



MX MANIA

by fischlistyle

I wanted to apply a brandnew look to an old worn-up racing helmet, that definitely had seen better days. That new look should be similar

to other well-known helmet designers like tagger or troy lee design, but should have also a personal, individual and unique note.



Contact:

Lies Maria Wilhelm

www.brushnroll.de

facebook.com/brushnroll.custompaint

mail@brushnroll.de

STEP 1

Off-Road or Motocross helmets have clearly elongated chin parts and visor portions. Because of the partially open face, it is possible to wear goggles underneath it.

The chinstrap of my helmet was fairly rusted and the air filter full of dirt from the road. First, I disassembled the helmet as far as possible. Spare parts can

usually be ordered again directly from the manufacturer, if they are damaged. Some of the spare parts - like the beading for example - cannot be removed at all or only with lots of difficulty. However, according to my varnisher, that was not even necessary, because you can mask it with a special tape from 3M.

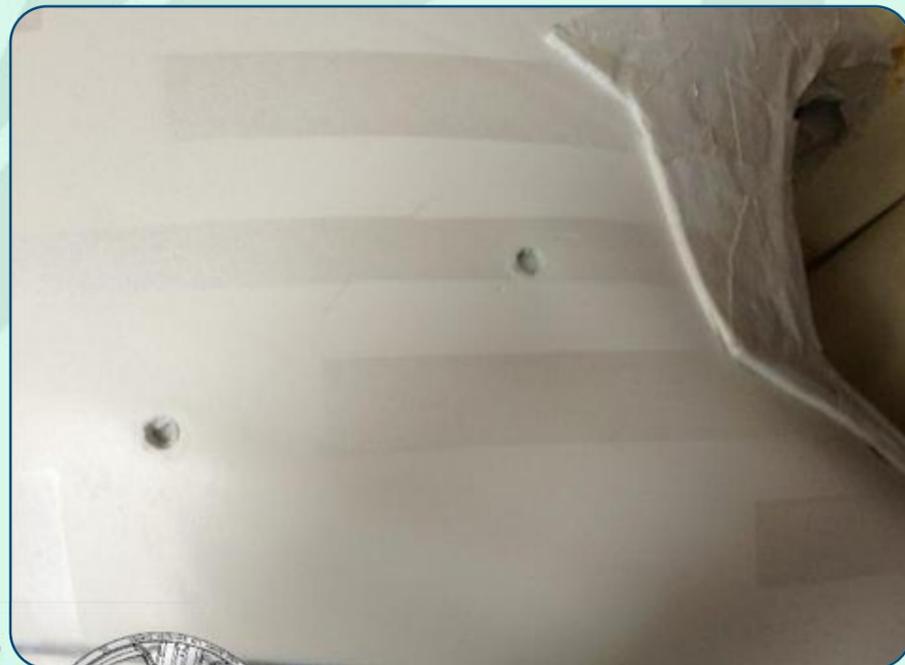


STEP 2

After the usual preparational work like grinding, degreasing with a silicon remover and masking, I primed the helmet with a white base coat. Varnish paint produces adverse health effects, so don't forget to take adequate safety precautions, such as wearing a suitable air filter mask and gloves and working in a well-ventilated room!



I had to apply several layers until an optimal coverage appeared. After that, the coating layer had to be grinded and degreased again. As the glue of the masking tapes could react with the components of the varnish and could leave residues on the surface, I had to wait a few days until the subsurface was ready for further handling.

**STEP 3**

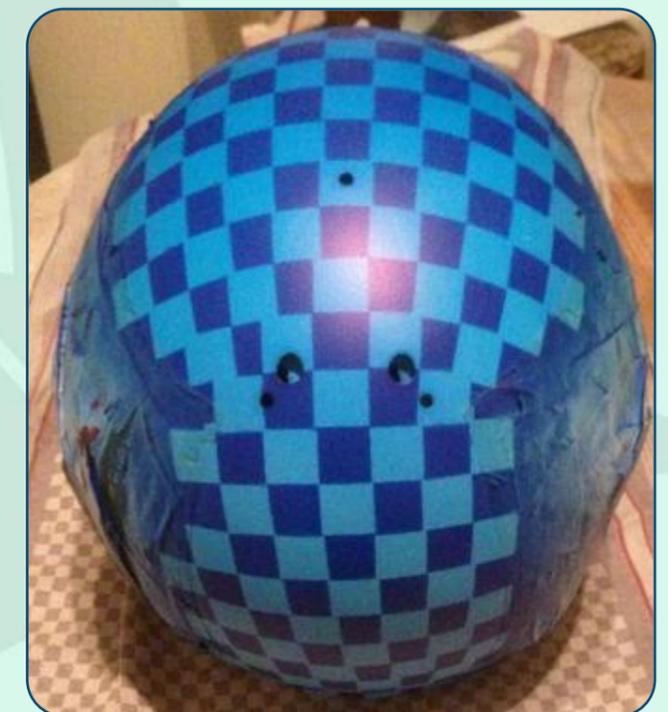
Next, I created a striped pattern on the white base by using Schmincke effect colour nacre. Although this will be hardly noticeable later on, it looks far more interesting than just a simple white background.

**STEP 4**

In order to create a race flag design on the top of the helmet, I covered the areas that shouldn't be sprayed on both sides with tape and paper to protect them from overspray. I sprayed a soft colour gradient of sky blue as a base. After that, I sealed it with Schmincke Airbrush-Medium to protect the

coloured area from any damage by superficial scratches.

Detail work: by using a sharp scalpel, I cutted small squares out of masking tape and placed them on the skyblue background. I then sprayed a darker blue tone onto it and then removed the masking squares.



STEP 5

The starting number should look like the ones from motor racing and I chose the shape out of several vector graphics. The advantage of vector graphics is that you can plot them directly out of your masking film. I only had to place the masking film at the backside of the helmet and again cover all areas next to it with paper, before beginning to spray.

=> HINT: Do not use newsprint for covering surfaces, cause it dissolves the ink so that the printed image finds on the helmet.



other colours will adhere on this surface.

I finished this work step again with a thin layer of Schmincke primer to protect it from scratches.

The first layer is a large number in white. Second, I sprayed the same number in black and smaller size on top of it and finished with a number in silver. For this, I used a silver varnish from Molotov, but remember: after using a varnish, you have to slightly sand the surface, otherwise no



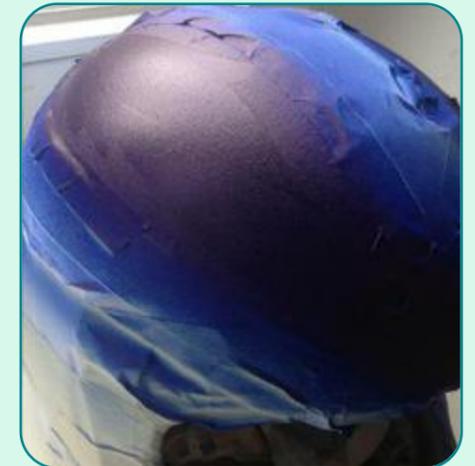
STEP 7

The insane jumps of the bikers inspired me also to the next step. Sometimes, it almost seems



STEP 6

To complete the race theme on the backside of the helmet, I added the silhouette of a jumping MX biker. Again, I plotted that shape out of masking film and placed it as a stencil on the helmet. Some of the details I have drawn with pencils, brushes and water-colour.



as if the

crossers have wings. I adopted this idea and sprayed some darkblue wings, that completed the top of the helmet. In the first instance, I sprayed the whole shape of the wings in a dark-blue colour tint, that contrasted with the skyblue colour of the raceflag theme on the top. After that, I masked the wingparts with tape (cutted their shade with a scalpell) and applied an edge layer of covering white. This looked already quite like I imagined it before, but I had to add some smaller wings in the middle before I started with the visor.

STEP 8

I added some smaller wing parts and was very pleased with the final result. Because the visor covers half of this design element, I continued the wing theme also on the visor.

**STEP 9**

For grinding the visor with all its curves and roundings, I used polishing paste. With that, you can easily reach every corner. As the visor is movable, it needed a special primer to prevent any bursting of the varnish.

Next, I applied a colour gradient of sky blue and sprayed the wing parts with darkblue colour and white. By marking the position of the wingtips on the visor, I could integrate them exactly into the design, so that they merge seamlessly to the other wings on the helmet.

**STEP 10**

Finally, everything fits perfectly. I'm happy that I've managed this difficult part without any problems. For the sides of the helmet, I came up with a special idea.

STEP 11

It is not possible to imagine Airbrush-Art without Pinstripe or Flames. That's why I chose red flames as a connection between the graffiti writing and the already existing design. I used painter tape as a masking material, because it fitted without problems to the rounded surface. The soft material conforms automatically to the shape and seals reliably. For this purpose, you can also use more expensive tapes, for example 3M tape. It doesn't leave so much adhesive residues like the painter tape. I then primed the flame shape with a mixture of several red colours and used dark blue for the edges.



STEP 12

I transferred the graffiti writing with a pen and graphite paper and covered it afterwards with transparent masking tape. After that, I cutted out all areas with a sharp scalpel, sprayed on the appropriate colour and again masked that area afterwards.

- I start with the darkblue arrows
- form a black border around the whole thing.
- then add the grey areas, that give the letters plasticity
- work on the purple / lavender coloured areas in the background.
- mask the skyblue and red parts of the graffiti
- and spray them one after another.

**STEP 13**

Furthermore, I have to transfer the graffiti also to the visor, as it covers some of the letters. I do this again by marking the exact position and work it out in the same way as described in step 9.

**STEP 14**

One of the major differences between MX helmets and full-face helmets is the elongated and angular chin part with the integrated air filter, that only MX helmets have.

I wanted to apply the look of a bandana to the helmet. First, I applied a skyblue colour gradient with my airbrush gun. After sealing it with a thin layer of Schmincke Airbrush Medium, I masked it with tape

and drew the shapes of the tribal ornaments onto it, paying attention that the shapes are in parallel to each other on both sides of the helmet. As in the graffiti work step before, I used a scalpel to cut out the shapes directly on the surface of the helmet.

**STEP 15**

Finally, I have signed my work with a self developed brand, that fits to the artwork in typography and style.

Step by Step - Airbrush Custom Paint
www.brushnroll.de

© 2014