

## **Copy Cops & Copy Cats.**

There seems to be a lot of people posting complaints on internet boards about copies. I have 4 concerns with this issue:

1. I believe the copy cops do more damage than the copy cats. Newcomers learn new techniques by copying the work of others. They should be encouraged to do that. They should even be encouraged to display their efforts for critique and suggested improvement. If instead, they're publicly ridiculed and attacked for their efforts, they'll stop trying new things and stop improving their work.
2. There's an assumption that the originator "owns" the exclusive rights to an idea or concept or design. If it isn't original enough to be protected by copyright, it's open for all to use.
3. When an artist expects to live off old designs instead of pushing to create new designs, they stagnate. This leads to complacency and mediocrity. Competition benefits everyone. The only time you get to coast is when you go downhill.
4. Public accusations of "copier, copier, copier" invariably unjustly and unfairly label the individual being accused. This degenerates into a public witch hunt with the inevitable public burning at the stake.