

# Todd Hanson on convex striping



One day last fall, a new customer pulled into my shop parking lot and wanted some striping done on her extended-cab pickup truck. She wasn't sure what she wanted, and was afraid that she had to tell me exactly what I was supposed to do. But lucky for me, one of my repeat customers from out-of-state was there waiting for me to finish striping his car and he overheard our conversation. He came over and convinced my worried customer that she should let me come up with whatever I wanted, that she wouldn't be disappointed. So she listened to him and said, "Okay, do whatever you want," and of course, I said, "No problemo!" These are the jobs that let you get real creative—the ones where the customer turns everything over to you.

When the day came to do it, I knew I wanted to do something strong, but not just a solid-color stripe. So I started playing around on a fullsize pattern of the door area. After a while, I finally had a shape I

was pleased with, but it was still missing some punch. Suddenly, it was like a massive convexed brick fell out of the sky and hit me on the head and said, "You idiot! Convex the lines and make 'em pop right off the side of the truck!" So I called Vicki, my wife, out to the shop and asked her what she thought. "What the heck are you asking me for?" she said, laughing. "You're already drooling, so get out there and do it!"

What I thought was really neat about this was that convexing has been around forever, kind of like Keith Knecht (just joking, Keith), but I don't know of anybody who has ever done it on graphics before. It has opened up all



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sorts of new and disturbing ways to mess up somebody's vehicle!

I often look back to when I first saw what Steve Stanford, that genius from out west, did with dry-brush and splatter effects. It's simple, and it looks so cool. It makes you ask yourself, "Why didn't I think of that?" Steve lets his mind stay open to anything, no boundaries—and just look at his work. That's what we should all try to do. Keep your mind uncluttered and just let those bricks keep bouncing off your head with all those crazy new ideas. •SC

*Todd Hanson's shop, Hanson Graphix, is in Wauseon, Ohio.*

