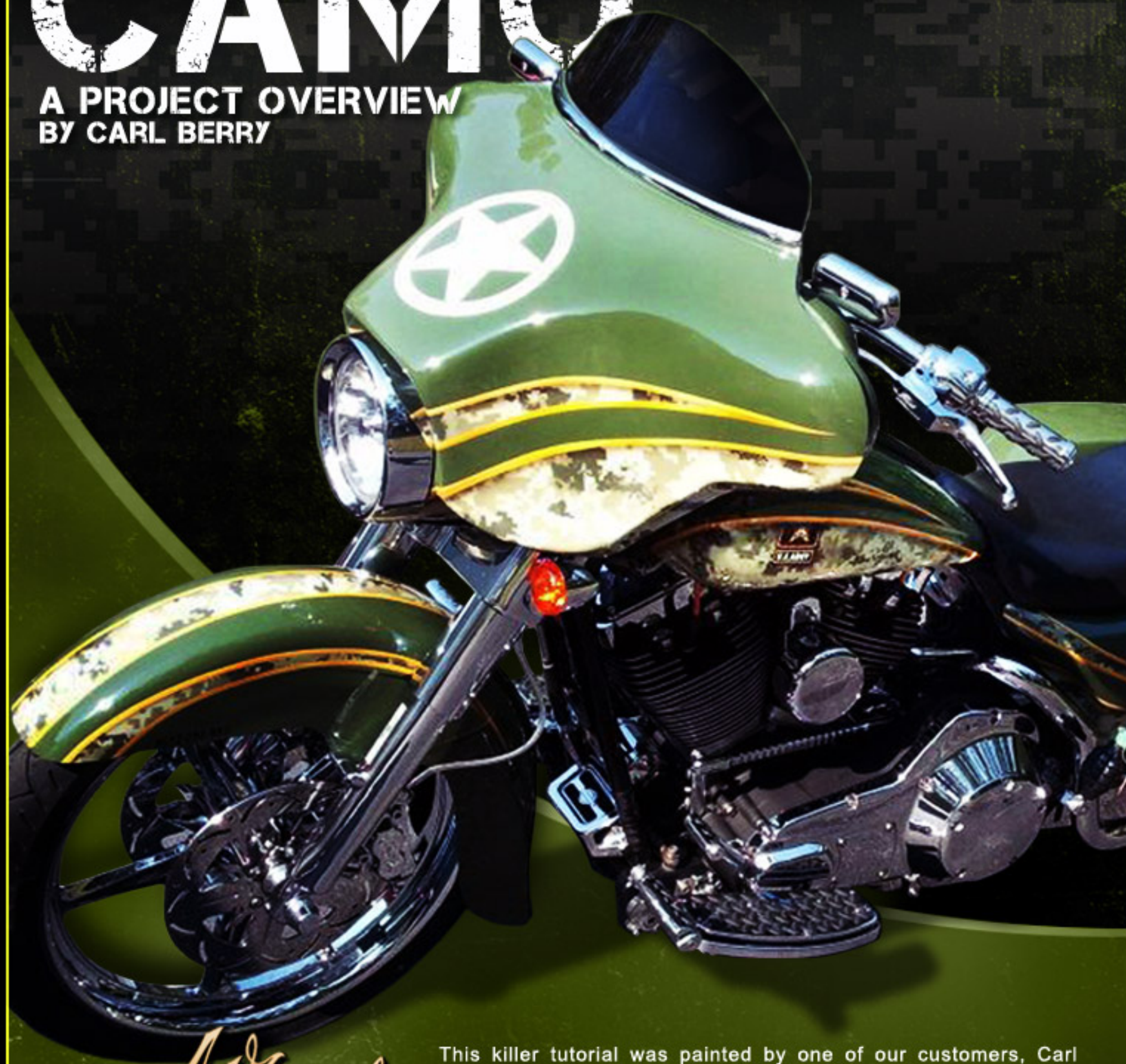


AIRSICK DIGITAL CAMO

A PROJECT OVERVIEW
BY CARL BERRY



AirSick

This killer tutorial was painted by one of our customers, Carl Berry. Now, Carl is not a custom painter by trade, but he does demonstrate how, with the right tools and proper planning, you can give your own bike an award winning paint job. Let's get to it!

STEP 1



I am not a painter, but I am a graphic designer, so I planned this design out on paper and utilized help of some great custom painters that I know. I did it myself, and you can too!

Here is what my plan started out as. This is the digital concept that I originally came up with. (Steps 1 & 2) I changed a few things as I went along, but otherwise it ended up pretty close to the concept. I did most of the test fitting and cutting for the parts. It's important on a build like this, to make sure that everything fits correctly before painting. (Steps 3 & 4)

I had a local paint shop prep the body parts for me and paint the base using PPG.

STEP 2



STEP 3



STEP 4



STEP 5



Pre-planning is essential for your design. The better you plan in the beginning of your project, the less problems you will run into later on.

STEP 6



I start taping out my design in 1/8th and 1/4 inch blue tape. Once I get my lines established, I used the green tape to fill in some of the larger gaps.

STEP 7



I used some masking to cover all of the areas that aren't going to be getting any graphics. This will prevent over spray and save me from having to do touch up later on.

STEP 8



Here is a close up of the finished masking on the front fairing. You may need to trim your fine line tape to get nice clean points. Run your finger along the edge of your tape to make sure its nice and tight, this will prevent bleeds.

STEP 9



The next step is to spray my yellow/gold mixture to create the border of my design. This will outline my digital camo graphic and separate it from the olive green base. I want the border to be a quarter inch, so I use the same size fine line tape and place it over the yellow after it has had a chance to dry. (steps 9 & 10)

STEP 10



STEP 11



STEP 12



After I sprayed the yellow, I also took some time to give it a knife edge by laying down 1/8 inch tape, spraying a darker yellow, re-taping it and adding a lighter mixture of my yellow on the other side. This gives it a subtle bevel. I also streaked the yellow with some orange just to give it some texture. You can see that better in step 12.

STEP 13



STEP 14



I've taped off my yellow border to keep it safe, and I have laid down a light green base for where my digital camo is going to go. I am using 3 shades of green for this area. Now I start spraying the digital camo pattern using the AirSick "Digital Camo 1" and "Digital Camo 2" stencils. This part is a lot of spray, rotate and repeat. I do this with both of my darker shades of green.

STEP 15



Once I am happy with the pattern, I add a light drop shadow under the graphic to really make it pop. After unmasking the fairing, I am pretty pleased with how it came out. There are a few small touch ups to be done, but over all I am very pleased with the way that the project is going.

STEP 16



Now that all of my parts are painted and unmasked, I spray everything with intercoat clear to protect the paint. Now all of the parts are going back to the body shop so that they can be clear-coated professionally. After building up a few layers of clear, they sent them back to me so I could wet sand and buff.

STEP 17

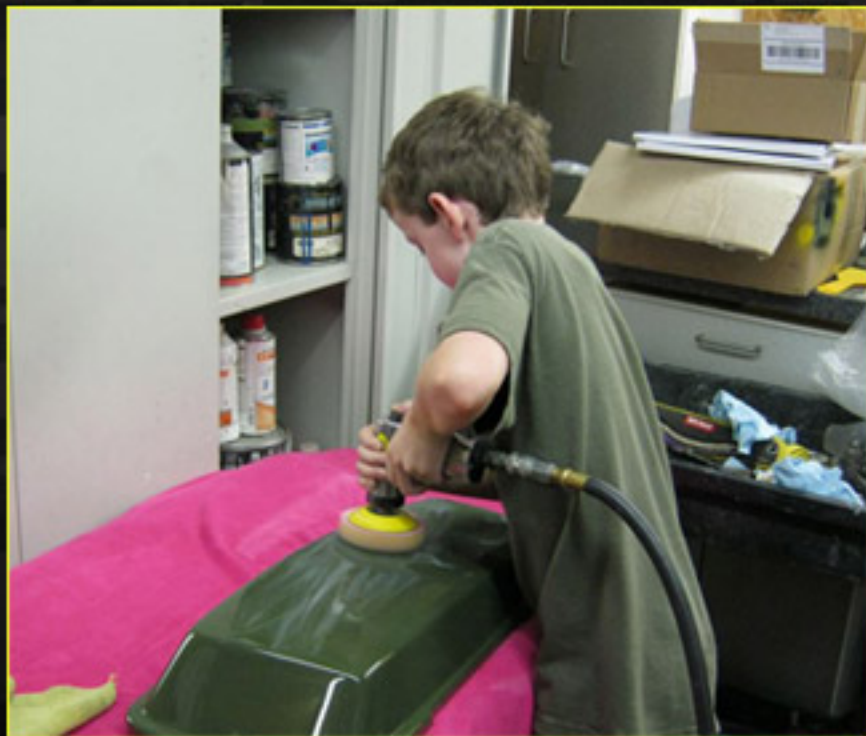


STEP 18



Here you can see where I added the Army logo on the side of the tank to complete the look. I wanted it to be visible, but also blend in with the rest of the graphics and not look out of place. I think it worked out pretty well.

STEP 19



STEP 20



I even had some help from my 9 year old son.... handed him the air buffer and compound and he got to work, now that's trust! (and free labor!)

And after all that work, this is what we ended up with. There was a lot of prepping to even get to paint! I spent hours with a razor scraping all the old parts getting the 10 layers of candies/paint/base and clear off from the old paint job, but I feel I did a pretty good job for working out of a shed! It wasn't my first project, I have been helping local painters for years with graphics, and this is the second time painting my own bike, but this is the one I am the most proud of! Thanks for hanging out!

Check out Carl's facebook page for custom parts www.facebook.com/LegacyBaggers

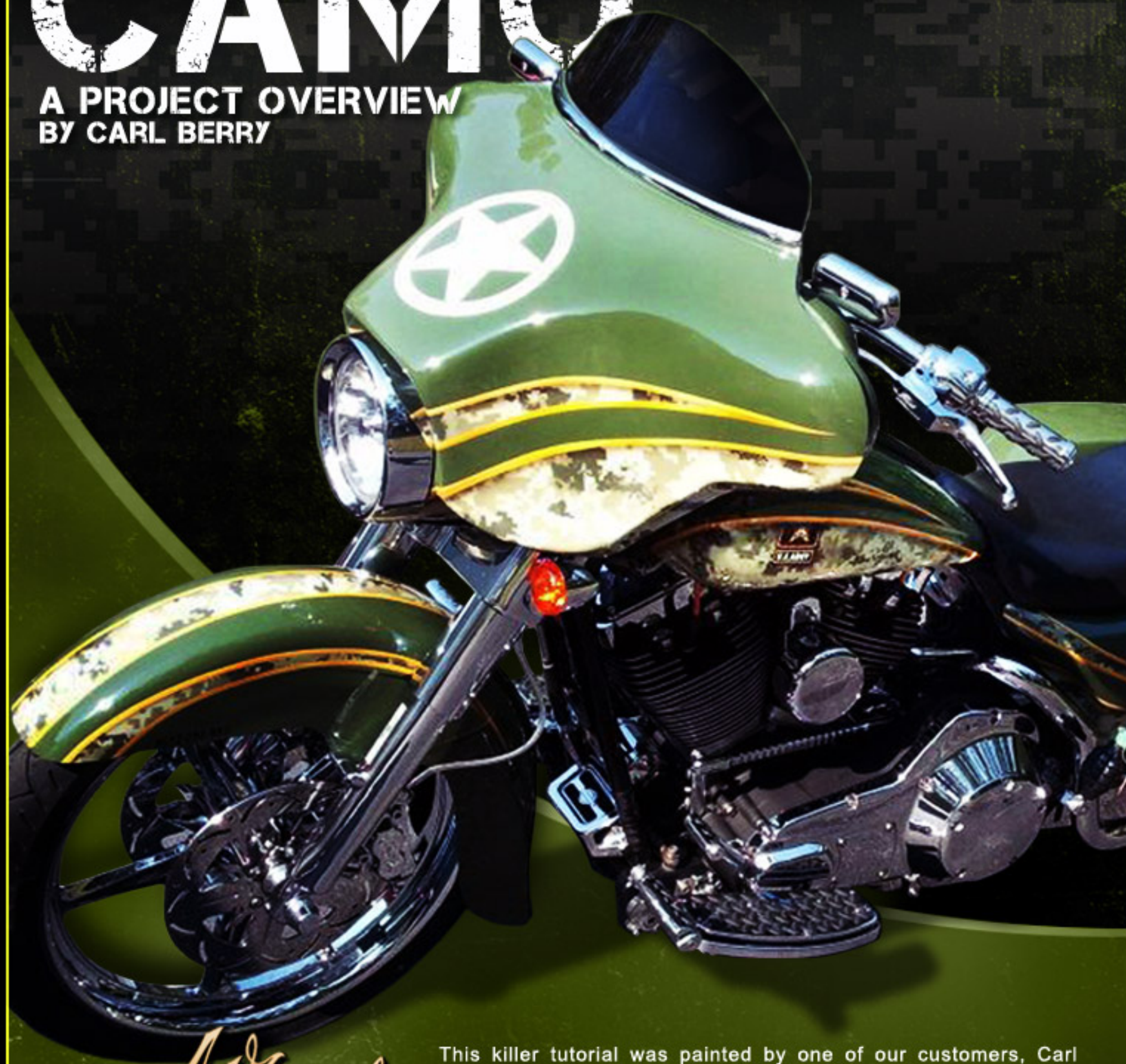


**PRINTER
FRIENDLY**



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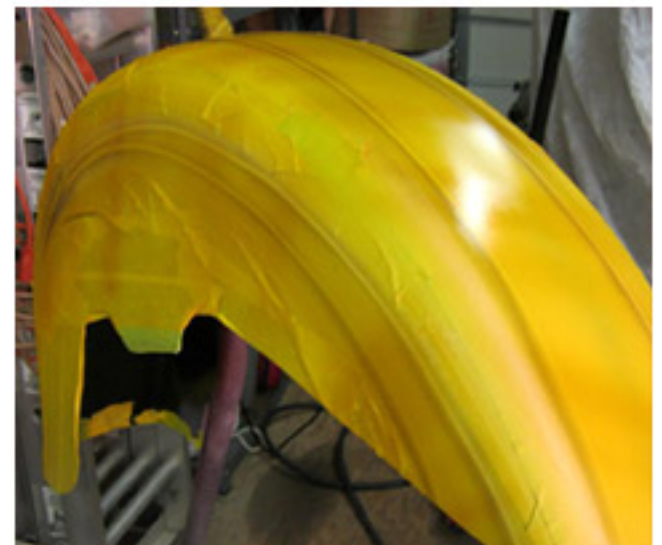
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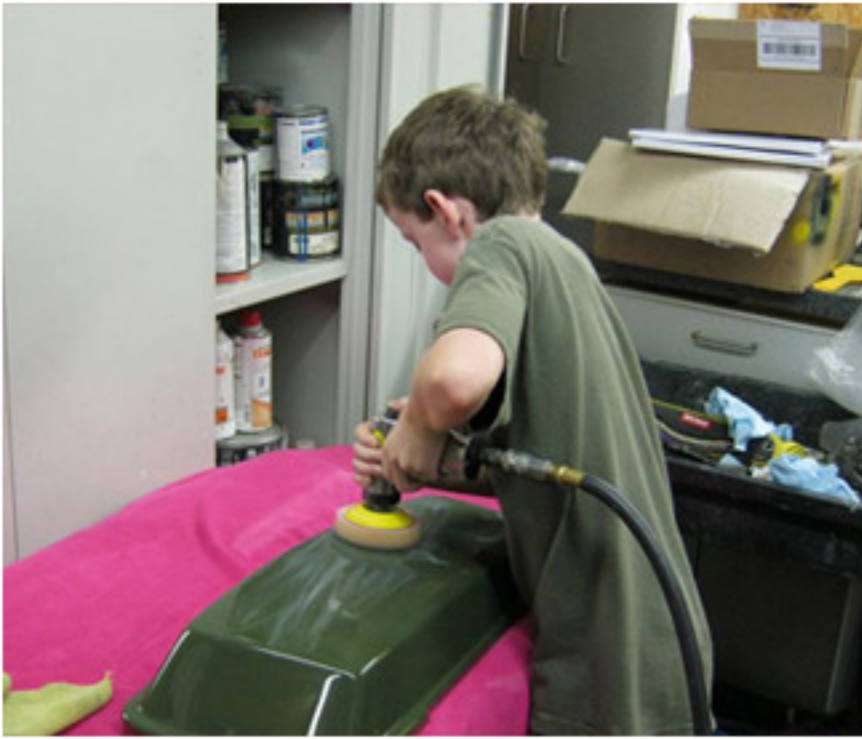


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