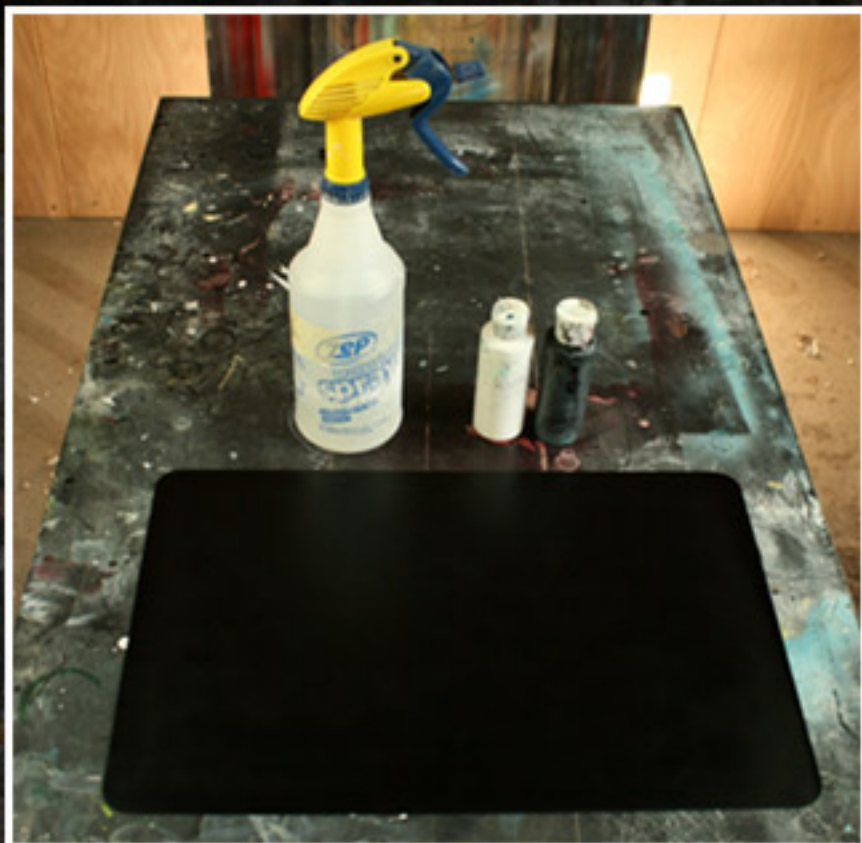# WATER DROPS

A QUICK EFFECT WITH INCREDIBLE RESULTS
BY SEAN CAHILL

Hello All,

This is one of those effects that always has people asking, "How'd He do that!?" The water drop effect is always such an eye catcher. It can be used as a subtle background effect, put in and around graphics, kandied over or simply stand on its own. In this tutorial we will show you the basics of this popular effect, and how simple it can be to impress friends and clients with little effort.

STEP 1

STEP 2

Although there are many ways to get this effect to really pop, we'll be starting with the basics. A black panel, a water bottle, white paint, and black paint are the only supplies you'll need (Step 1). This will be the groundwork for future experimentation in color and paint-able surfaces. I'm using House Of Kolor solvent based paint in this tutorial.

I start with an ordinary water bottle filled with water, and begin spraying over my panel in a variety of small-medium droplets (Step 2). You can make the droplets as big as you want, just know that the larger the drops get the less stable they will be.

Here you can see that I have full coverage with a nice variety in size (Step 3)
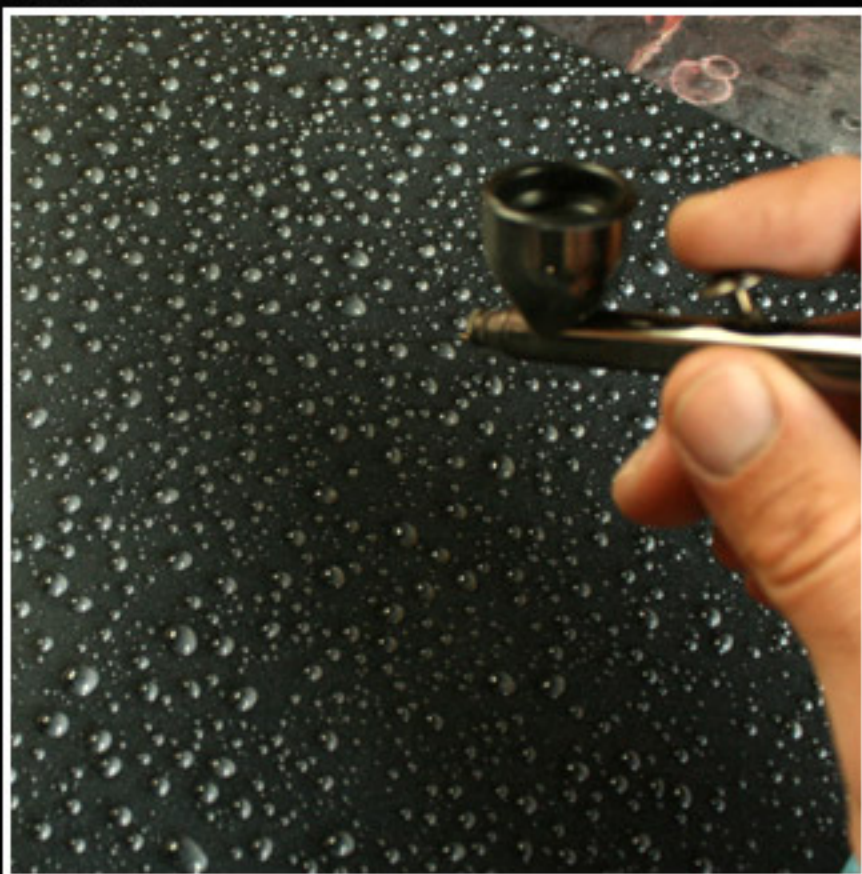
STEP 3

STEP 4

I begin with an over reduced white in the brush to allow the paint to flow freely under low pressure. The PSI (pounds per square inch) on the compressor has been set at around 25 so that I don't blow the water drops right off the page.
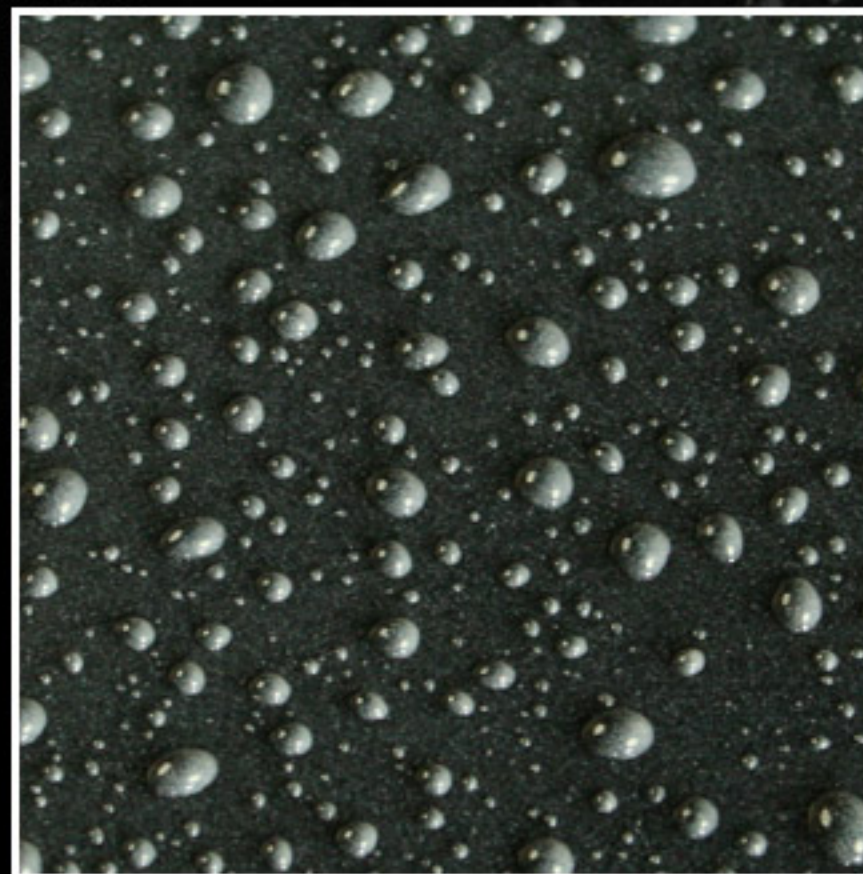
STEP 5

As you can see I'm coming in at a 35 degree angle to the panel with the brush. The whole goal of this trick is to use a three dimensional object (water drop) to create a two dimensional effect that appears to be three dimensional... Their you go, that makes perfect sense.

STEP 6

This picture is a bit deceiving due to the fact that the brush appears to be right on top of the panel, however I'm keeping a 30-35 degree angle to the flat surface while moving across the panel.

STEP 7

A close up of our panel reveals our painted droplets. A light mist of white over the panel is the only thing we see here. The water drops remain in tact while a shell of white paint covers half of the droplet.
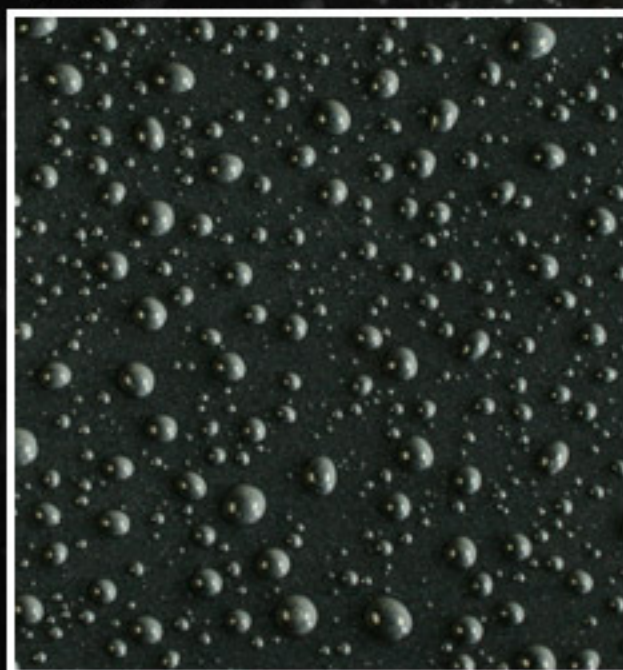
STEP 8

A light sweep of an over-reduced black opposite of the white will give you the depth you'll need to bring these water drops to life (Step 8).

A close up of black against white illustrates the three dimensional look we want (Step 9).

STEP 9

STEP 10

I used a heat gun to speed up the drying process. You could leave it out overnight or in a warm place to dry and get the same results...

STEP 11

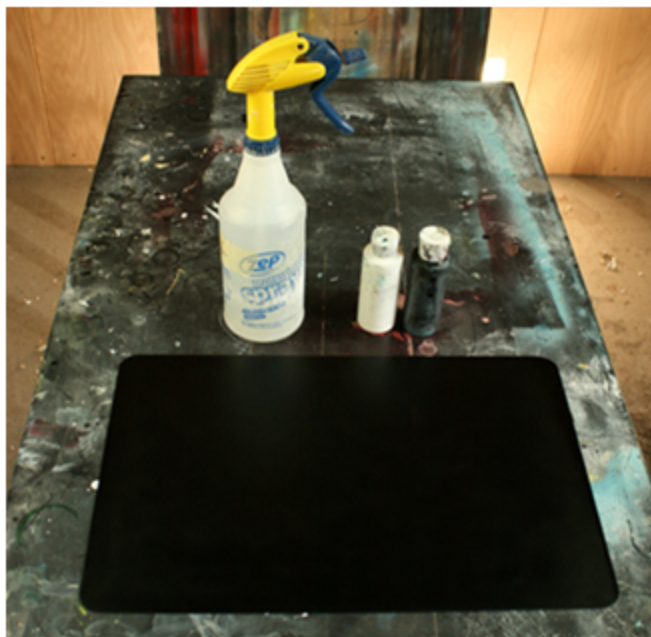This is the result of all our hard work.

PRINTER FRIENDLY →

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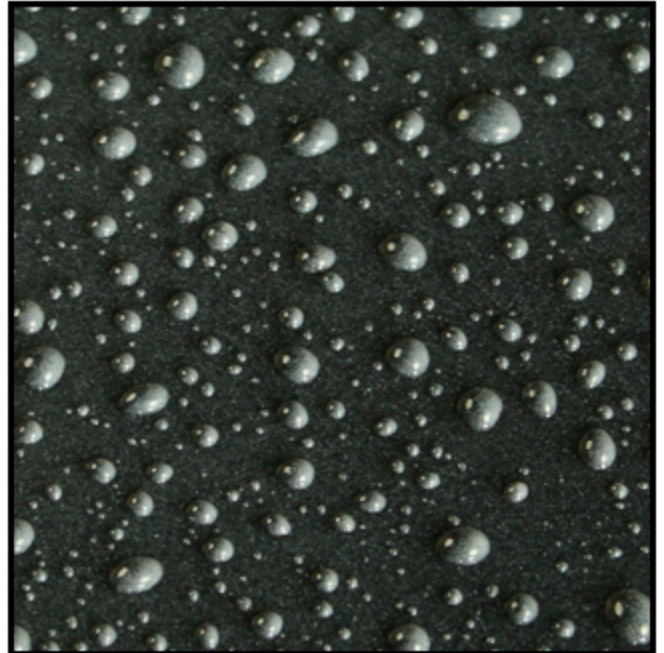
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