

Monday, Monday

BY JULIAN "MR. J" BRAET



Turning your new Chevy pickup into a '60 Impala.

About the author: Mr. J owns Mr. J's Signs and Graphics in Lyndhurst, N.J., and is the creator of Xcaliber striping brushes and preservative. For more methods to the madness, check out Mr. J's three-volume Video Classroom series, "Jersey Style Airbrush & Lettering". You can send questions about "Jersey Style" lettering to Mr. J at JXCAL@aol.com.

IT'S MONDAY.

Morning.

It's quiet, like Mondays are.

So I turn on my computer and check e-mail (I now have e-mail!) while I finish my *Dunkin' Donuts* and coffee.

It's 10 a.m. and the phone finally rings. No, it's not Jay Lansburg; it's a real customer.

The customer calls to say that he just bought an older Chevy pick-up. It has fresh paint and he'll add custom wheels and side-pipes.

He'd like some kind of graphics — not just pinstriping, and nothing too wild. He'll drop it off in a few hours and I can have it for a couple of days. The graphics are up to me.

Since the pick-up has no chrome trim,

I think maybe some kind of side trim would be cool.

In my *Pro-Outline* CD, I use the Chevy pick-up outline to generate the sketch. I add the 20" custom wheels and generate my own side pipes.

Colored pencils and markers add color and finish off the sketch.

Photos of real *Chevy* side trim are my references. I decide the '60 Impala would fit the sides of the truck *most naturally*.

All the paint for this project is 1 Shot® lettering enamels and reducers.

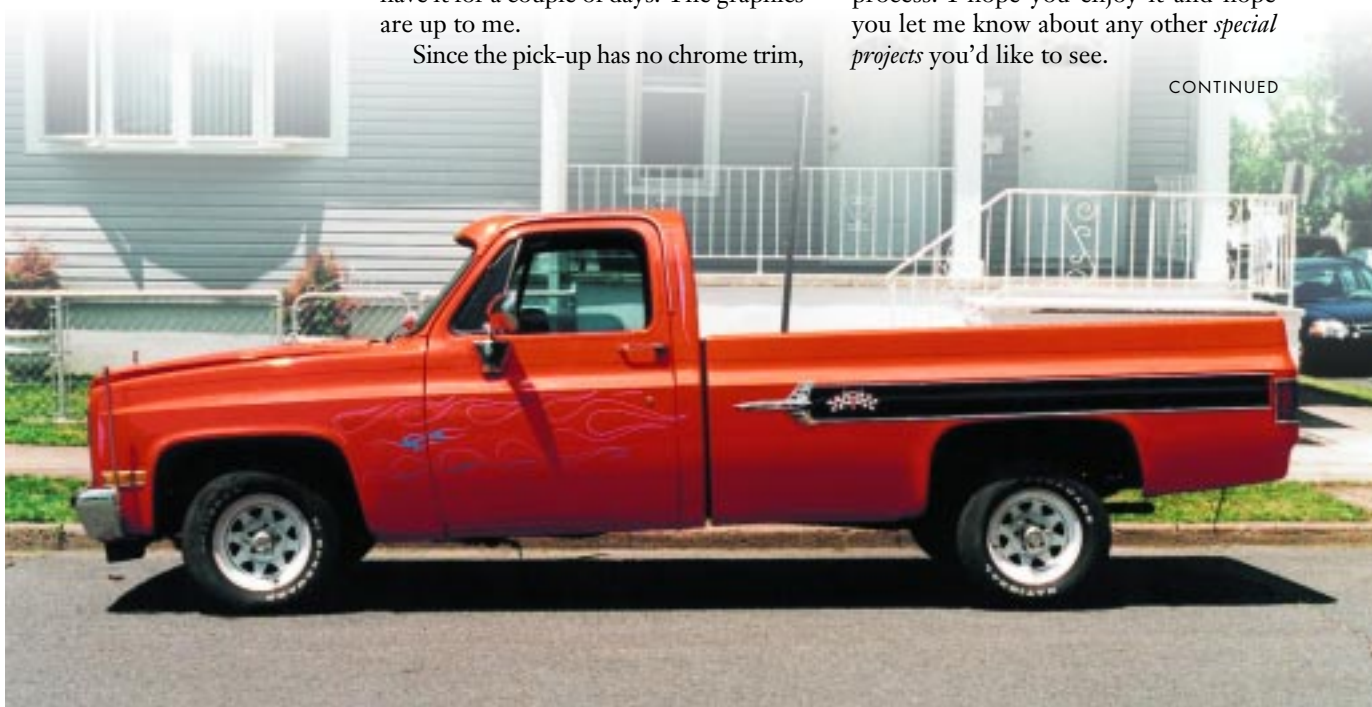
I could do it in automotive urethanes or even water-based paints, but the budget doesn't allow for the necessary clear coats. (Automotive clears should be sprayed at a professional auto body facility.)

I use an *Iwata* Eclipse airbrush, spraying the enamel at 45-50 lbs. The lettering quills are *Mack* 179L series browns and the striping brush is the *Xcaliber 00*.

This is a fun project. It will take approximately two working days to complete.

The following photos illustrate the process. I hope you enjoy it and hope you let me know about any other *special projects* you'd like to see.

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Using a photo of a 1960 Chevy Impala for reference, I create a sketch of the Chevy pickup. An outline from the Pro-Outline CD, along with their 20" rims, side pipes and a lowering job helps to sell the job. Colored pencils and markers finish the sketch.



I make a paper pounce pattern of the "rocket" part of the side trim. (Black charcoal powder shows up best.) I lay out the "chrome" side trim using an aluminum ruler with magnetic striping guides glued to the back as my guide. The lines for the trim are drawn with a white Stabilo pencil.



Fine line tape (blue) is used to mask off the rocket. Transfer tape is used to finish off the mask. I cut out the transfer tape using an Olfa knife.



I now mix up 1 Shot imitation silver lettering enamel. (I always add a couple of drops of white for extra body.) Add a drop of "smoothie" fish-eye eliminator to the silver mix. Fill a cup with high-temperature reducer to help the paint flow in hot weather. I don't pre-thin the paint before painting. I prefer to thin only as needed. I now use a #6 brown lettering quill to paint the main portion of the rocket on both sides.



I take the silver mix and divide it up into two Art-Kups and add some white to one and some black to the other. Using a #4 brown lettering quill, I add the light silver to the top and the darker to the bottom of the rocket. (Note the taped-out chrome trim to be painted later.)



Now the fun begins. I pre-mix all the airbrush colors ahead of time. The paint is thinned at a ratio of 60 percent high-temperature reducer to 40 percent paint. The first color is the lightest of the "sky" colors, 152 blue. I paint across the light silver and the base color. (Note the respirator I'm wearing whenever I airbrush. It has replacement cartridges.)

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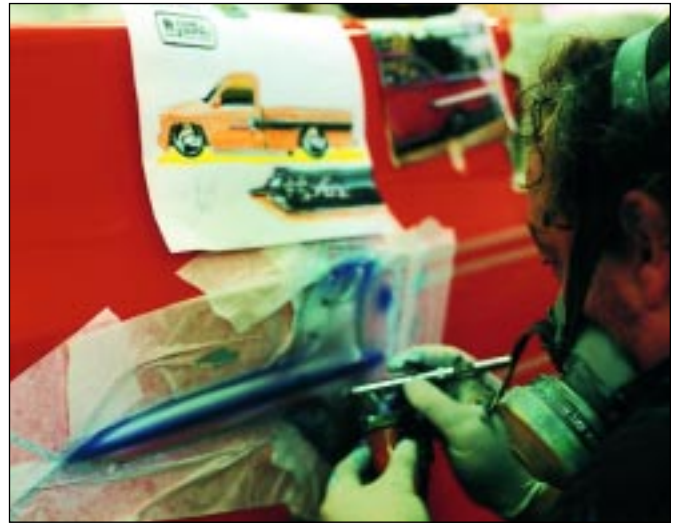
The next color is brilliant blue used to deepen the sky color. This color will go over the light blue in some areas but will not cover it up. Keep this color on the top of the rocket. (Note the disposable latex gloves.)



Thoroughly clean out the airbrush. The next color is the white highlight. This is where chrome photos (reference materials) are handy. It's starting to take on a chrome-like look. The bottom also gets some reflected highlights. Keep it simple. Too much white will ruin the effect.



Purple is added on the "horizon" line and below it as a reflected color.



Medium orange is used on the bottom and a small amount is sprayed on the top. This is the body color reflected in the chrome.



The black is mixed a little thinner than the rest of the colors (I like to make it almost transparent). This allows you to build up the tones a little at a time.



Clean out all of the black and flush the airbrush completely (I use mineral spirits). This last airbrush color is white, so you'll want it to be as pure as possible. And don't over-do the highlights.

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I allow the paint to tack-up (about 15 minutes) then I remove the mask. To sharpen up some of the black I hand-paint some of these reflections.



Now I move on to the chrome side trim. I simply do exactly the same thing on this trim as I did on the rocket but I don't put as much detail on it. After the chrome is dry, I paint the two-tone effect using black. Next, I airbrush some dark blue through the center. When this is completely dry I make a pounce pattern of the checkered flags and hand-paint them on both sides. Last, I paint white on top of the rocket and side trim pieces, and paint black on the bottom of the rocket and side trim. The very last thing I paint is a varnish shade on the bottom of the rocket and chrome side trim. (Mix 1 Shot clear and a small amount of black to create a natural shadow.)

The end result is pretty convincing I think. The "ghost" flames are process blue and were added (along with other striping) last. I wait 24 hours and clearcoat the side trim and rocket.

