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# Sketches: Chromescale Drake

Magic Arcana  
Sunday, April 4, 2004

Welcome to another edition of [Sketches](#). This week we take a look behind the scenes at the art of *Darksteel's Chromescale Drake* by Ben Thompson. This is a *Mirrodin* block twist on the classic **Magic** drake -- as its name implies, it takes on a chromed, silvery look to fit with the artifact-world of Mirrodin.

## 1. Art Description

The art description establishes the parameters of the artist's task. It provides details of what the card will do, what its flavor role is, and what the mood of the illustration should be. Here were the instructions given to Mr. Thompson for the project:

*"A metallized drake with chrome-like eyes, in flight."*

A simple description, but a fun opportunity to illustrate a big, powerful flyer. You'll recognize Ben Thompson's work from cards like *Dust Bowl*, *Llanowar Dead*, *Chainer's Edict*, *Mistform Sliver*, *Surestrike Trident* and *Thirst for Knowledge*.

## 2. & 3. Sketches to Final Art

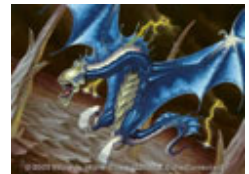
Here's how the sketches for *Chromescale Drake* became its final art. Click the buttons below the image to see the progression from concept to final illustration.



Thompson's initial sketch.



A redo of the first sketch. The main differences are in the head detail, to give it some sensory organs.



The full-color final art.

## 4. Card

Finally, here is the card as you can see it in booster packs.



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