

MASKING OUT TRIBAL

Learn the basics of taping and masking tribal designs

Tribal graphics are very versatile, and can be used to create amazing works of art on almost any surface. The key to a successful tribal graphic is to maintain continuity and flow between all of the elements involved. It takes some skill to lay out a free-hand tribal graphic, so we suggest you draw some up on paper first. It may help to hop online and look for a few styles that you like for inspiration.



AirSick 101

AIRBRUSH TRAINING

In this tutorial we will be using 1/8" fine line tape, a razor blade, chalk pencils, a cleared metal panel, and some auto mask to illustrate a tribal design. Remember, it takes a while to become proficient in this technique so go slow and don't be discouraged if your tribal doesn't come out the way you expect at first.

First start with a pencil and some paper. We like to draw out a few different tribal designs on paper before committing to the metal. Tribal designs are more complex than a basic flame job, so it will save you some time to have a basic design refined before you start.



We use a white chalk pencil to sketch our design onto the panel. You can use any grease-free chalk or stabllo pencil to sketch your design. Keep in mind that you may have to clean up any stray lines before you paint, so try and keep them as light as possible. Designing with fine line tape is a bit tricky and will take some practice. You will be using two hands to control your tape while masking. One hand will be holding the roll and guiding the design, while the other hand presses the tape to the surface. You may want to have the tape roll in your dominant hand, because you will be using this hand to create the shapes.

AirSick 101

AIRBRUSH TRAINING



Note that we are starting with the same basic shape as our flames. Think of all the wild graphics you have ever seen, they all started from the same basic shapes. It's up to your imagination to take it from there.



Following our sketch we continue to tape along the edge of the design.



Symmetry and flow are very important when taping these style of graphics out. Take your time, you may have to lay a line out several times to get it.



Holding the roll of tape so that it's parallel to the surface helps when taping along a curve or an edge. It makes it easier to guide the leading edge of the tape as it is bending.

AirSick 101

AIRBRUSH TRAINING



Now that your design is taped out, it may look a little confusing because of all of the intersecting lines. You will have to cut all intersecting lines that pass through your intended design.



Using a new razor blade, be sure that all of your points and corners are as sharp as possible. Be careful not to gouge into the surface with your blade.



Parts of your design may have overlapping sections. You must be very careful when cutting these sections out.



If you do cut the wrong piece off, you can always lay down a new piece and pick up where you left off.

AirSick 101

AIRBRUSH TRAINING

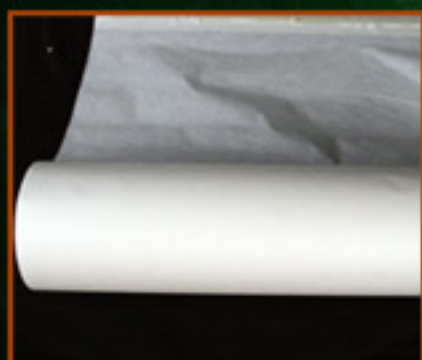


Here you can see our tribal shape before and after the extra tape has been cut off. This may look a bit intense at first, that's why its important to have a good idea down on paper first. The more you draw these shapes, the easier it will come to you. Once you have cut all of the excess tape off of your design we can move on to masking.

AirSick 101

AIRBRUSH TRAINING

The intersecting lines have been cleaned up. You can now cover the panel with a sheet of auto mask and press out the air bubbles with a plastic spreader. You want to have as little wrinkling and bubbling of the auto mask as possible, so work slowly when applying your mask.



After removing all of the bubbles, you will want to come in close with a razor blade (or x-acto knife), to carefully cut down the middle of the fine line tape. Be sure to use adequate lighting during this process, as the tape may be hard to see under the mask - or you can use a different color fine line tape if that helps. The trick is to press hard enough on the blade to cut the auto mask and not the fine line tape.



AirSick 101

AIRBRUSH TRAINING

Carefully cut around your entire design while peeling it up as you go - this is something you need to really take your time with. If for some reason your blade runs wild and strays outside the lines, just go back and mask over the exposed surface.



Peel off all tape that is blocking your design, then go around all edges with your fingers to ensure that there aren't any gaps in the mask for paint to slip under. Give your design a quick wipe down with wax and grease remover, then a final pass with a tack cloth before you spray.



**PRINTER
FRIENDLY**



MASKING OUT TRIBAL

Learn the basics of taping and masking tribal designs

Tribal graphics are very versatile, and can be used to create amazing works of art on almost any surface. The key to a successful tribal graphic is to maintain continuity and flow between all of the elements involved. It takes some skill to lay out a free-hand tribal graphic, so we suggest you draw some up on paper first. It may help to hop online and look for a few styles that you like for inspiration.



AirSick 101

AIRBRUSH TRAINING

In this tutorial we will be using 1/8" fine line tape, a razor blade, chalk pencils, a cleared metal panel, and some auto mask to illustrate a tribal design. Remember, it takes a while to become proficient in this technique so go slow and don't be discouraged if your tribal doesn't come out the way you expect at first.

First start with a pencil and some paper. We like to draw out a few different tribal designs on paper before committing to the metal. Tribal designs are more complex than a basic flame job, so it will save you some time to have a basic design refined before you start.



We use a white chalk pencil to sketch our design onto the panel. You can use any grease-free chalk or stabllo pencil to sketch your design. Keep in mind that you may have to clean up any stray lines before you paint, so try and keep them as light as possible. Designing with fine line tape is a bit tricky and will take some practice. You will be using two hands to control your tape while masking. One hand will be holding the roll and guiding the design, while the other hand presses the tape to the surface. You may want to have the tape roll in your dominant hand, because you will be using this hand to create the shapes.

AirSick 101

AIRBRUSH TRAINING



Note that we are starting with the same basic shape as our flames. Think of all the wild graphics you have ever seen, they all started from the same basic shapes. It's up to your imagination to take it from there.



Following our sketch we continue to tape along the edge of the design.



Symmetry and flow are very important when taping these style of graphics out. Take your time, you may have to lay a line out several times to get it.



Holding the roll of tape so that it's parallel to the surface helps when taping along a curve or an edge. It makes it easier to guide the leading edge of the tape as it is bending.

AirSick 101

AIRBRUSH TRAINING



Here you can see our tribal shape before and after the extra tape has been cut off. This may look a bit intense at first, that's why its important to have a good idea down on paper first. The more you draw these shapes, the easier it will come to you. Once you have cut all of the excess tape off of your design we can move on to masking.

AirSick 101

AIRBRUSH TRAINING



Now that your design is taped out, it may look a little confusing because of all of the intersecting lines. You will have to cut all intersecting lines that pass through your intended design.



Using a new razor blade, be sure that all of your points and corners are as sharp as possible. Be careful not to gouge into the surface with your blade.



Parts of your design may have overlapping sections. You must be very careful when cutting these sections out.

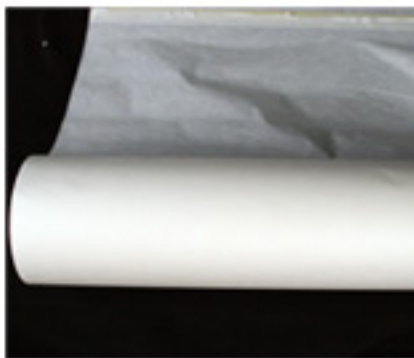


If you do cut the wrong piece off, you can always lay down a new piece and pick up where you left off.

AirSick 101

AIRBRUSH TRAINING

The intersecting lines have been cleaned up. You can now cover the panel with a sheet of auto mask and press out the air bubbles with a plastic spreader. You want to have as little wrinkling and bubbling of the auto mask as possible, so work slowly when applying your mask.



After removing all of the bubbles, you will want to come in close with a razor blade (or x-acto knife), to carefully cut down the middle of the fine line tape. Be sure to use adequate lighting during this process, as the tape may be hard to see under the mask - or you can use a different color fine line tape if that helps. The trick is to press hard enough on the blade to cut the auto mask and not the fine line tape.



AirSick 101

AIRBRUSH TRAINING

Carefully cut around your entire design while peeling it up as you go - this is something you need to really take your time with. If for some reason your blade runs wild and strays outside the lines, just go back and mask over the exposed surface.



Peel off all tape that is blocking your design, then go around all edges with your fingers to ensure that there aren't any gaps in the mask for paint to slip under. Give your design a quick wipe down with wax and grease remover, then a final pass with a tack cloth before you spray.

