

My First Passion since I can remember has been the horse. This and a Greeting card gift from my mom gave me just what I needed to create this art.

I selected 12 natural colored tips, each measuring 1.25 x .5 inches. I lightly buffed them with a 240-grit file. Cleansed with Alcohol than applied a white Base coat of Acrylic craft paint with a No.1 soft bristle paintbrush. After completely dried, I placed each tip exactly as I needed onto the back of a small canvas board. Held in place with modeling putty. Now with a dried base coat and my miniature canvas created, using a No. 2 lead pencil and sketched my scene on the tips.

I focused on painting from top to bottom.

Therefore I started the sky area. With detail brushes sized 10/0 and 2/0. Using Acrylic Craft paints my colors used in the sky are: Ultra Blue, Black, Royal Violet, White, Diva Pink and Banana. Colors in addition to these which I used on the sky scene horses are: Burnt Umber, Red Apple, Golden Brown.

The grass was painted with the colors: Hunter Green, Banana, and White. Near the bottom and next to the stream in several places, I used the Royal Violet and Banana for small lavender and yellow wild flowers. The Barn was painted using both brown colors, black and white for shadowing. On the Windmill and fencing I used black and white. The trees were painted with the browns, (golden brown and burnt umber) green, yellow, black and white.

In the stream I used White, True Teal, Ultra Blue and some Black for rocks and shadows. All horsed on the grass consisted of various colors listed above.

Presentation consisted of a gift card tin cover, sculpted miniature horses and stream. I Sculpted both horses using colored Acrylic Powders, Sculpting Gel, aluminum foil, straight pin and product (acrylic) applicator brush. I used the foil along with some modeling putty to help me create the base forms of my horses. Doing small areas at time. Creating the body definitions sculpting with a straight pin and the applicator brush. I used a combination of Sculpting Gel and colored Acrylic powders on the rearing horse. After sculpting and cure was complete I buffed with a buffing block, cleansed with alcohol, and painted white for base coat. Both horses and Cowboy painted with a combination of colors listed above.

Stream with rocks and grass made from a combination of Gel, and colored Acrylic powders. Rocks made with Acrylic powders formed into rock shapes with application brush. For the blades of grass I used cut pieces of fishing line. I placed some clear Gel over the rock formations put pieces of fishing line into gel and cured each area. Painted rocks, stream and blades of Grass with above paints.

I decided not to place these items *on* the nail tips per rule guidelines, i.e. size specifications.

Last, coated with a polish topcoat product.

Finished size 2.75 x 2 inches, taking near 30 hours to complete.

**Picture taken with Sony Cyber Shot 5 mega pixel Digital Camera
Photo editing done using Adobe Photo Shop CS**