

True Blue Koala

(Fridge Magnet or Brooch)
Original Design by Karen Brouwer ©2006



Requirements

Cut outs - Fridge Magnet and Brooch
Black Graphite Paper
Tracing paper and pencil
Usual painting supplies

Brushes

½ Flat 1/16, 1/8 Deerfoot
No 2 Round Liner
¼ Angle

DecoArt Americana Paints

Lamp Black	Titanium White
Plantation Pine	Avocado
Bittersweet Chocolate	Yellow Green
Burnt Sienna	Dove Grey
Midnight Green	True Blue
Glorious Gold	Celery Green

Preparation

Using a ½ Flat brush basecoat cut outs in Dove Grey. Allow to dry, lightly sanding and applying a second coat. Transfer pattern onto tracing paper and with black graphite paper transfer the design on to your piece.

Leaves and branch

Paint gum leaf in Midnight Green. Paint branch in Bittersweet Chocolate.

Load No 2 Round brush in Plantation Pine, wipe lightly with paper towel to remove excess paint and with a feather touch, dry brush on highlights of leaf, from the outside edge to the centre. Repeat this technique with Avocado. Add water to Yellow Green to make it a watery mix and wash this lightly over the leaves and in some shadow areas wash in watery Burnt Sienna.

Dry brush highlights on the leaves with Celery Green. Add a touch of Titanium White to Celery green and lightly add vein and outline leaf. Add a touch of Titanium White to Bittersweet Chocolate and dry brush highlights onto branch.

Koala

Base the eyes and nose of the Koala in Lamp Black.

Mix Lamp Black to Dove Grey (2.1) and using the 1/8 Deerfoot stipple shadows onto the Koala. Lightly stipple the dark grey throughout the Koala as well. Wiping brush clean, pick up Dove Grey and lightly stipple onto the middle value areas of the Koala, softening back into the shadow area.

Mix Dove Grey/ Titanium White (2.1) and lightly start to stipple in the light areas of the Koala. Add more Titanium White to this mix and stipple in highlights on the Koala.

Using your Liner loaded in Titanium White paint the hairs in ears, hair on chin and on chest.

Re paint eyes and nose in Lamp Black. Paint in a watery Burnt Sienna crescent in the bottom of each eye and add watery Titanium White highlights at 11 O'clock in each eye. Paint in 2 comma strokes for the nostrils and dry brush in a Titanium White highlight in the top right corner of the nose.

Paint in Lamp Black claws on hands and feet.

On brooch

Base paintbrush in True Blue, ferrule in Glorious Gold and brush in Bittersweet Chocolate. Dry brush Titanium White highlights on brush handle and ferrule and outline in Lamp Black. Add a touch of Titanium White to Bittersweet Chocolate and paint in lighter brush hairs.

Varnishing

You may use your favourite varnish to finish the piece but I use a liquid gloss or DecoArt gloss spray.

Favourite Varnish – I prefer to use Craft Smart Liquid Gloss, Glass Coat and Envirotex can also be used. All Brands come in two bottles – Hardener and Resin

Thoroughly mix exactly the same proportions of each bottle in a clean container with a flat wood spatula. I use disposable plastic "Shot" size glasses to measure with. Unless coating a large surface don't mix very much at a time, as the mixture needs to be used within approx. a half hour before it starts to set. It is difficult to achieve a smooth finish when this happens.

Have the item on a flat surface (I use a metal cake tray because of the heat generated by the butane gas torch used), carefully pour a small amount on the item – the mixture will find its own level – but you can help spread with another wooden spatula. If you use too much it will run over the edges and possibly stick the item to the surface – care is needed not to put too much on at first – you can always add a little more if needed.

You will find small bubbles in the mixture – to get rid of these use a small butane torch and short bursts from this torch will eliminate any bubbles immediately leaving a clear smooth surface. **If you hold the torch too close you may get a bit of a flame so take care.** Leave overnight to harden – it should take 24 hours for it to completely set. You can purchase a cleaner or use Acetone for clean up.

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