



Sci-Fi Octopi

Introduction

Ok, I'll admit it. Like Fox Moulder, I want to believe. I have ever since I was a kid. Aliens? You betcha! Big Foot? More likely than not! Loch Ness? Sketchy, but possible.

So you can imagine my delight when a few weeks ago I ran across an article detailing a new scientific paper, signed on by no less than thirty scientists postulating the theory that octopuses are actually space aliens! I'm not kidding! The paper suggested that sometime in the very distant past a meteor may have crashed to Earth carrying alien DNA, which then evolved in Earth's oceans to become the octopus we know today.

The theory of life originating in space and seeding the Earth is called panspermia, and it's a relatively credible theory. The theory that octopuses are from outer space? Not so much.

But I would never let a little thing like scientific implausibility stop me! Especially when it comes to creating a new class! So strap on your space helmets (I know you have one) and join me this month in coloring octopuses in outer space!

Copic Colors Used For The Class Page

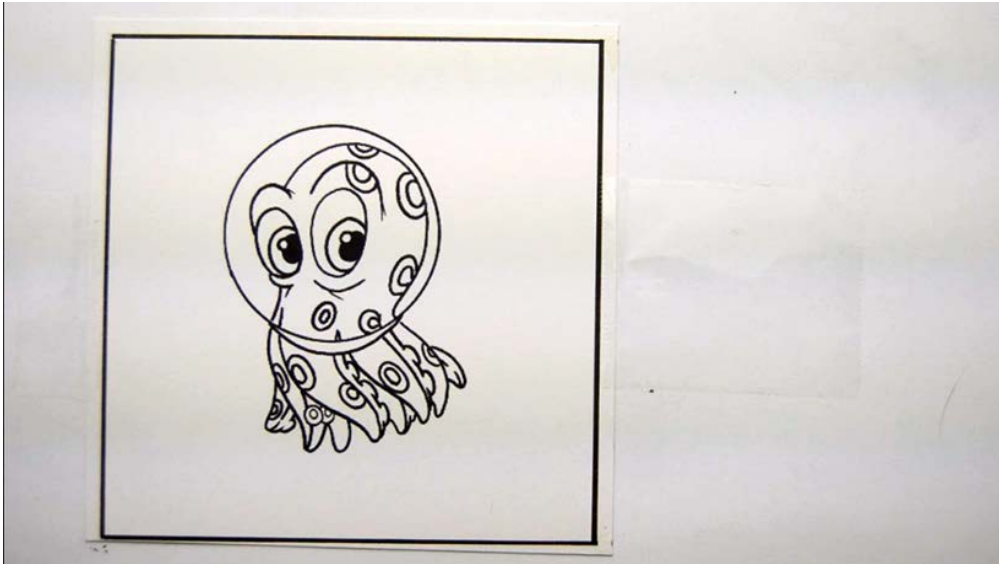
(Refer to the color conversion chart for non Copic alternatives.)

		YR15	Y00	G24	
E00	R14	YR16	Y15		V09
E08	R20	YR24		BG15	V15
E27	R27	YR68	YG05	BG34	V17
E49	R43		YG67		
	R85		YG93	B05	RV17
		BLACK 100		B39	

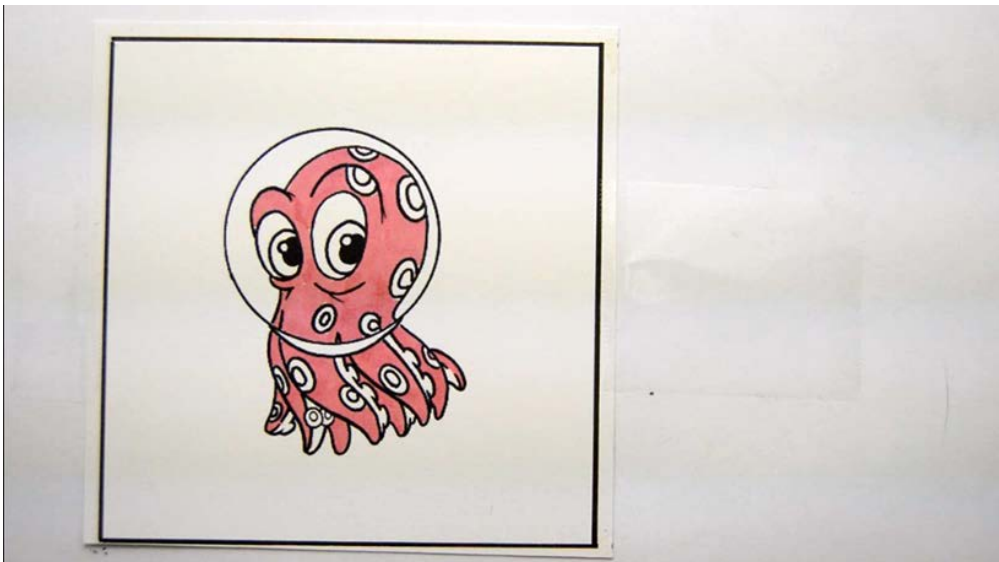
Chapter One:

Coloring The Octopus

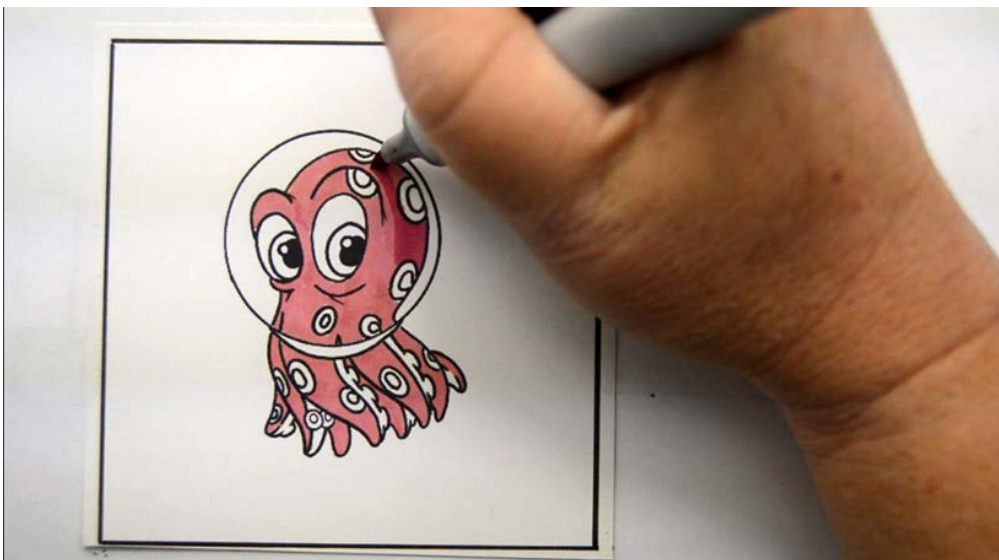




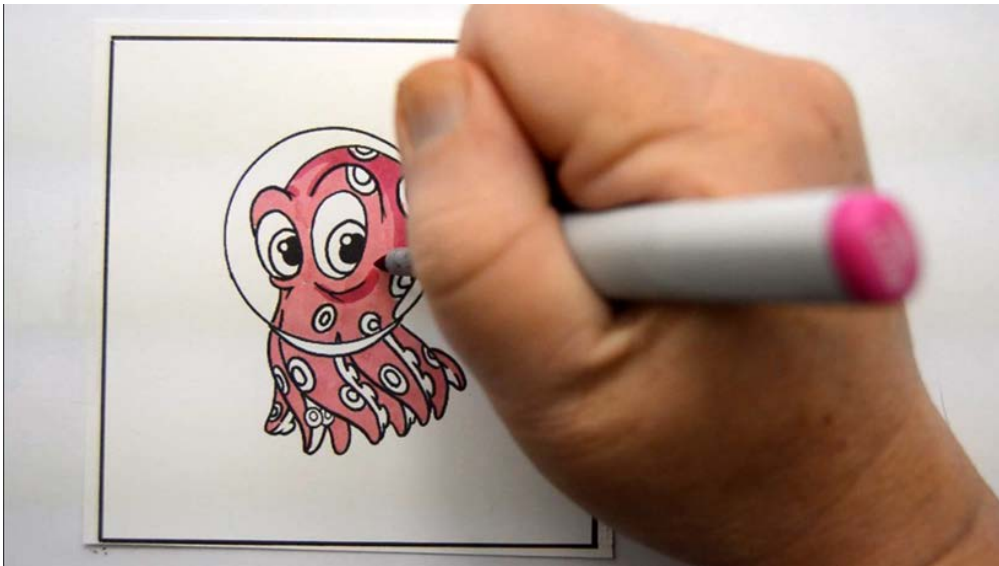
For this class I'll be using a simple black line drawing with a plain white background. But don't worry, we are gonna fill that background with pure awesomeness!



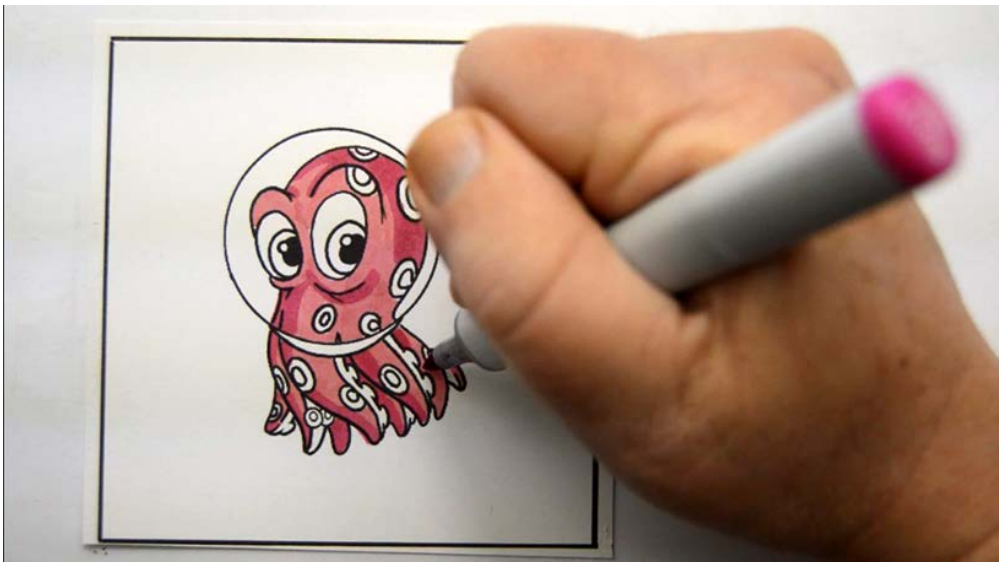
Let's begin by coloring our cosmic cephalopod with a flat base color of R85. We will leave the rings and spots uncolored for now.



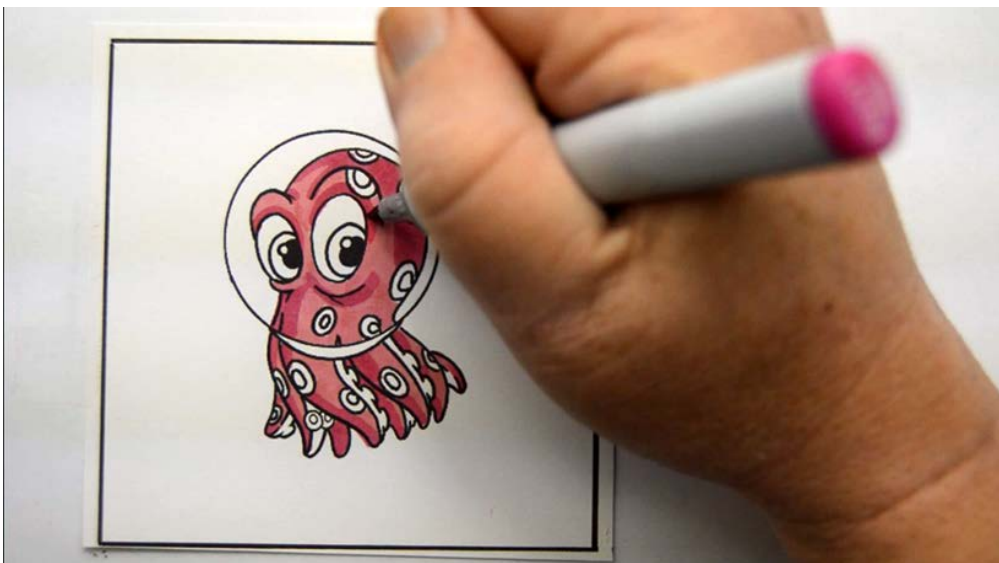
Next, I add RV17 to the back of the head...



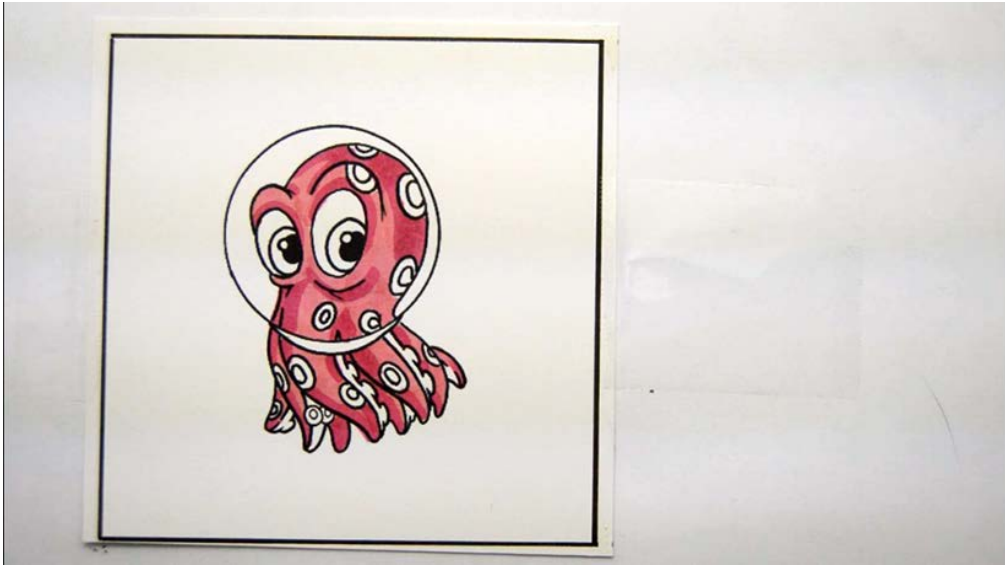
...under the eyes... (RV17)



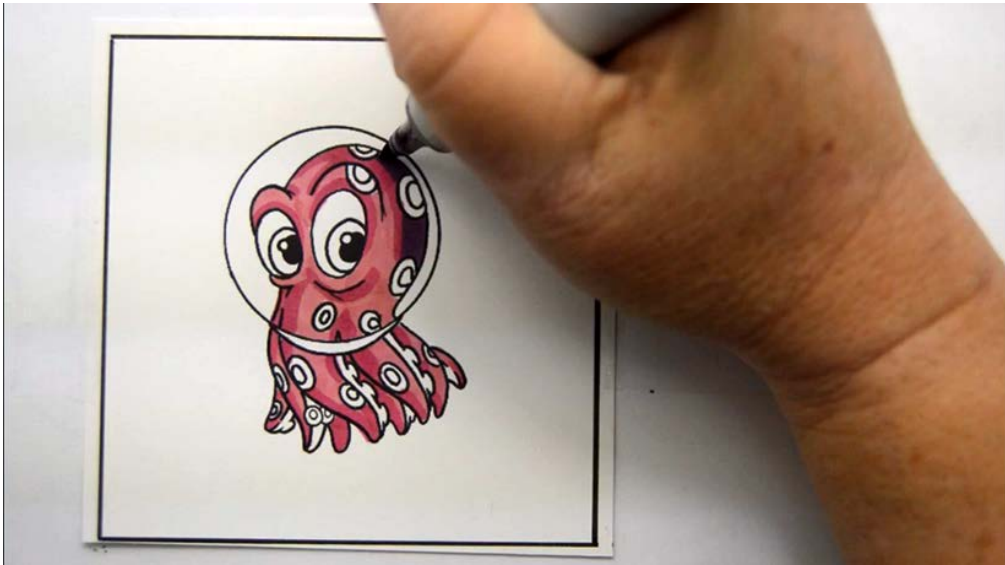
...and to parts of the tentacles.
(RV17)



I then add RV17 above the
eyeballs.



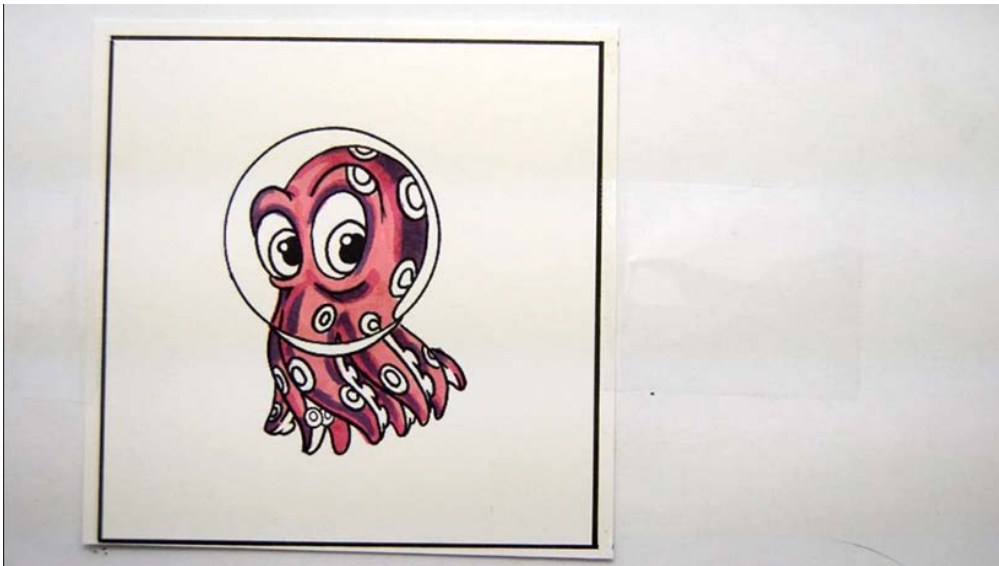
After the RV17.



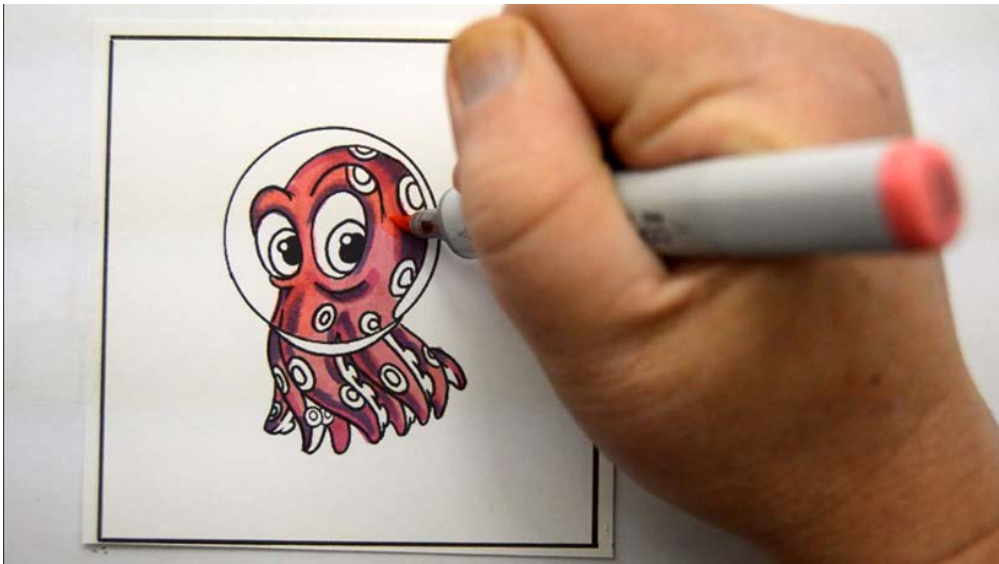
I add a very dark V17 here...



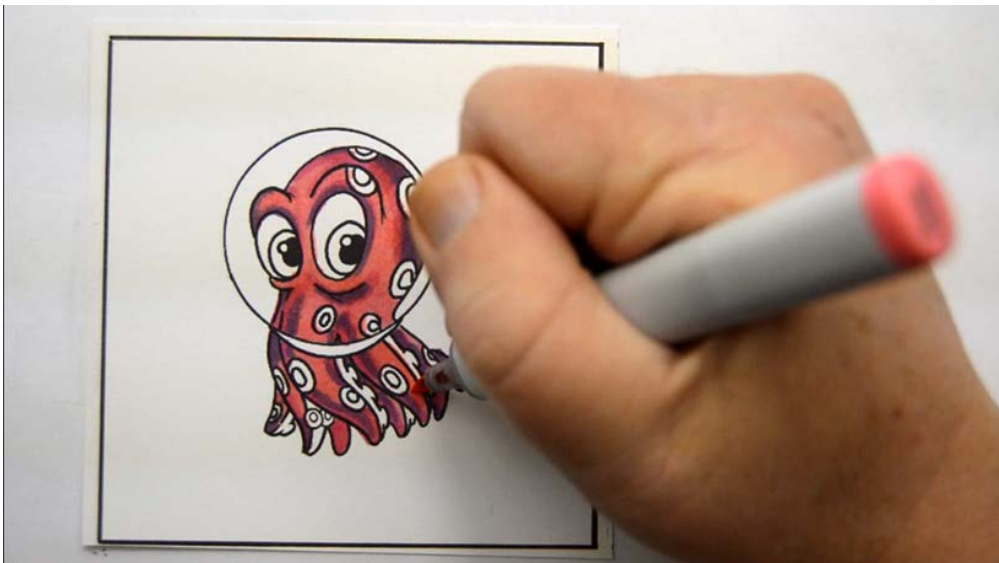
...and around the eyes and on the tentacles. (V17)



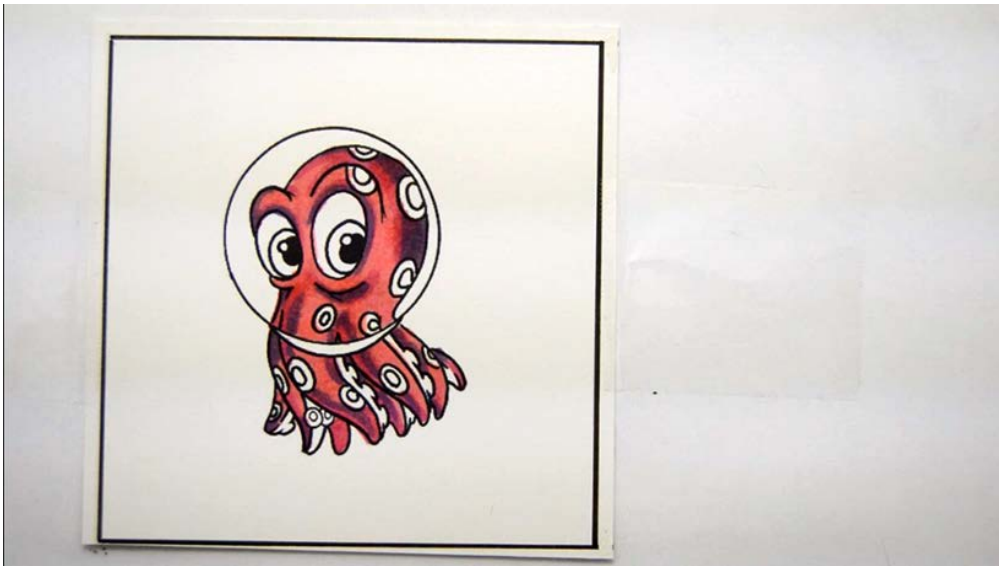
After the V17.



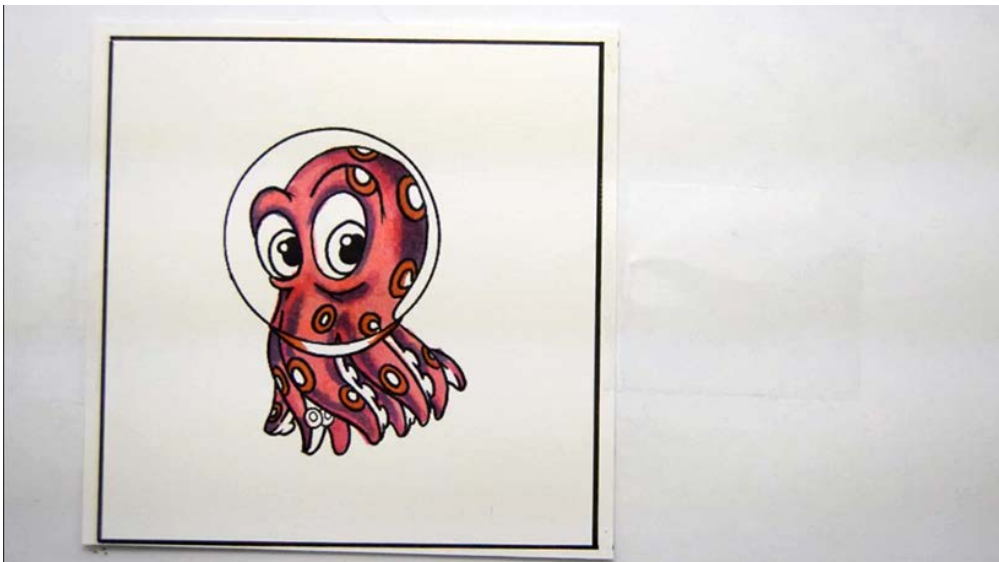
I add an overall glaze of R43...



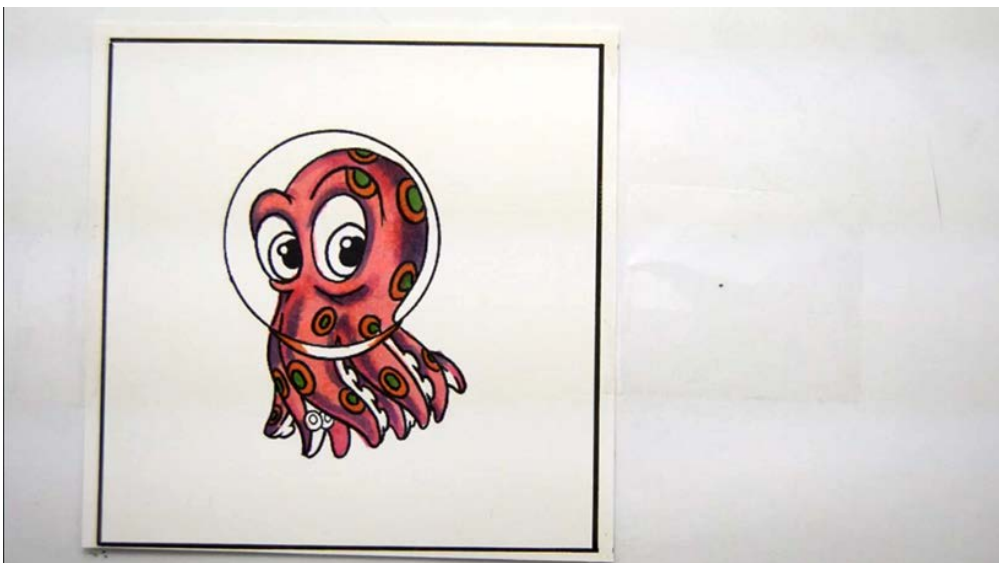
...to soften the colors...



...and to blend the transitions just a bit.



I color the rings around the spots with E08.



I then color the spots with YG67.



I color the sucker parts of the tentacles with a base of E00.



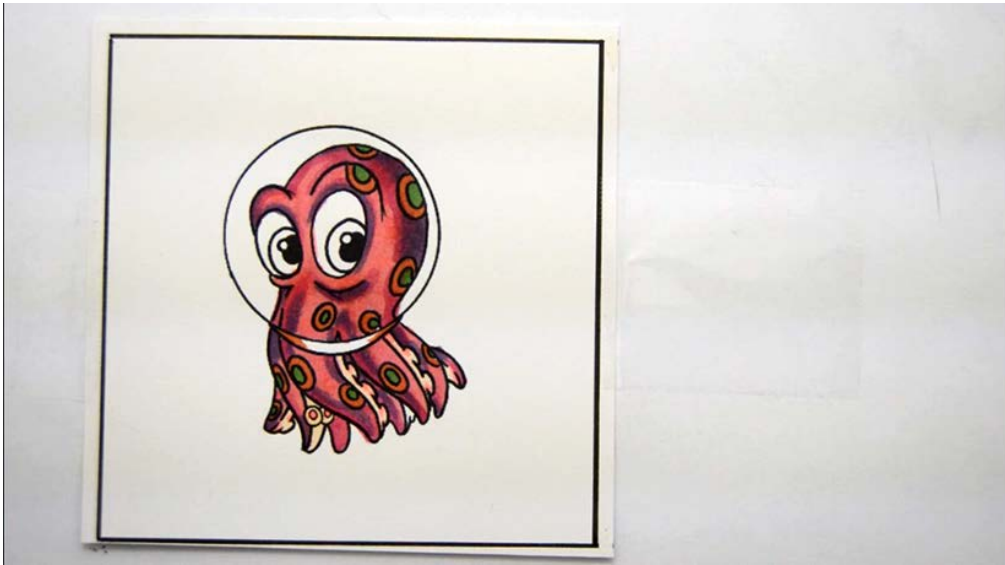
I then add accents with R43.



Returning to the transitions between the darker and lighter colors, I blend the line between them with RV17.



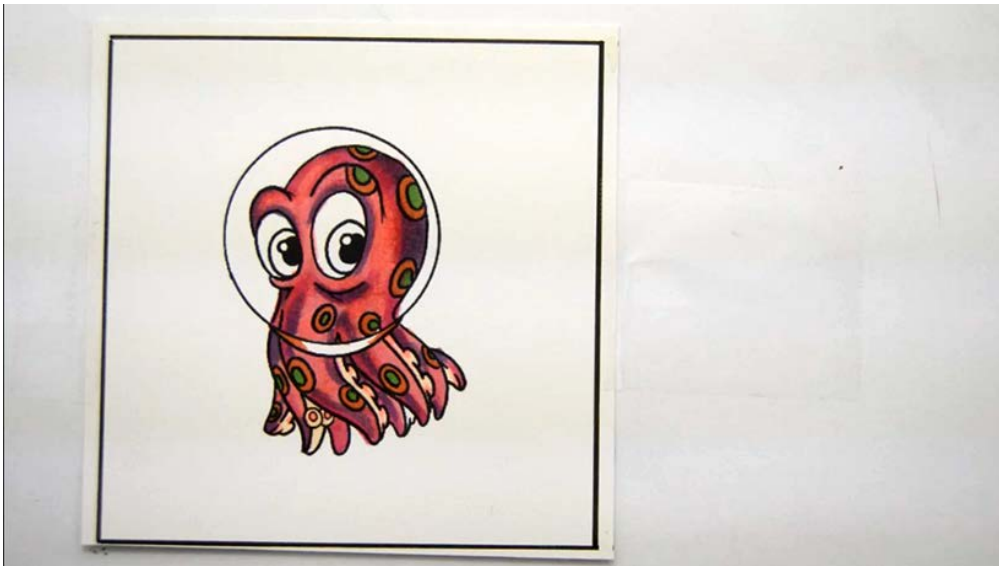
RV17



After the RV17.



I blend those same areas again with R43.



That's better :)



I add dark accents of E27 under the eyes, above the eyebrows, and to the back of the head.



I add E27 to the eyes.



I add G24 to the irises...



...and Y00 to the eyeballs.



I also add Y00 to the center portion of the band at the bottom of the helmet.



I add shadows to the eyes with YG93...



YG93



I add touches of YR24 to the helmet band...



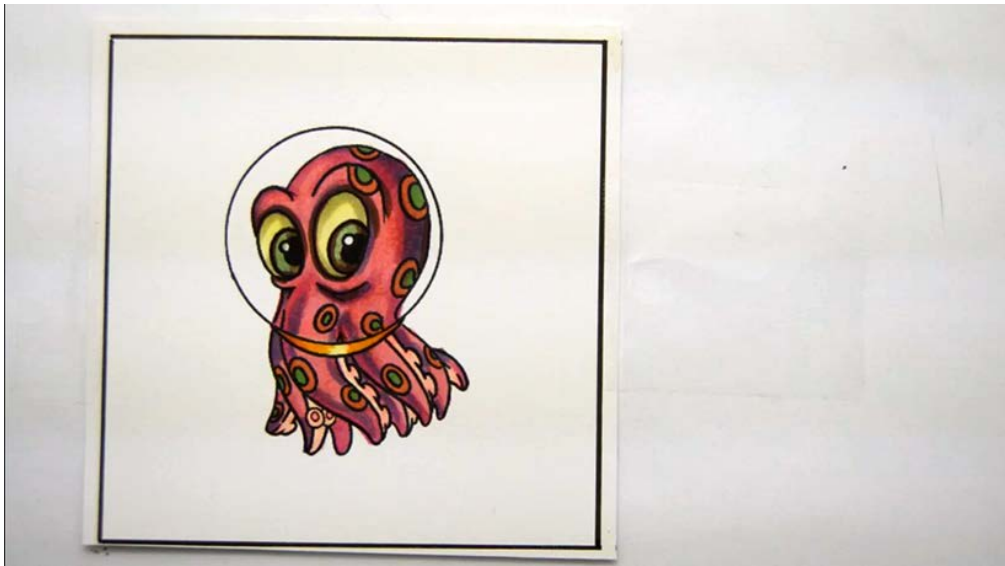
...and then accentuate the line around the eyes with E27.



I then outline the irises (E27).



I add accents to the undersides of the tentacles with R20.



Ready for highlights!

I'll be using white gouache to add my highlights. I want the octopus to appear wet and shiny, so I'll be placing my highlights accordingly.



White gouache on the eyes...



White gouache



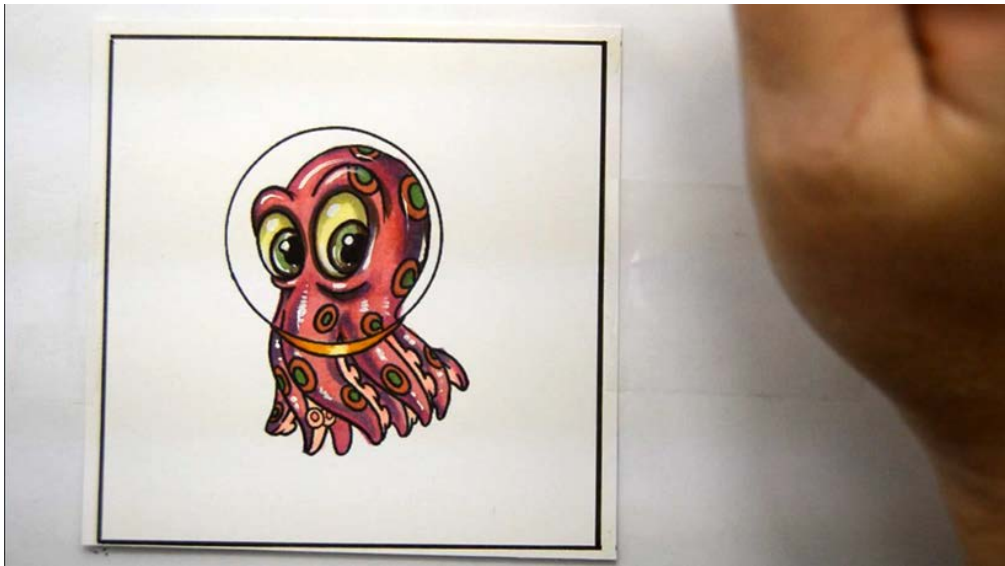
White gouache



White gouache



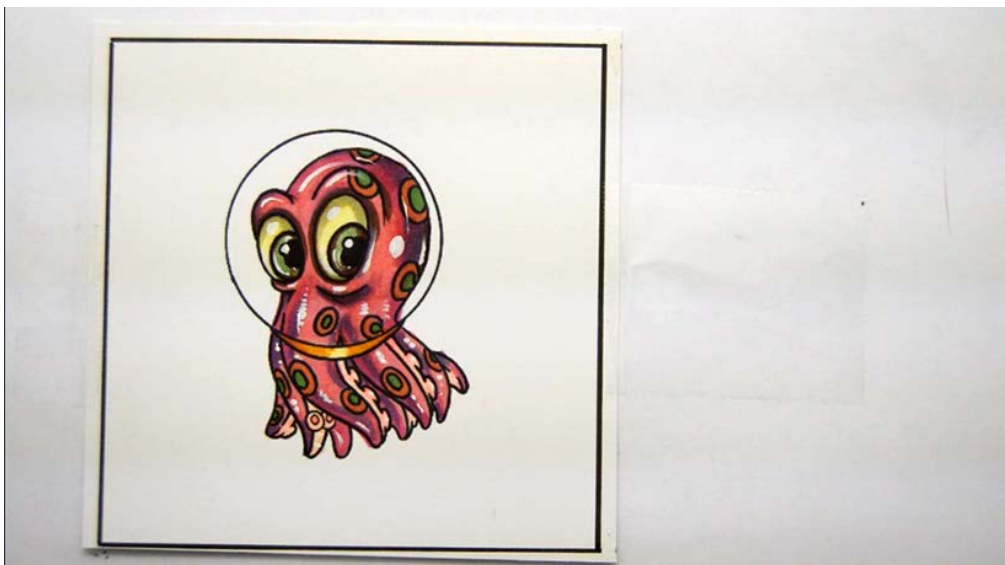
White gouache



White gouache



White gouache

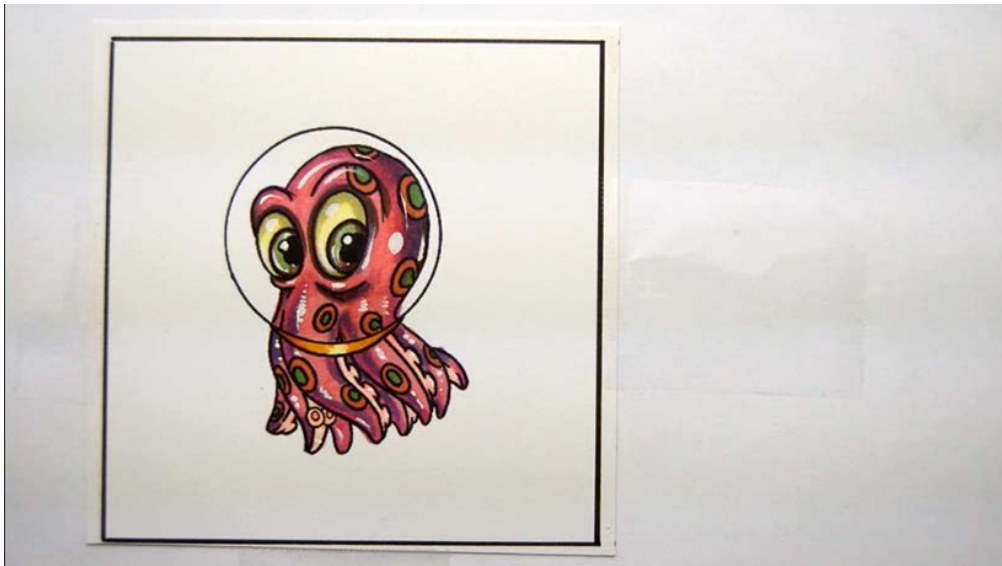


Done for now! We may make some final adjustments once we've colored in the background, but for now our octopus is complete!

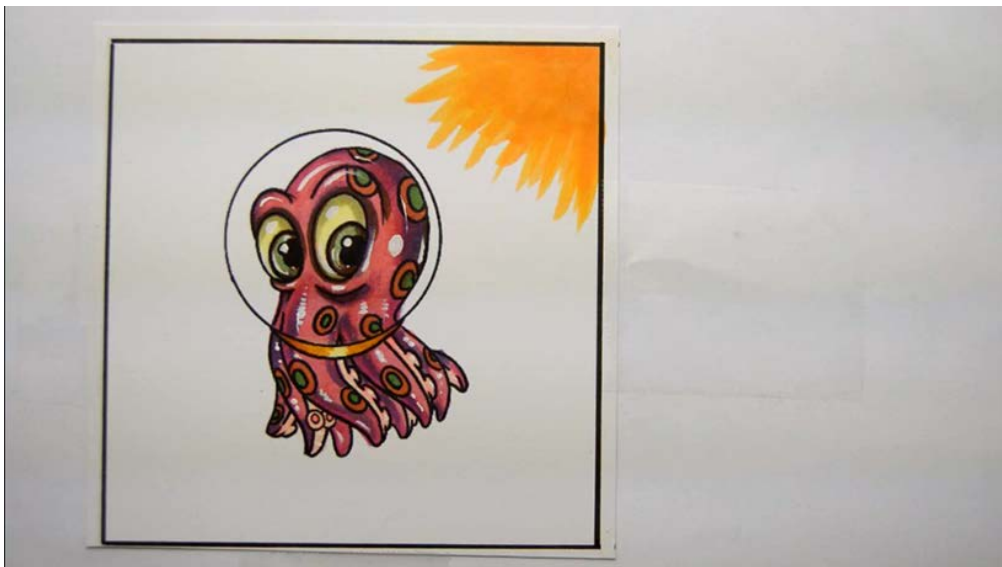
Chapter Two:

Coloring The Background





With our sci-fi octopus complete we can now turn our attention to the background. For the background we are going to just kind of let things happen! So don't worry if you don't have all the same colors or if your color shapes don't look exactly like mine. Just scribble along and have fun! Pretty much no matter what you do it's gonna turn out awesome :)



I begin with YR15.

Notice the "feather" strokes. These will help us "blend" in the next color.



Next, I add YR16...



...then YR68...



...R14...



...and R27.



I blend just the edges of the R14/
R27 juncture with another layer
of R14.



I want to have the background
transition from orange through
red to purple, so I add RV06...



...then V15...



...and finally V17.



I soften the edges of the V17 with R27.

I'm not really trying to blend it smooth, and neither should you!



I draw in "planets" with V09...



V09



V09



I then add Black 100 to make areas of deep space.



Notice how abstract and squiggly the black is...



...that's a good thing, so scribble away!



After the Black 100.



Where the black meets areas of orange or red, I soften the edges with E49.



After the E49.



Where the E49 and orange overlap, I soften the edges with YR68.



YR68



Where the black meets areas of purple or red, I soften the edges with V17.



V17



V17



Continuing with the V17 I add craters to the largest planet.



After the V17.



I add cast shadows to the smaller planets with E49...



E49



E49



After the E49 cast shadows.



I clean up and adjust the areas around the smaller planets... (E49)



E49



E49



Now let's add some stars with white gouache :)



Nice!



I add a few "twinkling" stars here and there...



...then add highlights to the planets...



...blending with my finger as necessary.

Be sure to watch the video to see this technique in action!



Heavy white gouache...



Blend...



White gouache "scribbles"...



Blend...



A few star clusters here and there...



...and our space scene is complete!

Now let's highlight the helmet!



White gouache



White gouache



White gouache



White gouache



White gouache

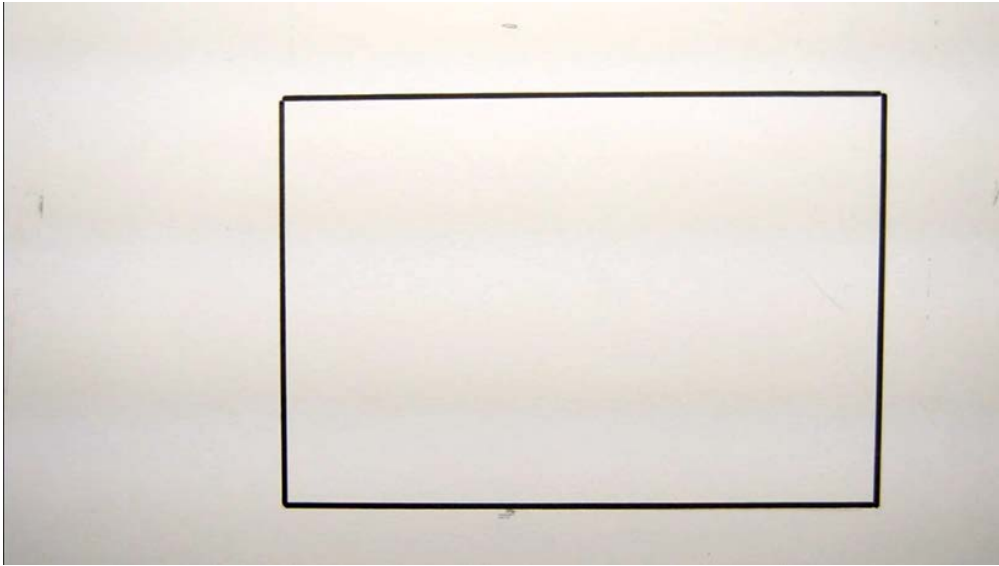


And done! One sci-fi octopus floating through outer space!

Chapter Three:

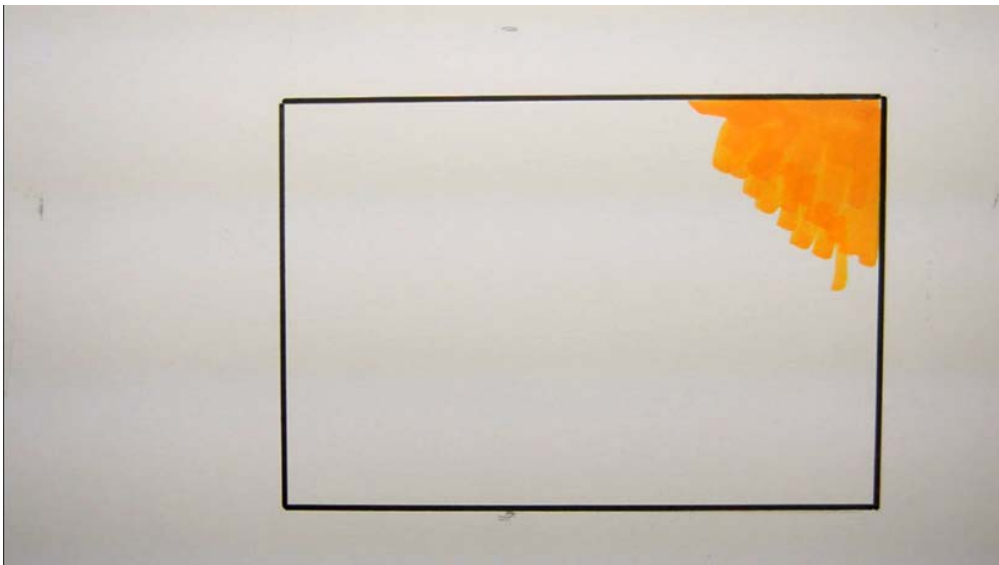
The Final Frontier



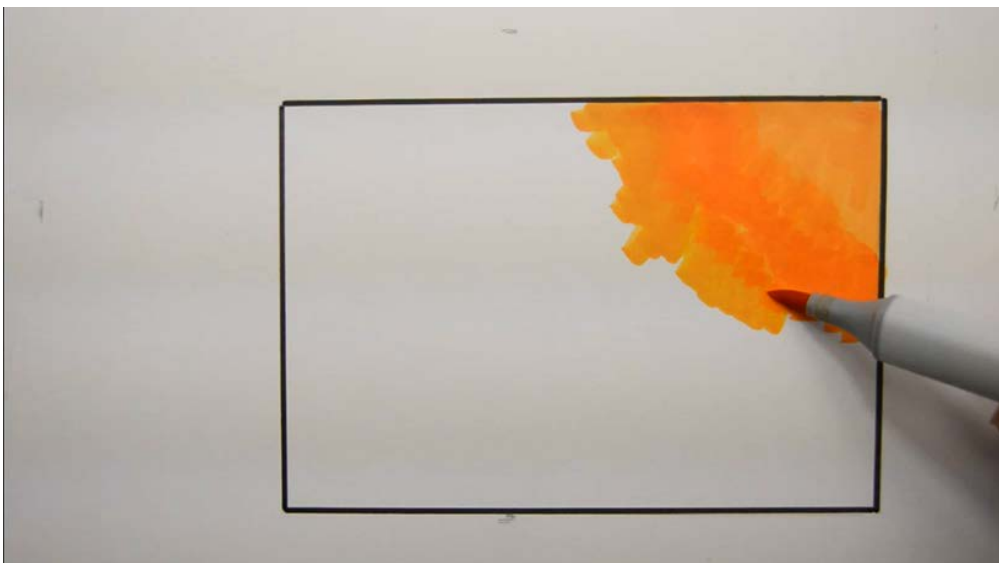


Welcome to the bonus chapter! I had so much fun creating the background for this image that I wondered if an entire space scene could be created all on it's own, starting with a blank piece of paper. Guess what? It can! It's super fun too! So grab yourself a blank piece of paper and watch the magic happen :)

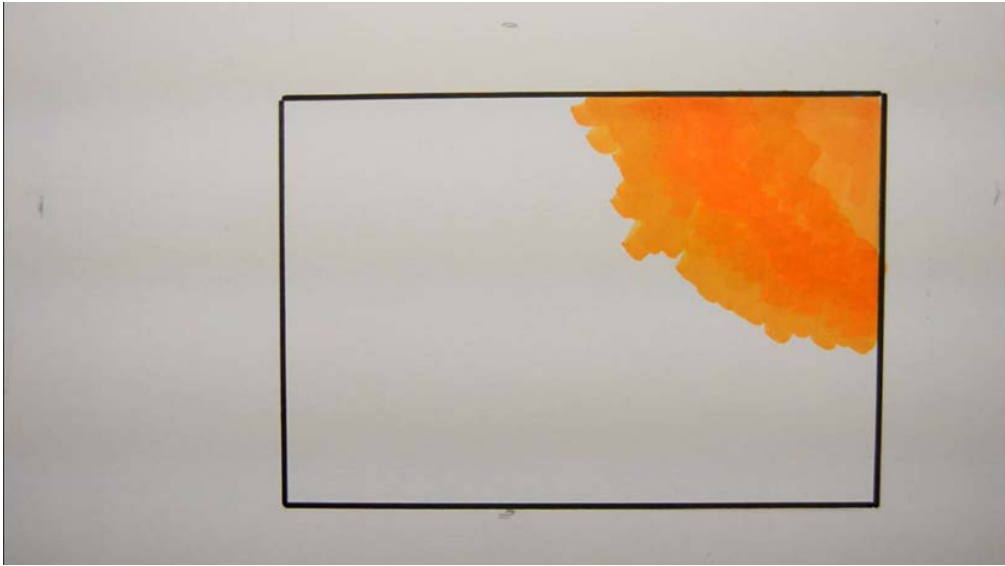
I start by drawing an outline to define my image area.



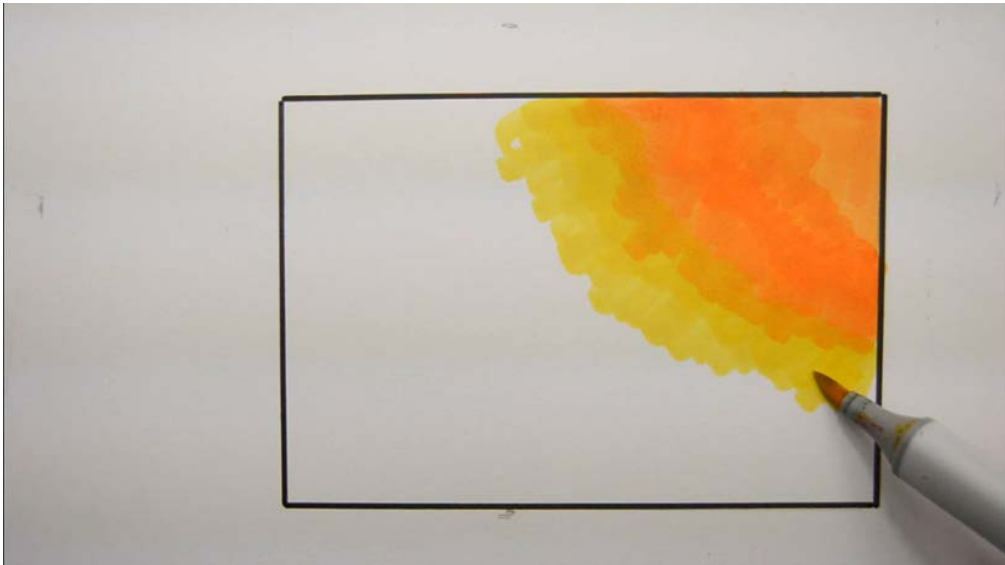
I'll be moving from orange through yellow and green to blue, so I start with YR15.



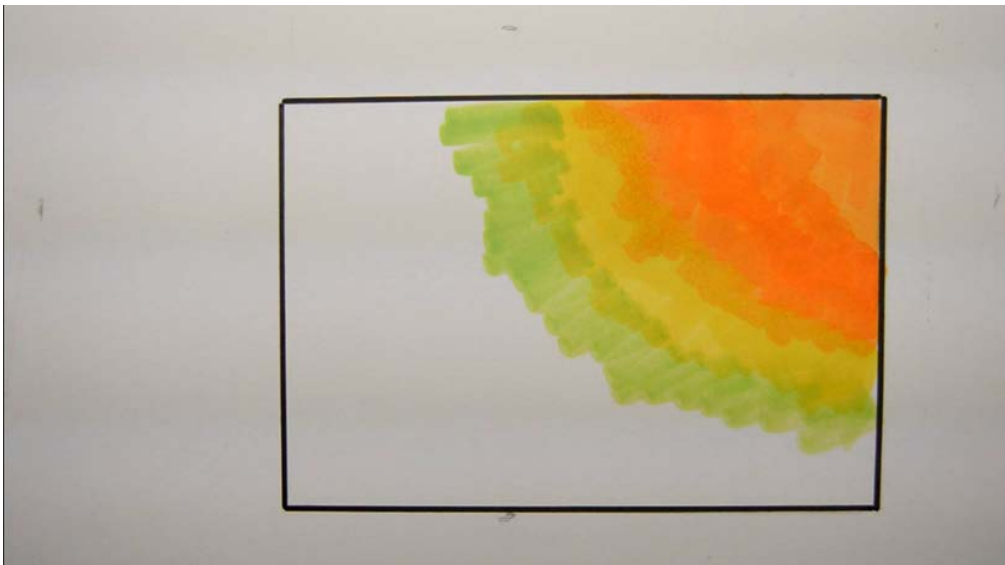
I add YR16...



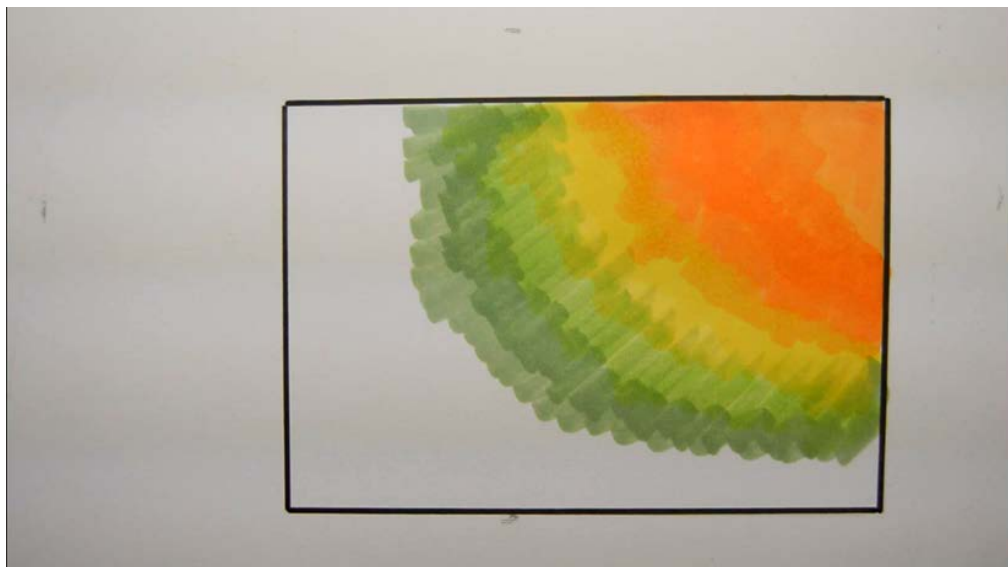
...and then YR15 again.



Then Y15...



YG05...



YG24...



BG15...



BG34...



And B05.

Looks kind of like tie-dye!



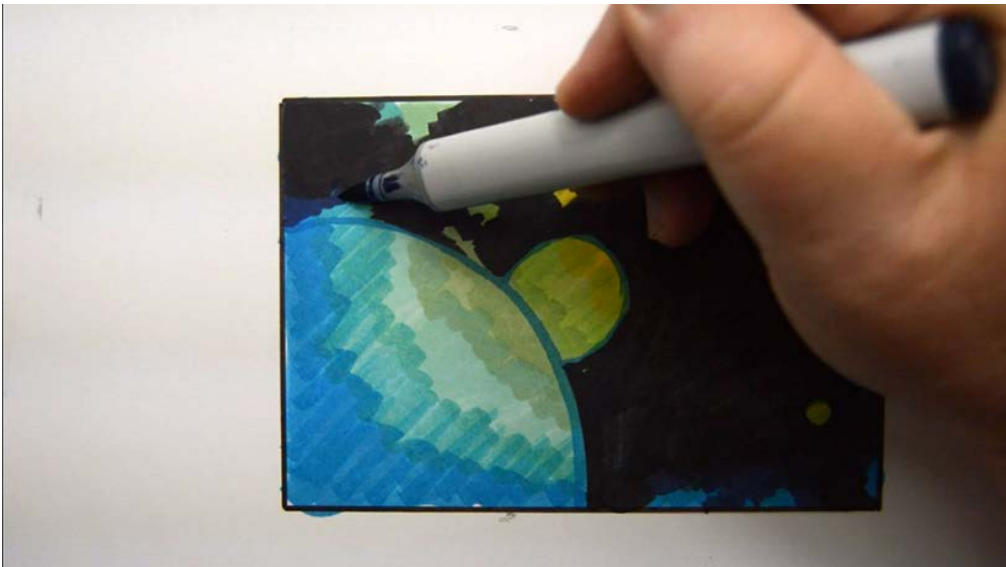
I draw in planets with B05...



...then add Black 100.



I blend the black and blue areas with B39...



B39



I blend the black and yellow/orange areas with E49.



After the E49.



I add YR68 in some areas.



After the YR68.



And BG15 in other areas...



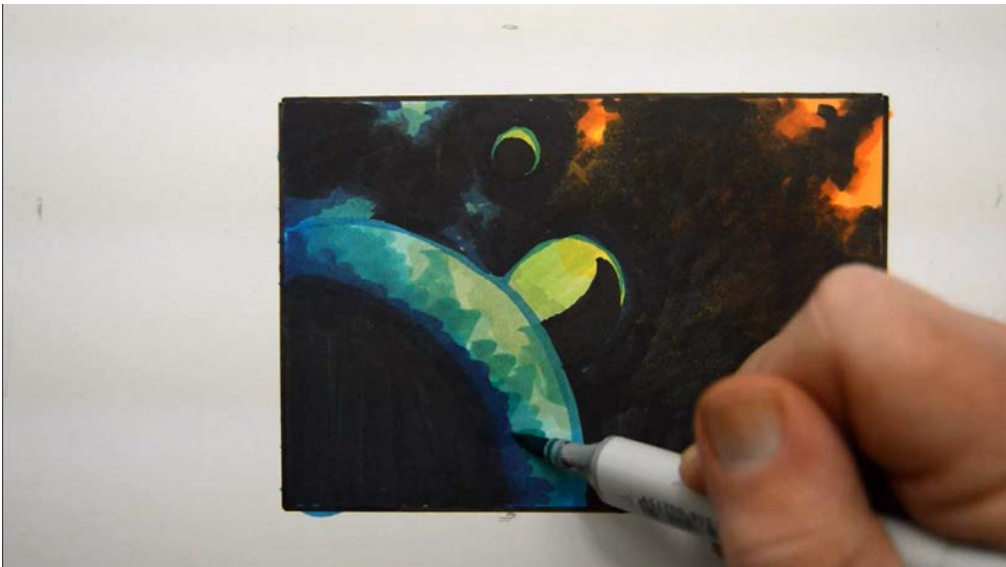
BG15



I add shadows to the planets with Black 100...



...then soften up the hard edges
with B39...



...BG15...



...and B05.



B05



I dot in stars of different sizes
with white gouache...



...add "twinklers"...



...then highlight the planets.



White gouache



White gouache



White gouache



...and there you have it! Super quick, super easy, and super cool!



Here's another one using an orange to purple color scheme.

Technically you can use any color combinations you want, and in a few minutes, like the gods of old, create entire universes out of nothing! So scribble away and see what happens space cadets!

Until next time...

Christopher Kerry