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How to draw a police car easy steps

Most of us have a love/hate relationship with police cars. We hate seeing them in the rear-view mirror when we're going a little too fast on the highway, but they can also be a welcome sight when we're in need of assistance. Officers use police cars for many things: to patrol their beats, to chase suspects, to store their gear, to restrain criminals and even as communications links. Some specialized police vehicles do even more than that. But what makes a police car different from other cars on the street? It takes a lot more than just some flashing lights on the roof and a two-way radio. Modern police cars are significantly more rugged than their civilian counterparts, and they hold a battery of high-tech (and low-tech) equipment. From high-horsepower engines to special restraint systems for unruly crooks, police cars are a breed apart. In this article, we'll find out how they're made, what they're capable of, and what equipment they use to get the job done. We'll also take a look at the history of police cars. All police cars are based on standard production models of civilian cars, except in rare cases where military vehicles are converted for police use. There are no companies making cars solely for use as police cars, with a few very rare exceptions. Instead, car companies make special "interceptor" or "police" versions of certain models -- typically large sedans. In addition, police departments occasionally purchase civilian vehicles that fit their particular needs and customize them for a specific use. The most common police vehicles in North America are the Ford Crown Victoria, the Chevrolet Caprice or Impala, and, in recent years, the Dodge Charger. All of these fit the typical police car profile -- large sedans with plenty of room in the trunk for equipment, lots of room in the back seat for suspects and a relatively large engine. Countries outside of North America typically use domestic cars of a similar nature. For example, in Italy, a police department may choose to use a Fiat as a service vehicle while in Germany, a BMW may be a logical choice. There are lots of police vehicles that don't fit the standard patrol car mold, however. For example, SUVs and pickup trucks are often used in areas with rough terrain, or in situations when the officers need to carry around a lot of extra equipment. Police departments have even been known to use more exotic cars. Sports cars are sometimes used as special chase vehicles -- police Camaros, Mustangs and even Corvettes are not unheard of. In Italy, there are even a few police Lamborghinis. At one time, these Italian exotics were unique custom police cars, but recently, Lamborghini started equipping its Gallardo models for police work at the factory [source: Biggs]. These ostentatious police cars are usually used as public relations tools rather than working patrol cars, and in many cases they were originally confiscated by the department during drug raids [source: Jones]. However, it's reported that the Italians use their Gallardos for daily patrol duties. Next, we'll get under the hood of a police car and find out what sets it apart from the average car. The back seat of a police car is not comfortable. For one thing, it is made of hard plastic or smooth vinyl, so it can be easily cleaned (the back seats of cop cars end up covered in a surprising variety of human bodily fluids). In some cars, the seat is cramped, forcing suspects to sit very low or bend their heads down. To some extent, this is done to psychologically suppress people in the back seat, but it also makes it tougher to gain leverage or momentum if someone tries to launch an attack. What protects police officers in the front seat from violent prisoners in the back seat? Some combination of a steel mesh cage and bulletproof glass is installed to keep them safe, along with steel plating behind the seats to prevent stabblings. The rear windows are reinforced with a wire mesh -- although they're not usually bulletproof. While strong, they can be kicked out by a forceful enough person [source: Hiltunen]. Needless to say, the rear doors of a police car cannot be unlocked from the inside. In the trunk of a patrol car, officers store any bulky equipment they might need at a crime scene. This can include bulletproof vests or other body armor, a shotgun, first aid kit, a portable defibrillator, specialized tools (such as bolt cutters), or other gear specific to that officer's training and assignment. There are a few other details unique to police vehicles, too. One is the run lock ignition. At a crime scene, the officer may want to leave the car running for an extended period of time so the lights and radio can stay on without draining the battery. Run lock allows the engine to run without the key being in the ignition. If someone tries to steal the car, the run lock system cuts the engine when the parking brake is disengaged [source: Emergency Vehicle Solutions]. The interior lights in a police car can switch from typical white lighting to red lighting. Red lights don't affect your night vision as much, so during a nighttime traffic stop an officer can use the red light to read a driver's license or other paperwork. Then when the officer leaves the car, he or she won't be suddenly blinded by darkness. Up next, we'll take a look at the history of police cars. Special Vehicles Some police vehicles aren't cars at all. Many officers use motorcycles, and several departments make use of much larger vehicles for a variety of purposes. Special weapons and tactics (SWAT) teams often travel in vans, or a van might be used simply to transport the team's extensive equipment (if the team members arrive at the scene individually). Larger departments may even utilize armored vehicles; often vintage armored cars that have been repurposed for police use. In very rare cases, police department use serious military vehicles, such as the M-113A armored personnel carrier or the LAV-25. Motor homes have a place in police fleets as well, serving as command centers with conference areas, interview rooms and communications uplinks [source: Shapiro]. Police forces began using motorized vehicles sporadically as far back as the final years of the 19th century, but at the time, these were little more than wagons that carried police from place to place. Police forces used motorcycles on a regular basis long before they used cars, as cars were more expensive. Increased reliance on police cars was driven primarily by increased use of cars by criminals. In the 1920s and '30s, police departments used police cars to save money. With a car and a radio, one officer could cover a much larger territory. During this period, cars were purchased retail and then modified by the police department. Modifications were limited -- rudimentary markings and a variety of lights were the only things that set most early police cars apart from regular cars. It wasn't until after World War II that U.S. auto companies began offering "police packages." They simply took the special options most often ordered by police departments and combined them into a special option package. Ford Motor Company debuted its police package in 1950; Chevrolet in 1955 and Dodge in 1956 [source: Sanow]. Over the decades, police cars have gradually evolved. More pieces of specialized equipment were added. Light bars were streamlined. Old cars went out of style, while new designs became popular. Here are just some of the key police cars through history: The Chrysler Enforcer from the early 1960s The Chevrolet Biscayne of the 1960s The Mercury Monterey of the late 1960s and early '70s The Ford LTD of the 1970s The Ford Torino of the early 1970s The 1975 Chevrolet Nova The Chevy Impala of the late 1970s to mid-'80s The Plymouth Gran Fury from the 1980s The Chevrolet Caprice from the late 1980s to mid-1990s The Ford Crown Victoria of the 1980s to the present If you're looking for more information about police cars or other related topics, follow the links below. Where Can You Buy a Police Car? If you're looking to buy a new, modern police package car from the manufacturer, the answer is, "You simply can't." New police cars are not for sale to civilians. However, if you'd like to find a vintage or retired patrol car, there are numerous clubs around the world that cater to police car enthusiasts. Old police cars can be found fully restored with all the proper equipment, or in somewhat lesser condition. A restoration job is certainly possible, since a lot of equipment, such as spotlights, sirens and radios, is available for sale to the public. Just remember, finding period-correct parts for older police cars can be a challenge. Related HowStuffWorks Articles American Power Systems, Inc. "Heavy Duty PCM/RVC Smart Charge controlled alternators for Police Interceptor and Ambulance." (March 24, 2009) Henry. "Revealed: 211mph Police Lamborghini." MSN.com. Nov. 2, 2006. (March 24, 2009) Vehicle Solutions. "Run Lock Relay Unit." Aug. 2, 2006. (March 24, 2009) Nick. "Suspect kicks out windows of police car." Goldsboro News-Argus. Feb. 17, 2008. (March 24, 2009) Amy. "Hoover unveils Porsche as new police vehicle." Shelby County Reporter. Feb. 20, 2009. (March 24, 2009) Ian. "Police Cars." Chartwell Books. 1998. McCord, Monty. "Cars of the State Police and Highway Patrol." Krause Publication. 1994. Sanow, Edwin J. "Chevrolet Police Cars." Krause Publications. 1997. Sanow, Edwin J. "Ford Police Cars." Motorbooks International. 1997. Shapiro, Larry. "Special Police Vehicles." MBI Publishing. 1999. The Big Three Detroit automakers duke it out to see who has the most powerful and fastest police cruiser. Both Chevrolet and Dodge want to have the most powerful and fastest police cruisers on the road. That all sounds fine and good for those with a badge, but for those of us who aren't in law enforcement, this competition simply means that police cars are becoming faster. Just a few days ago, Chevrolet announced that their new Caprice PPV 6.0-liter V8 had a best-in-class top speed for the second year in a row, coming in at 154mph. Dodge Compared to the Ford Taurus Interceptor's 148mph top speed, the Caprice is the one to fear most. Chevrolet also announced that the Caprice LFX 3.6-liter V6 outperformed the naturally aspirated Dodge Charger V6 and the Taurus Interceptor V6 in 60-0 mph braking, top speed (150mph), and acceleration. Sound impressive, but Dodge also just issued a press release with their own results. After undergoing the same testing at the Michigan State Police's annual Police Vehicle Evaluation test, the V8 Pursuit was officially recorded going from 0 to 60mph in 5.83 seconds. Top speed: 151mph. However, it scored the fastest lap time ever in the test's history with a time of 1:33.70. So while the Caprice PPV has a slightly higher top speed over the Charger Pursuit V8, the latter had the faster lap time. Point being? Either one of these V8 beasts are quite fast for their weight and size and both will clearly perform better than their predecessors. However, with an upgraded and more powerful Ford Taurus coming up for 2013, it should prove interesting to see the next round of competition. Then again, do we really want police cars to go faster? Dodge Dodge Dodge Considered by many to be the ultimate sports car, the Ferrari is an unforgettable car. You'll have a great time learning how to draw this amazing car. In this section, we'll show you how to draw this car. You can draw it freehand while looking at your computer monitor, or you can print out this page to get a closer look at each step. Here, we'll show you an illustration of each step and then give you a description of how to draw it. Follow the red lines in each illustration to learn exactly what to draw in that step. The lines drawn in previous steps are shown in gray. Step 1: Draw a long rectangle for the driver's side of the car. For the wheels, use a circle and an oval that overlap the rectangle. On top of the right half of the rectangle, draw a smaller rectangle with slanted sides to form the driver's-side windows. Use two diamond-shaped figures for the roof and windshield. Add two more diamond-shaped figures for the front hood and the front end of the car. Step 2: Using gently curved lines, show the rounded shape of the front end, front hood, windshield, and roof. Draw a short curved line for the rounded bottom corner of the front end. Above and to the left of the rear wheel, add a short straight line to show the bottom edge of the rear driver's-side window. Form each hubcap using a small circle inside of a larger circle. Add thickness to each tire by drawing a short curved line from the base of the tire to the bottom of the body. Sketch the rear wheel well using a curved line attached to a straight line that slants upward to the back of the car. Step 3: Add a curved line ahead of the front tire for part of the wheel well. Draw ovals for the sideview mirror and gas cap. Sketch a curved line from just behind the top of the front wheel to the back of the car. Use straight and curved lines to form the front grille, door, and roof supports. Step 4: Near the back of the front wheel, draw an L-shaped figure. Behind and below this figure, draw a line that curves up to the back of the car. At the right end of this line, draw an upright line that has tiny spikes coming out of the top. Add a U-shaped figure to the bottom of this upright line to form the bumper. Place two slightly curved lines at the front of the car. In front of the windshield, draw a thin rectangle. On the lower side of the car, sketch five lines that curve up to form the air slits for the radiators built into the side of the car. Connect these air slits with an upright line. Finish drawing the rear wheel well by placing a tiny line behind the rear tire. Step 5: Inside each tire, draw a circle around five half circles to form the wheels. Place a dot for the lock on the gas cap located behind the windows. Add the windshield wipers as shown here. Darken the sidewalls of the tires, the half circles in the wheels, and the lower half of the sideview mirror. Also darken the top of the driver's-side windows, part of the front grille, the front bottom edges of the car, and the thin rectangle in front of the windshield. Use straight and curved lines to outline the front hood and headlight covers. Add shading where shown by sketching many straight lines. Your car drawing is finished! Even if you don't get it right the first time, keep practicing until you're happy with your drawing. The Lamborghini dazzles with its sharp, lean styling. Learn how to draw a Lamborghini in the next section. Want to expand your artistic abilities? See:

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