

"Hot Stuff"

Hot stuff was created simply by noticing a fire extinguisher placed beside the laundry dryer and that particular vision that came to me during one of those restless nights at 3 a.m.

My first order of preparing to make fire, was to travel to the local library to print in color (their color printer is better quality than mine at home) a mix of different shape and colored fires on google images. With that in hand, I sat down to add fire to the fingers making them "too hot to touch".

I started by prepping the nail plates for an acrylic nail service (gently pushing the cuticles back, nipping only if necessary, removing shine, file free edge to properly fit a sculpting form, removing dust, dehydrate, prime). I choose the colored acrylic colors by picking my favorite image from before mentioned images. I choose the one image due to the intensity of the fire, darker around the outer edges almost as if it was outlined against the background air, getting to lighter almost yellow-white color in the middle where the real heat of a fire is leading into small off shoots of flames and sparks. I portrayed the sparks by choosing colored acrylic that contains glitter with the exception of the clear and black.

To achieve the darker outside edge of the fire I choose a colored acrylic in the dark berry family and applied that to all fingers only on the nail plate around the cuticle carefully avoiding the actual cuticle on all sides leaving the middle of the nail plate for the lighter, brighter colors. I then went back and added just a few spots of black colored acrylic to add depth to the fire. Once that was finished I then placed a form to extend the free edge of each finger into fire flames by working with semi-wet balls of red, yellow, and orange acrylic, blending each color into the other making no definite lines of one color to the next while pulling some of the color up into shooting flames closer to the tip or free edge on the sculpting form. Once I was satisfied with all flames, sparks, and colors, I capped the entire nail (all nails) with crystal clear acrylic still on the form, once it started to cure I then pinched for the c-curve using my metal long handle pinchers/tongs and finally removed the sculpting forms. I used a grand artist oval #508 brush for every step mentioned above to create the design.

After all the acrylic was applied, I used a 150 grit file to shape and refine the overall appearance of each nail as well as the free edge, removed the filing dust from each finger, applied a uv dry top coat and cured for 3 minutes in a uv lamp, applied cuticle oil to each finger to finish the set.

A Canon D1S Mark II set for large capture 16.5mb reduced down for email purpose iso=160 @ 60 with 4.0, red line lense 35-105. Photoshop CS3 used to crop photos and Painter IX on presentation image. An actual smoke machine was used to create smoke.

Please note that on model's hand on the outside of the index finger appears what used to be a blister, formed by off course getting burnt. I could've fixed this in the Photoshop program but choose not to due to it being so ironic. And not having sufficient time to find another live model.