

Summer Fire Works Box

By Sandra Malone

Palette:

Deco Art Americana Acrylics

Burgundy Wine	Milk Chocolate
Cotton Candy	Primary Red
Deep Midnight Blue	Tangelo Orange
Foliage Green	Uniform Blue
Hauser Medium Green	Warm White
Lamp (Ebony) Black	Williamsburg Blue
Light Mocha	Winter Blue
Marigold	

Surface:

This is a wooden card holder. It measures 4 ¼ by 6 inches. You could also store Artist Trading Cards in it if you're not a card player. Consider painting this design on a circle coaster or other surfaces. You may reduce or enlarge the design as needed.

Misc. Supplies:

Tracing Paper
Sanding Paper or Block
Tack Cloth
Stylus
Grey and White Graphite Paper
Star Stencil-Optional
Deco Art Americana Sealer/Finisher-Matte
Small Piece of Window Screen or Painters Tape

Brushes:

Use your favorites. I use sizes 10-8-6-4-2, Liner Brush, and ¾" Flat Brush

Preparation:

If your surface needs sanding, then sand it and wipe with a tack cloth. Basecoat the card holder Light Mocha. Repeat as needed. After I finished painting the design, I wish I had spattered it lightly. If you would like to do this, then spatter lightly Milk Chocolate. Add your stars freehand or use a stencil. They are Primary Red with a drop of Light Mocha added. The blue stripes are Williamsburg Blue.

Watermelon:

Basecoat the red area the same color as you painted the stars. Repeat as needed. On the last coat of paint, pick up Cotton Candy on your brush, blend it back and forth on your palette and paint the top area of the watermelon. Blend in into the existing watermelon for a nice highlight. Tap Cotton Candy through a piece of wire screen over the top area. Float Burgundy Wine along the lower area. The green area is Hauser Medium Green with Foliage Green stars. The seeds are Lamp Black with a Warm White highlight. Float Burgundy Wine on the right and lower side of each seed.

Blueberries:

Basecoat Uniform Blue. Repeat. Float or dry brush the center with Williamsburg Blue for your first highlight. Repeat if needed. Without cleaning your brush, pick up Winter Blue and add a second highlight on top of the first. Repeat if needed. Float Deep Midnight blue plus a tiny tad of Lamp Black on one side of each berry. Repeat as needed. Float Burgundy Wine on the other side of the berry. Repeat as this doesn't show up a lot on the first float. Add a final Warm White highlight dot to each.

Gooseberries:

Basecoat Primary Red. Repeat as needed. Pick up Tangelo Orange plus Cotton Candy on your brush and add the highlight in the center. Repeat. Float Burgundy Wine on one side. Float Williamsburg Blue on the other side. Add Winter Blue over Williamsburg Blue for an extra highlight. The lines on the berry are Tangelo Orange plus Cotton Candy. Add a Warm White highlight dot to each. The little hairs on the berries and outside linework are Lamp Black.

Strawberries:

Start on one side painting Primary Red. As you move to the other side of the berry, pick up Tangelo Orange and finish blending the colors together where they meet. Repeat as needed. Float Burgundy Wine on Primary Red side. Tip the end of a small brush in the Tangelo Orange-Cotton Candy mix and tap the crosshatching in on each berry. Pick up a little more Cotton Candy and highlight a couple of the crosshatch lines. Float Burgundy Wine pockets in between the cross hatching. Add Marigold highlights on top of the Burgundy Wine. This is to resemble little seeds. The stroke leaves are a mix of Hauser Medium Green and Foliage Green. Add Lamp Black dots randomly over the leaves, allowing some to fall over the berry and background.

Detail:

Float thin Milk Chocolate to shadow the watermelon and berries. Float this on the corners of the card box also. I added Williamsburg Blue stars going around the outside edge of the card box.

Finish:

Spray varnish for a finish.