Holiday Happiness

©2017, Susan Kelley

Supply List

**Palette:  DecoArt Americana**

DA326 Peacock Teal

DA03 Buttermilk

DAO65 Dark Chocolate

DAO1 Titanium White

DA349 Green Tree

DA256 Sea Breeze

DA251 Melon

DA324 Watermelon Slice

DA194 Marigold

DA253 Pistachio Mint

DAO67 Lamp Black

DA277 Spa Blue

DAO50 Forest Green

DAO35 Navy Blue

DA265 Tuscan Red

DA155 Soft Black

**Brushes:  Artist’s Club Papillon**

20132 Shader #14

20129 Shader #8

20126 Shader  #4

20125 Shader #2

20172 Stipple Brushes #4,# 6

20111 Angular 1/2”

20109 Angular 1/4”

27179 Maxine’s Mop 1/2”

20136 Script Liner #18/0

20173 Highlighter Brushes 1/4”, 3/4”

20157 Round #1

**Other Supplies:**

DecoArt Media Shimmer Mister – White

DecoArt Matte Spray Sealer/Finisher

Basic Painting Supplies

Fine Grit Sandpaper

Polka-dot Fabric for Bow

**Prep:**

Sand the surface and edges to remove raised grain and to soften the edges.  Remove dust.

Transfer the pattern outlines for the snowman’s hat, face, body, scarf, bird and bird’s hat/bell.  Transfer the details later, as needed.

**Basecoats and Stippling:**

Basecoat the background and sides of the plaque with Peacock Teal.

Spray the Mister on a paper towel to remove large clumps first, then spray the background and allow drying.  Spray again, and again, drying between layers until you have plenty of large and small splotches. Let dry completely.

Basecoat the snowman’s face, body, and hand with Buttermilk.

Shade around the snowman’s face, body, hand, and against the scarf and bird with Peacock Teal.  Repeat this step floating Dark Chocolate over the teal shadows.  These do not have to be “pretty” floats because they will soon be covered up with stippling.

*Stippling the Snowman:  Wet the stipple brush, blot on a paper towel.  Load fully with paint.  Hold the brush perpendicular to the palette.  Press hard on the brush to splay the bristles against the palette.  Before you begin painting, check the bristles to make sure they are fully open and look like an old frayed flat brush.  Blot the tips of the bristles gently on a paper towel to remove clumps of paint.*

Using the dampened #6 stipple brush loaded with Titanium White, lightly stipple several coats on the snowman’s face and body.  **Do not stipple the hand yet.**  Take your time with this step and do not try to cover the snowman with one layer.  For a really fuzzy appearance, you will need 2-3 layers of stippling.  Be sure to leave the shadows showing through from underneath.

Basecoat the bird with a mix of Melon + Watermelon Slice (1:1).

Basecoat the snowman’s hat and scarf with Green Tree.

Using Sea Breeze, basecoat the ‘patch’ on the snowman’s scarf, and basecoat the bird’s hat and scarf.

Basecoat the bell on the end of the bird’s hat with Marigold.

Basecoat the heart on the snowman’s scarf with Pistachio Mint.

Transfer the remaining details as needed.

**Shading, Highlighting and Detailing:**

Slightly thin some Pistachio Mint to paint the linework on the snowman’s hat and scarf.

Paint all eyes, lashes, and the snowman’s mouth with Lamp Black.  Thin the paint and use the 18/0 script liner for the lashes and mouth line.

Mix a dot of Pistachio Mint with a dot of Lamp Black to paint the bird’s beak.

Drybrush the snowman’s cheeks with Watermelon Slice.

Paint the snowman’s nose alternating stripes of Titanium White and Watermelon Slice.  Begin and end the stripes with Watermelon Slice.

Using Melon, drybrush the bird’s cheeks, tummy and wing.  Line the heart.

Using Pistachio Mint, drybrush between the stitches on the snowman’s hat, and along each row of lines on the snowman’s scarf.  Float a highlight across the top of the hat brim and along the left edge of the snowman’s scarf tail.

With Titanium White, float a highlight across the top of the snowman’s hat.  Float highlights in all eyes and add highlight dots.  Add comma strokes in the snowman’s eyes.  Float back-to-back across the center of the snowman’s nose.  Float the snowman’s tongue. Dot between the stripes on the heart.  Highlight the top of the beak.  Add random dots on the bird’s scarf (just a few).

Using Spa Blue, float a highlight across the top of the bird’s hat and along the bird’s scarf tail.  Add more random dots on the bird’s scarf.

Stipple the hat bell first with Buttermilk then with Titanium White right in the center area.

Using Forest Green, shade the snowman’s hat and scarf.  Refer to photo for placement of the additional shading between ‘rows’.  Shade to the right side of each line of stitches on the hat.  Add back-to-back floats between each row on the scarf.

Using Peacock Teal, outline the heart.  Shade the snowman’s scarf patch and add the floated rows.  Shade the bird’s hat and scarf.

Using Navy Blue, shade the edges of the plaque.  Shade the white stripes on the snowman’s nose.  Shade around the snowman’s eyes, under the nose, and under the mouth and create a lip float. Reinforce the shading on the bird’s scarf and hat/hat brim, mainly along the bottom edges of the hat and under tail of the scarf.

Using Melon, float arch-shapes along the tops of the bird’s cheeks.

Using Watermelon Slice, shade the bird.

Using Tuscan Red, shade the red nose stripes on the snowman.  Reinforce to add darker shading on the bird.  Shade underneath the bird’s hat brim, especially along the sides of the face, underneath the bird’s scarf, and along the edges to separate the wings from the body.  Float Tuscan Red along the bottom of the bird against the snowman’s hand.

Using Spa Blue, drybrush between the rows of shading on the snowman’s scarf patch.  Stipple the bird’s hat brim.

With Soft Black (sparingly), reinforce shadows by adding sheer floats in the following areas:  edges of snowman’s hat and scarf; below scarves; along the bottom of the snowman’s nose; between the scarf and tails on both, along the shaded rows on the snowman’s scarf patch, along the base of the bird and edges of bird’s body; shade the bell; float alongside each of the bird’s eyes.

**Final Steps:**

Line and dot the bell with Lamp Black.

Add sheer floats of Dark Chocolate over top of the Navy Blue shadows around the snowman’s eyes, under the nose, and mouth/lip.

Using Titanium White, stipple the bird’s hat and float a highlight on the top right side of the bell.  Stipple the snowman’s hand.  Add random different sized dots of ‘snow’ in the background using the ends of paint brushes and a stylus.

**Finishing:**

Varnish.

Use the fabric to make a bow and wrap /glue in place at the top of the plaque.