



I ♥ Cupcakes

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debmalewski@sbcglobal.net

www.debmalewski.com

Palette: Decoart Americana Acrylic Paint-Alizarin Crimson, Baby Blue, Baby Pink, Bittersweet Chocolate, Country Red, French Vanilla, Golden Straw, Honey Brown, Light Cinnamon, Peony Pink, Sapphire, Snow White

Royal and Langnickel Brushes: #16 Royal Sable 5005, #8 Royal RG 150, 5/0 Royal Fusion 3595, 3/8 Filbert Aqualon Wisp 2935

Supplies: Your favorite surface, optional 1/8" circle stencil, paper towels, stylus, Decoart Matte Varnish, Decoart Sealer

Surface: Seal if desired. Basecoat surface with Baby Blue; apply second coat if needed. Transfer main details of pattern.

Lettering is Peony Pink, shaded with Alizarin Crimson and highlighted with Baby Pink. Outline each letter with Snow White using 5/0 brush. Add stitch lines to each letter with Snow White using 5/0 brush. Shade behind letters using Sapphire.

I find it easiest to paint the bear completely and then add the details onto the bear.

The bear: Using a damp Wisp brush, pick up Honey Brown. Use a generous amount of paint. Start with the head. Work in a circle, and starting at the outer edge of the circle, pulling your brush away from the center. This will give you more wispy hair at the edges. Fill in the entire head this way, by pulling away from the center. Fill in the ears, including the center, by pulling away from the head.

- To create the body, pull down and flick out to the sides. I paint the tshirt on over the body, but that's up to you. Ignore the arms at this point. You will bring them out later with the highlighting and the shading. While the base paint is still wet and without cleaning your brush pick up some Golden Straw, and use this in the same way to add highlights, only with a lighter touch. Just add a Wisp here and there to add more color variation in the fur of the head.
- Pick up more Golden Straw and fill in the muzzle area, again working in a circle pulling out from the center. Using the Golden Straw, start creating the arms on the wet Honey Brown. Pull up and curve the hair to the right for the left arm, and pull across and curve down for the right arm. If the base color is dry, pick some Honey Brown up in your brush to create a soft blend of colors
- Still without cleaning the brush, pick up some French Vanilla, and add more highlights to the head, ears, and arms. Use soft curving strokes. Add French Vanilla wisps to the top of the muzzle.
- Clean brush, and pick up Light Cinnamon for shading. You will not be doing traditional side load shading, but will use the Wisp to "pull" or "pat" strokes to lay the color in where you want shading. Shade inside ears, at base of each side of the ears, around muzzle, under the chin. Use light "pats" of Light Cinnamon around the muzzle using the point of the brush, not the sides. Later we will darken this by sideload using the traditional method.
- Add eyes, nose, and mouth using Bittersweet Chocolate with the 5/0 brush. Freckles are Lt. Cinnamon. Lip is French Vanilla, using round brush. Inside of mouth is Bittersweet Chocolate. Tongue is Peony Pink, shaded with Alizarin and highlighted with Snow White. Shade the eyes with Honey Brown, then add Snow White highlights.
- When fur is dry, use your Shader brush and some Lt. Cinnamon to shade around the muzzle, using a shaky hand, so as to retain some of the wispieness you just created. Shade on the lower part of the muzzle, which will add more roundness to it. Shade under the nose, tongue, lip and the "cheeks". Shade between the hairbow and the head. Changing to Bittersweet Chocolate, shade the inside top of the ears.
- Using Sable #16 and Country Red, pick up small amount of paint, and scrub most of it off on your paper towel. Gently scrub in a circular motion in the cheek area with the brush to create a soft blush. Use a light touch—it's easier to add more than take off what you apply!

Re-Apply pattern for the details!

Hairbow is Baby Pink, shaded with Peony Pink, and highlighted with Snow White. Dots are Peony Pink. Line ribbon edges with Snow White. Add thin lines of Peony Pink at knot. Using Royal Sable and Snow White, lightly dry brush more highlights on bow and ribbon, and using Alizarin Crimson repeat shading on bow to add more dimension.

Cupcake frosting is Baby Pink, shaded with Peony and highlighted with Snow White. Heart on top is Peony Pink, shaded with Alizarin and highlighted first with Baby Pink then with Snow White. Outline with thin line using Snow White. Add dots of Snow White to frosting using stylus and add hearts of Peony Pink using 5/0 brush. Base of cupcake is Snow White, shaded with Peony. Add lines with Peony.

Tshirt is Peony Pink, highlighted with Baby Pink and shaded with Alizarin Crimson. Dry brush using the Royal Sable brush with first Baby Pink and then again lightly with Snow White. Stitch work is Snow White.

Add a few more French Vanilla highlighted hairs to the fur, pulling them over the hairbow and other parts to make them look more “natural”.

I usually do the background after painting the design, rather than painting over most of my work! To get this mottled effect, use the Royal Sable brush. Pick up Sapphire Blue, and scrub most of it off on your paper towel, then scrub the brush on the surface. Use a light touch, but if you apply it too heavy try rubbing it with your finger to distribute it more. Repeat in random spots with Baby Blue, then with Peony.

The border was added on the computer, but you could pick a color from the design to add your own.

Varnish.

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