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Dave Murphy

January 31, 2008 11:11PM

Greetings, watch enthusiasts around the world. Recently, I became aware of a product that may be of use to us. It is "Inkjet waterslide decal paper", a product which enables the user to print decals on an inkjet printer. One supplier: [decalpaper.com](#)

Can this product be of use to create custom watch dials? Well, sit back and enjoy the journey.

First, I need a suitable victim. I chose the  Amphibia, because I had an extra one just back from some bead-blasting practice. The dials of the vostok line can seem a bit cartoonish to some people. As some of you may know, one of my outdoor hobbies is Greenlandic style sea Kayaking. The watch I wear most often in the water is the well-known "Scuba-Dude."

http://www.pmwf.com/Phorum/read.php?24,32386,32386

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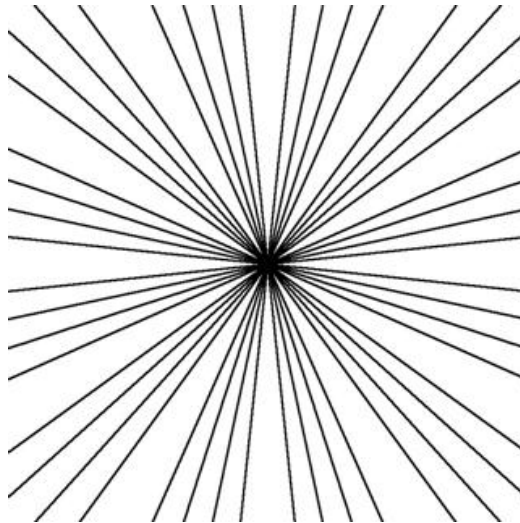


Let's see if I can create the "Kayak-Dude."

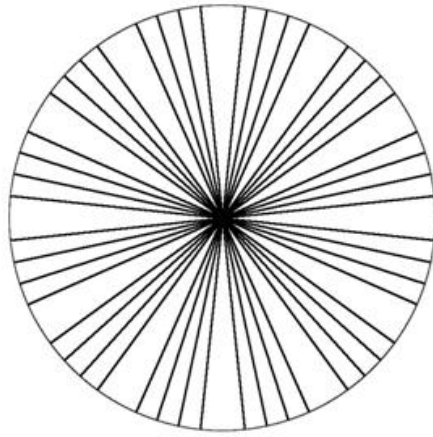
First off, I need some software. I chose the GIMP, mainly because of its low cost of \$0.00.

[gimp.org](http://gimp.org)

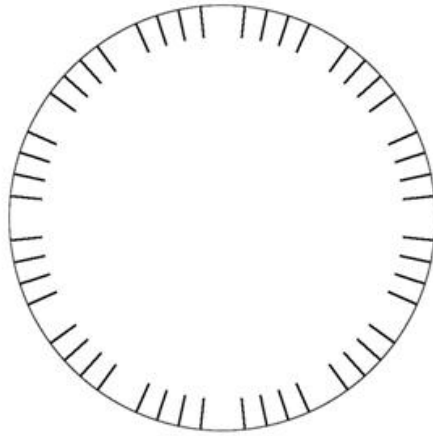
This graphics package takes a long time to master, and I now know just enough to produce a dial. I'll start by drawing some minute lines, 3 pixels wide.



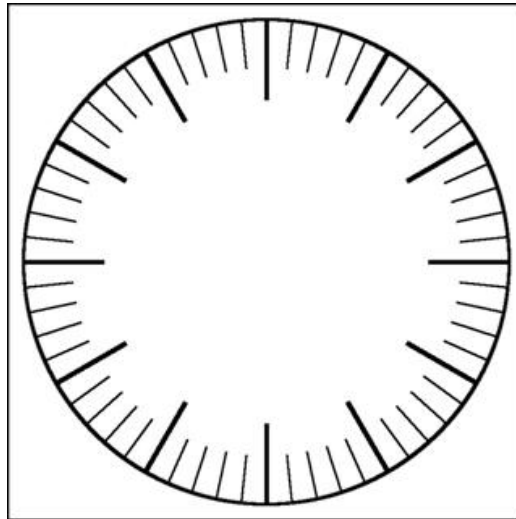
Now, exclude everything outside the dial diameter of 28mm.



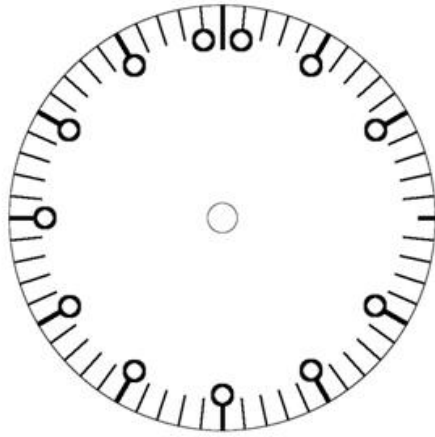
My hands are 12mm long. I'll get rid of everything inside a 24mm circle to produce a minute track.




Similarly, add in the hour markers, 5 pixels wide.



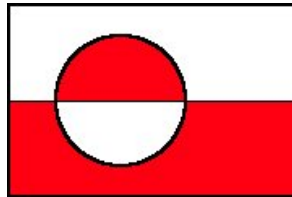
How about some little circles to drop some lume into?



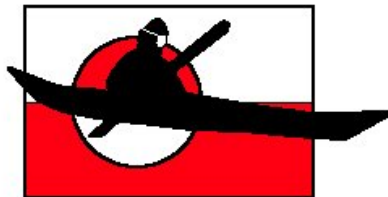
The insignias on  watches are often one-color impressions. I need a silhouette of a kayak dude.



I did mention that this was Greenland style, didn't I?



Put them together for my insignia.



I need to properly identify the product.




Put them all together, and add some text.



The graphics are printed. Unfortunately, printer ink is not waterproof, so it must be sealed with several coats of acrylic.



I had a  dial that suffered from a previous project's misfortunes. It was stripped and repainted white. The decal back is loosened with water, and slipped out so that the decal is applied to the dial.





After drying a few hours, I filled the dots with lume. Later, hands were installed. Oh yeah, I had to cut out the center hole and date window with a razor blade.



Movement installed in the case:



And, the 🕒 shot.





Here's the [REVIEW](#), as I see it:


The Plus :

Quick, once you know how to design.

Relatively inexpensive.

An easy way to get a unique dial, limited only by your creativity.

The acrylic coat is compatible with NoctiLumina Type 2 binder.

The Minus :

The adhesive on the back of the decal is not very good.

Bubbles get under the decal, and they are hard to get out.

The surface finish is glossy, but only as smooth as your coat of acrylic.

The Neutral: :

Resolution as good as your printer. Meaning, pretty good with the naked eye at arms length, but jaggy when viewed under magnification.

Color-fastness in UV unknown.

Durability unknown.

So, there it is. Creation of the "Kayak-Dude." It is worth mentioning that this is my first attempt using this technique, and I am quite pleased.

Perhaps some of the bugs can be worked out.

Regards,

Dave



Edited 1 time(s). Last edit at 07/28/2010 04:29AM by Reto.

Subject	Author	Views	Posted
➔ <a href="#">Custom Dials (long, many pictures) &gt;&gt;&gt;</a> 	Dave Murphy	13250	January 31, 2008 11:11PM

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