

"Ahhhh Home"

Who doesn't love going home? It is our safe haven and our refuge. Do you get that feeling when you first see your home "ahhh, I'm home", either from a long day or a long trip? This is what I tried to capture with the front drive entrance. I combined my love of nail art with the love of flower gardening to recreate the warm feeling of "ahhh home".

I first started with 10 tips in natural color, 100% pure abs plastic, 2 tips of each size of ones, threes, fours, fives, and sixes to mimic thumbs to pinkies. I applied a clear sticky base coat to help the acrylic paint stick to the nail tips. I used a total of 18 acrylic craft paints to create the image, each listed below in the step by step procedures. I used a host of different sizes and shaped nail art brushes as well as a cheaper craft paintbrush that I cut down to only one bristle/hair for fine lines.

When I start to paint I always take into consideration the landscape or image and start from the background and work to the front, layering colors as I proceed to achieve the dimension I want. For example for this landscape I started with brick background and proceeded to paint the flowers and shrubbery around it, same as the flowering shrubs on the left, I started with dark green, went one green color step up to get dimension then painted the flowers and last painted the butterfly on top of the flower, going back to paint glints of highlights.

While painting, I used a pair of long, thin, needle nose pointed scrapbook tweezers to hold each tip and to twist to be sure to paint all sides of the nail canvas.

The colors of choice are as follows: the green shrubbery, limbs, leaves and grass were painted with seminole mixed with a hint of burnt umber for darkness, leaf green and light leaf green; the blue flowers consist of copen blue highlighted with laguna; the red roses as well as the brick in the far back was created with true burgundy, cardinal red (rouge cardinal transparent), real red and highlights in ivory; the butterfly was captured with lemon custard, pale yellow, white and pure black; purple flowers on the left, middle and right all include purple and lilac with ivory highlights; yellow flowers by the brick is pale yellow; the path was created with spice tan, ac flesh, ivory and burnt umber for detail lines; the 201 address sign is copen blue, white for the numbers with burnt umber for the outline; the brick pillars at the opening of the path are also created with ac flesh, ivory, spice tan, burnt umber and for the shaded side for the left post I mixed ac flesh with a hint of burnt umber and the highlights of silver/grey were a mix of white with a hint of pure black.

The piece is topped off and coated in a air dry top clear coat. Once everything was dry, only then did I glue each tip to each other using a brush on resin to

complete the final design of "ahhh home".

The photos were captured using a Canon D1S Mark 11, set for large capture 16.5 mb reduced down for email purpose iso=160 @ 60 with 4.0, red line lense 35-105. Also used was Photoshop CS3 only to crop photo size. Microsoft Picture It! was used to create magazine cover for the presentation photo.

Lighting note: I use a "true color" table lamp to achieve the desired color since under different lighting the colors choosen actually look a bit different. This makes it possible for me to work on the same project at home and then finishing it at the salon or vice versa and I can complete it in confidence knowing the colors will look the same no matter where I work.