

Fusion Blending
Lesson 1- Strawberries and Blossoms
Copyright © 2009 David W Jansen

[Video Link- Strawberry Plaque Video](#)

Preparation

Base your desired surface with a dark green or any dark color. I used Pine Green + At least an equal amount of Raw Umber and touch Carbon Black. You can lighten with Medium White if desired, but remember that you will have light green leaves so keep the background color a little on the dark side. Trim the edge and stripe with a medium green (base color + Medium White or off the palette).

Palette

Red Violet
Raw Sienna
Carbon Black

Naphthol Red Light
Yellow Oxide
Medium White

Vermilion
Raw Umber
Titanium White

Basic Technique

You can Fusion blend on a basecoated surface or wet on wet. In the video I will show you the wet on wet which is just a little more difficult because you can pull a hole in the background if you use too much water. If you basecoat the objects first, you will not have this problem. The key to this technique is the amount of water in the fusion brush. Not too much.

Base the object in the base color using a regular synthetic brush. Dry. Rebase the objects in the base, while this is wet, apply some shadow color down the shadow sides. You can fully load the brush and have texture. Put that brush aside and pick up your Fusion Blender. Dip the blender in water, then tap one side then the other on a paper towel to remove the excess. Lightly wiggle the brush down the middle of the color line between the basecolor and the shadow you applied. Repeat if necessary. Sometimes this make take a few applications. If you pull a hole, you are using too much water. Practice on a few strawberries. They cover up real easy so you don't have the worry.

The highlights are applied in the same method. This time however I show you how to do it on a dry surface. Tap some basecolor, and highlight in the center, then use the fusion blender down the color line between the colors to blend.

Detailed Steps

Step 1.- Basecoat

I basecoated the objects with a # 8 filbert from JansenArt. Fusion Blender is a # 8 from GlobalArt

Strawberries

Base with Naphthol Red Light

Blossoms

Base with Medium White + Raw Umber and touch Raw Sienna. Nice medium to dark white.

Leaves

Base Pine Green, Raw Sienna, Raw Umber and then lighten a little lighter than the background with some Medium White. Use the chisel of your brush for the stems.

Step 2- Blending Shadows

Give objects a light coat of their base color. Work one object at a time. Using the filbert. Add shadow with a full load down the sides of the strawberry, around the center on the blossom and next to the flowers and berries on the leaves. While this is wet, dress the fusion blender in water, tap on the paper towel to remove the excess water. Make sure to tap both sides. Using light pressure, wiggle the brush down the color line between the shadow and the base color. If you pull a hole, you are using too much water and pressure. This will take just a little practice.

Strawberries

Base with Naphthol Red Light, shadow with Red Violet

Blossoms

Base with Medium White + Raw Umber and touch Raw Sienna. Nice medium to dark white. Circle of dark around the center with Raw Umber, Raw Sienna. I left some green in my brush from the leaves. You could add additional Pine Green if you like the color. I then added some of this very heavy into the center, just in case you filled it up with the petals.

Leaves

Base Pine Green, Raw Sienna, Raw Umber and then lighten a little lighter than the background with some Medium White. Pine Green + Carbon Black and touch Raw Umber for the shadow color.

Step 3- Blending Highlights

Add the desired color. For these I did them on a dry surface. No base coat first. You can alter this and add some base color if you like the look. This technique is very versatile. Fully load your brush in the desired color. For the strawberries I tapped the colors in one at a time as shown in the video. For the blossoms and leaves, I went down one side of the object then blended with the Fusion Blender.

Strawberries

Tap in some Naphthol Red Light, Yellow Oxide and Vermilion in the center. While this is wet, dress the Fusion Blender in water, tap on a towel to remove the excess, then wiggle down the color line with light pressure to blend the color. You are actually doing a version of floated color. Repeat if desired.

Blossoms

Mix Medium White + touch Raw Sienna and Titanium White. I mostly used Medium White, but vary for interest. Go down one side of the blossom petal and then soften with the Fusion Blender following the same blending technique we have been using.

Leaves

Mix Pine Green, Raw Sienna, and then lighten with some Medium White. Go down one side of the leaf and then soften with the Fusion Blender following the same blending technique we have been using. Add various amounts of Raw Sienna or even Yellow Oxide to make a the color more Yellow Green for varied interest.

Final Details

You can repeat the shadows on the strawberries for more variation. I made some darker Red Violet just for interest. Add seeds with a small round brush loaded with Raw Sienna, dark seeds are Red Violet + Carbon Black. Light seeds in the center are Yellow Oxide + Medium White and Titanium White.

Centers of the blossoms are an old filbert. Dress in some Raw Sienna, Yellow Oxide and Titanium White. Tap around the center with light pressure. You can use a small round for lighter dots in the front of the center.

Add the strawberry bracts with the yellow blossom center color + touch Pine Green. Just a nice light green color. Pick up some white with this color and make a few lighter. Use this color to add a veil line to the leaves.

Make a light to medium toned green color from Pine Green, Raw Sienna, Raw Umber and Medium White. Fully load a small filbert (I used a 6) and then add some accent strokes around the design.

We hope you enjoyed this lesson. We will be adding many more soon!



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3

Final



