



# Sugar Skulls

by Gretchen Fleener



Just about every face painter has tried a sugar skull at one point in their career. With today being the Day of the Dead, I thought it would be appropriate to share a few sugar skull tips!

**First..the base.** If you don't like the feeling of paint covering your entire face, a powder-based makeup such as Mehron's Starblend and INTense Pro powder is the way to go. I've used white Starblend makeup on this mask, applied with a foam wedge sponge. Lollipop blenders work GREAT for applying powders!

Glycerine based makeups, such as Kryolan Aquacolor or Paradise Makeup AQ, are great if you want more opaque coverage for your base. (Wax based makeup like TAG & Wolfe can be a bit heavy for bases) I also like that they behave much like watercolor paints, as far as blending goes, which comes in handy for shading.

Achieving a uniform base takes some practice, so don't give up! Try pat-patting with a sponge when using a glycerine makeup. Pearlescent makeups make beautiful bases too!

After applying the base, I find it helpful to use a makeup pencil to draw the outlines of **the eye circles**. This way you can focus on the colors inside, rather than making a perfect circle while doing so. I colored and blended around the eyes with some Mehron Intense Pro powders, and then laid some black over the top.

Next add the **bright colors**, preferably with a wax based paint. Here I used a TAG one stroke Pansy cake. Here's a great time saving tip...use a filbert (rounded) brush to simply "stamp" on the scallops around the eyes! Loew-Cornell's double filbert brush can make quick work of these tiny details too.

When it comes to **linework**, I prefer to use a wax based makeup like Wolfe or TAG. Wax based makeups create clean, crisp lines, and stay opaque on top of other colors. One reason I like to use a somewhat transparent powder for a base, is so that I can then add bright white details like I've done here with Wolfe white.

Don't forget to **bling it up** with lots of glitter, liquid bling, and/or rhinestones! The sky's the limit with sugar skulls!





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