in Irish Green to the center of the flowers. Keep the sponging lacy in appearance.

Step 21: With the handle of the #5 round, tap in dots of Neon Yellow Cover-Coat. Let the dots dry.

Step 22: Tap in a tiny dot of Passion Red just off center of each of the Neon Yellow dots.

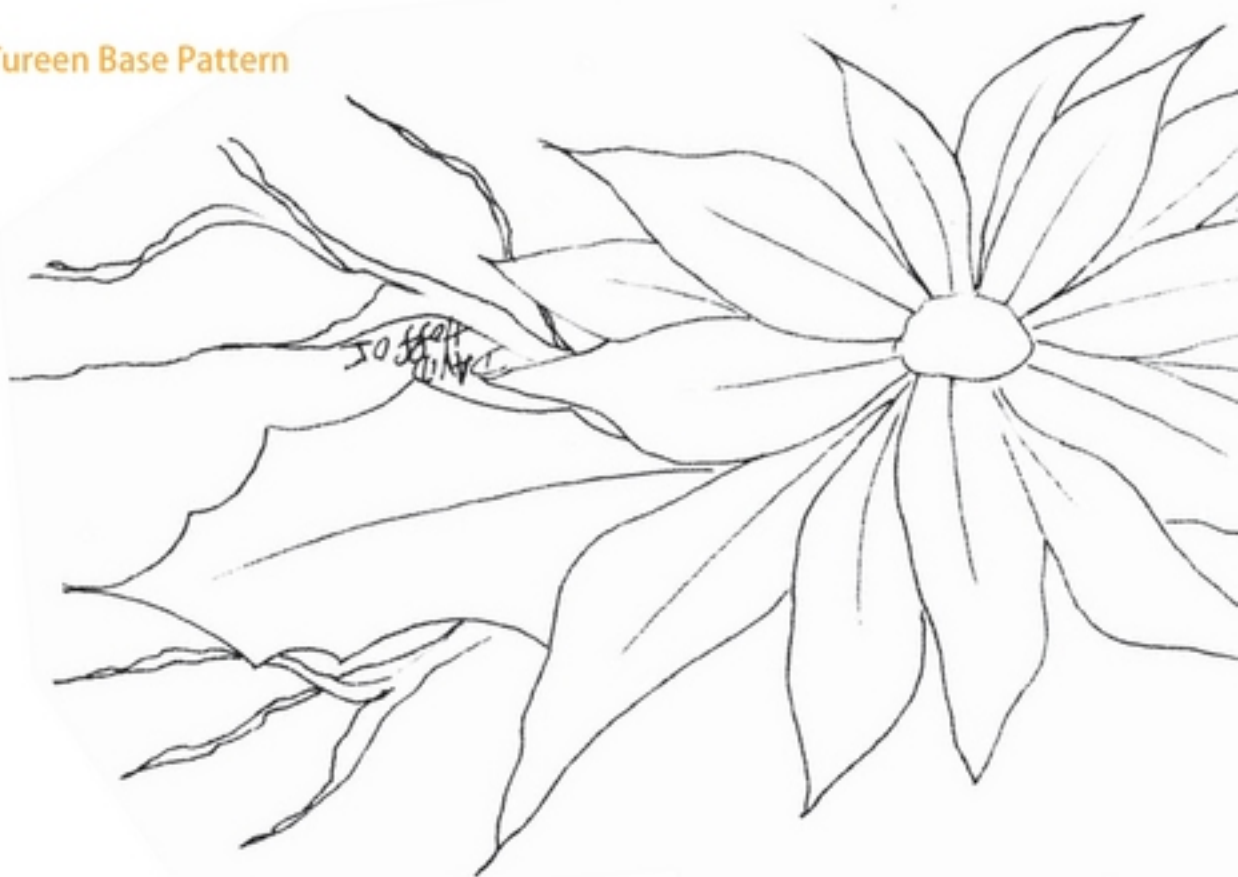
Step 23: Slightly thin all four of the green tones and load them on a #1 liner. Pull out many clumps of pine needles throughout the background of the design. Pine needles form one point and fan out. Pine needles are straight as they are pulled out.

Step 24: Sign the piece with a dark color using the #1 liner.

To Float Color

- Load a shader with water.
- Remove excess water on a paper towel.
- Corner load the left corner with desired color.
- Pat blend the water and color on a clean area of the palette.
- Apply color where desired using the shader on the flat and applying plenty of pressure to the brush.
- If the shader is too full of water, the previously applied color will lift off the ware, so make sure you don't leave too much water in the brush.

Tureen Base Pattern



About the Artist: David Hoff has worked in ceramics for 45 years. He opened his teaching studio in 1969 and was educational director for Duncan for 25 years. He also teaches students around the world at shows and seminars. Find out more at www.davidhoff.com.





Platter Pattern