

1. Start off with white as your highlight source. You want to use more light where there are brighter areas in the chrome l. Use the white 100%, at its brightest, in the horizon areas

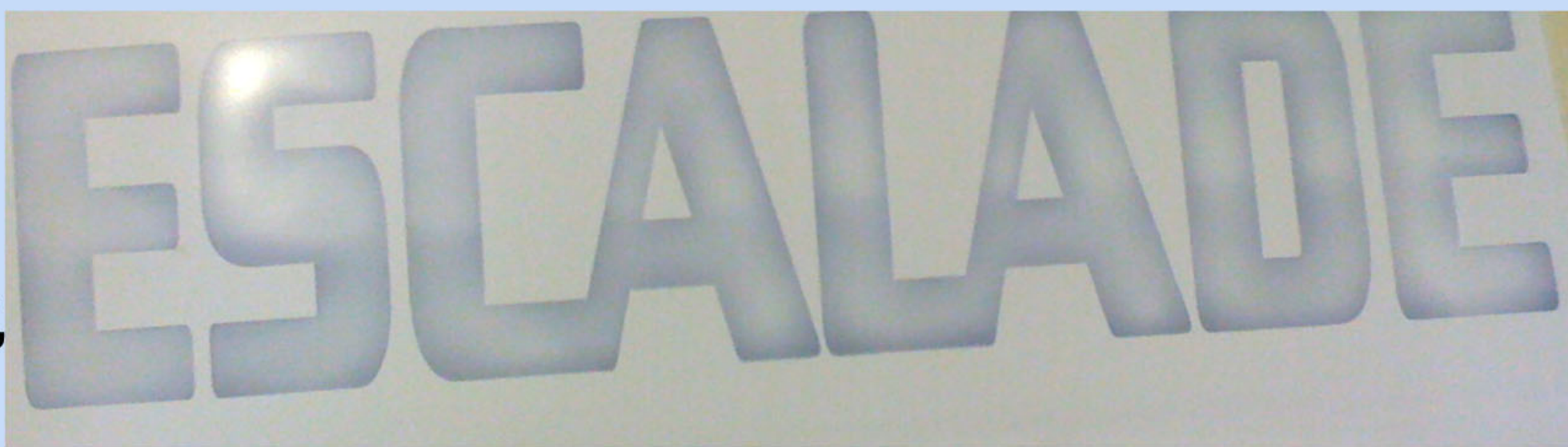
2. I mixed 2 special grays for this project, one cool gray and one warm gray. The cool gray has a tone of blue and the warm gray has a tone of brown added to it. Use the cool gray for the upper sky reflection right now.

3. Now you want to lay a very transparent blue over the previous cool gray and let that blend cautiously into the bright white horizon area. Don't cover the white too much you want to let that white and blue work together creating softer tones of blue. This is done by lightly spraying the blue as you get closer to the highlighted horizon line

4. Now you want to bring them highlights up again, so what we do here is create a lazer like streak of white over the horizon line . Think of this white streak as if your trying to airbrush a neon glowing white tube. Also above that add another streak going across creating a illusion of a cloud line. remeber Chrome reflects it's surroundings. In this Chrome were reflecting a clear sky and maybe a paved road next to a dirt field. remember keep that white nice and bright at the horizon line.

5. Again with the transparent blue we are going to add very light coat ovet the highlighted areas creating a longr transition of blues into the white horizon line creating more value.

6. Start again, beefing up them highlights, Now this time more controlled and brighter where the horizon line is.



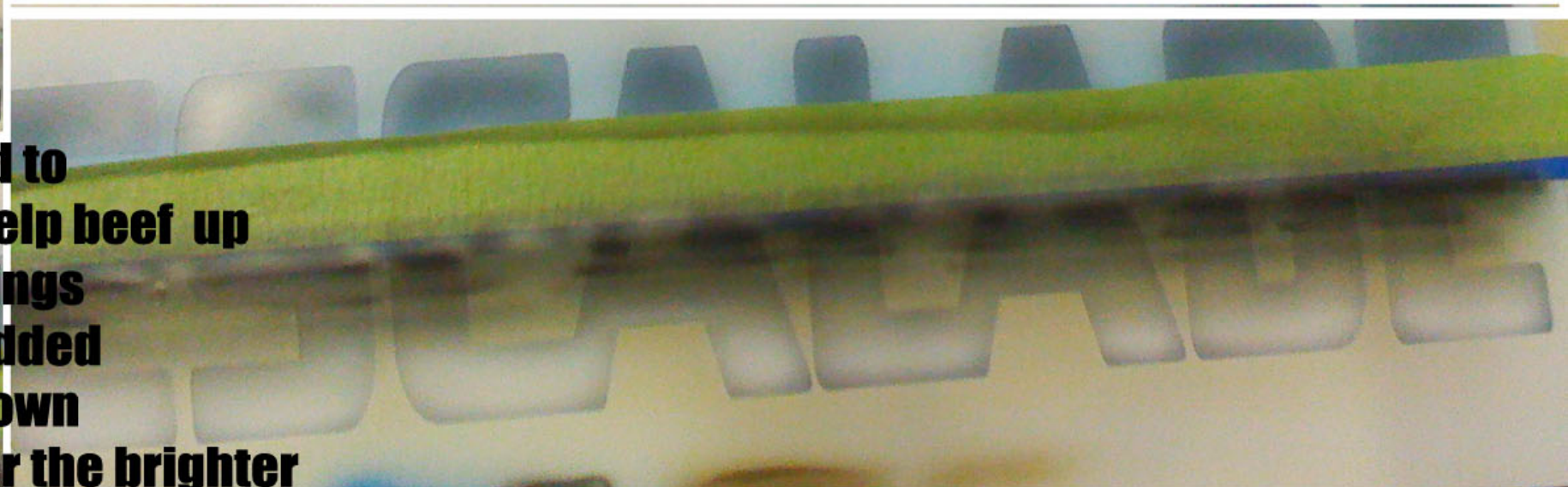
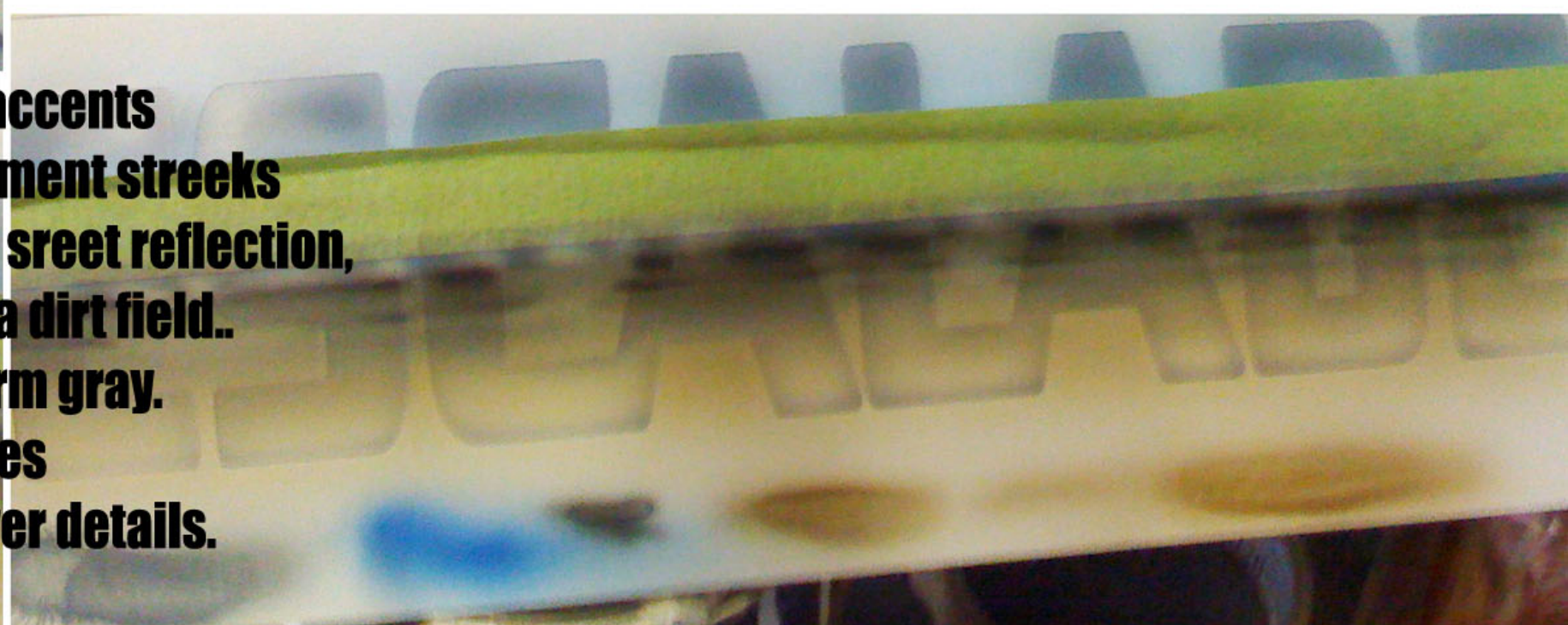
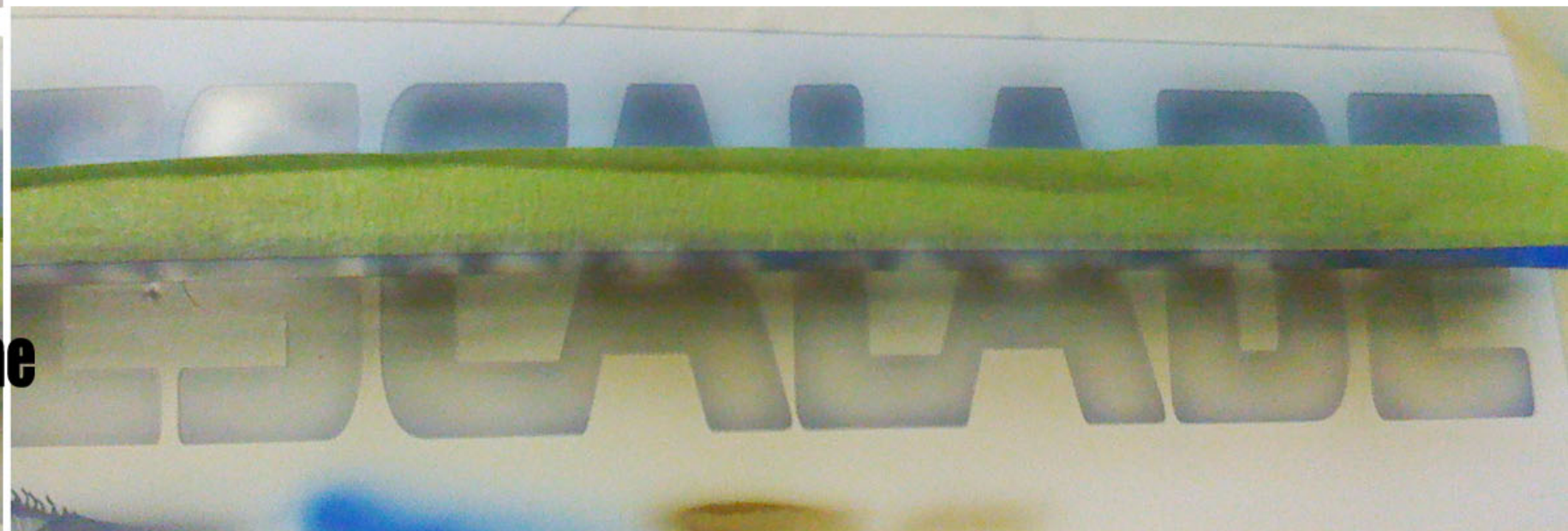
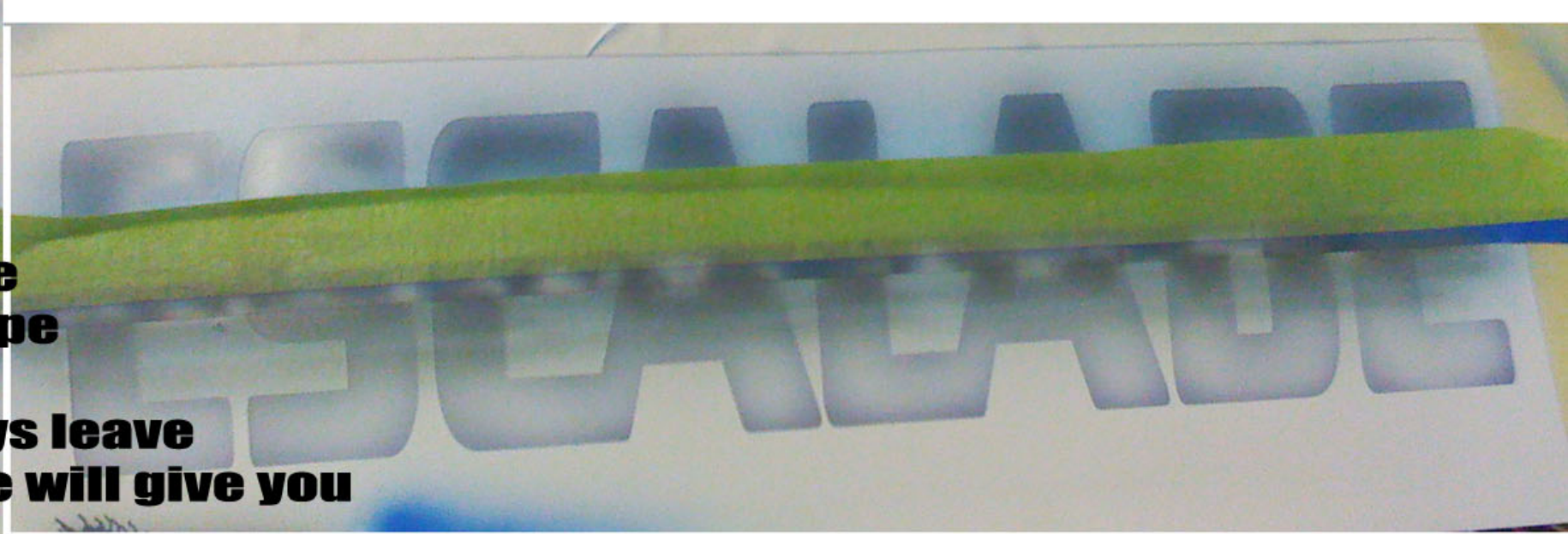
7. Now we start working with our warm gray, and start adding the ground reflection. I start with using my blue fineline tape that will give me a crisp edge and a normal piece of masking tape thats bent inwards to contain my overspray. Blue fineline will always leave a perfect clean line ,masking tape will give you a very subtle sawtooth edge.

8. I go ahead and grab a very thin transparent dark brown and lightly mist and fade downwards my ground reflection. This creates the illusion of a dirt reflection.

9. Now I beef up my horizon line with my transparent black and add some darker accents to my horizon line and some object movement streaks as well. This helps create the illusion of a street reflection, movement, or mountain line followed by a dirt field.. Start dark at the top and fade into the warm gray. Notice I've created a block area thats fades downwards. Next add a mist of brown over details.

10. I go ahead and start adding some more white to the bottom that way the Chrome will have a contrasting look both top and bottom. Don't be afraid to go back and add white or any color to help beef up the brightness ,add value ,or correct things that just don't look right. I in this case added more white that way my transparent brown will present a beige look as i mist it over the brighter white correction.

11. Take off the tape and see your results. Now hold on there's still work to do. For one you need to freehand highlight the horizon line some more. The freehand highlights help the brightness jump out over the horizon line a bit, giving it a more realistic look.



12. Ok now this is where your freehand skills start to pay off. Ok what were doing here is creating a bar bell shading look . We do this with shadows first then highlights next what I mean by that is you'll notice my shadows come to a blunt stop as they hit the corner of the letter. this helps create a corner look and gives it more style and realism. When applying the shadow dont go all the way to the edge of the mask leave a little highlight left open at the edge. This will help give the lettering contrast from a dark background and will give it more chrome reflection and secondary lighting highlights.

13. Now do the same with the white start off with strong blunt highlights hitting strong from corner to corner. As the white meets up with the black give it a strong highlight of white like we did with the horizon lines, these are like mini horizon lines.

14. Now were almost done, go ahead and use the white where it needs it most, Add the sparkling highlights here and there not too much you want to keep it looking classy. I also went ahead and highlighted from the bottom up with my white. If you look close you can see I created another horizon line from the shadow I put on the bottom of the letter.

15. All finished, pull off the vinyl softly add some white extending out from the letters, not too much this is not a t shirt, we don't want it looking too tacky and you can easily ruin a clean looking design by over highlighting. Next add some freehand shadows to the right with the black and were now good to go!

By Jaime Rodriguez 2009