THE PHOENIX COMIC CLUB

HOW TO DESIGN EXPLOSIVE SOUND EFFECTS



CHOOSE YOUR SOUND EFFECT WORD



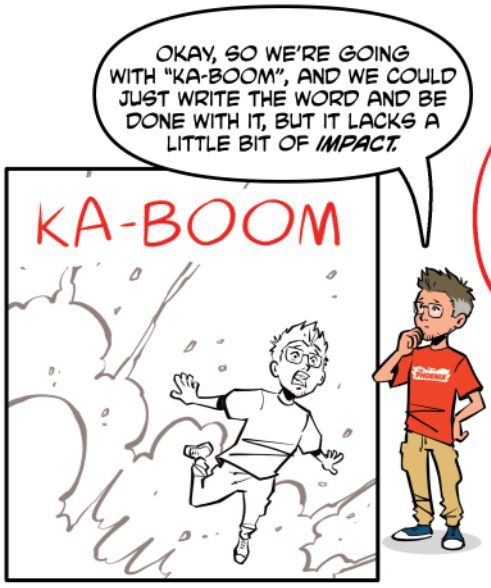
IN COMICS, SOUND EFFECTS TYPICALLY USE WORDS THAT IMITATE THE SOUND. SO, ***BANG*** OR ***BLAM*** FOR A GUNSHOT, OR ***CRASH*** FOR AN OBJECT BREAKING.

IN THIS TUTORIAL, WE'RE GOING TO ADD AN ***EXPLOSION SOUND EFFECT*** TO THIS IMAGE OF ME (RIGHT) AFTER A PARTICULARLY HOT CURRY.

FIRST, WE NEED TO CHOOSE OUR WORD. WE COULD GO WITH THE CLASSIC ***BOOM,*** BUT I WANT IT TO SOUND BIGGER THAN THAT SO LET'S GO WITH A FAVOURITE OF MINE, ***KA-BOOM.***



BULKING OUT YOUR LETTERING



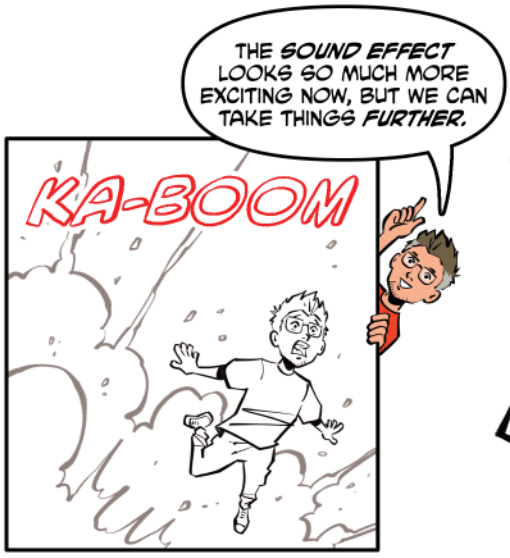
KA-BOOM

ITALICISING (SLANTING IT TO THE RIGHT) HELPS ADD A BIT OF DYNAMISM, BUT THE WORD KA-BOOM SOUNDS ***BIG AND BOLD*** AND THE LETTERING DOESN'T REFLECT THAT AT THE MOMENT.

KA-BOOM

WE NEED TO ***BULK OUT*** OUR LETTERING, AND A GOOD WAY TO DO THIS IS TO WRITE KA-BOOM THINLY AND LIGHTLY IN PENCIL, LEAVING A DECENT AMOUNT OF SPACE BETWEEN CHARACTERS. THEN WE ***OUTLINE EACH LETTER*** IN THICK FELT-TIP PEN.

ADDING TEXTURE



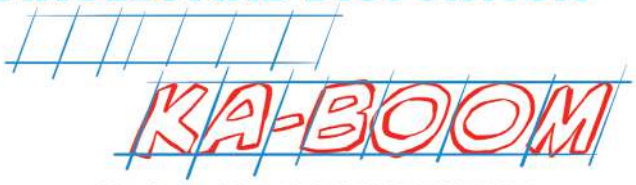
KA-BOOM

THE BULKED OUT, OUTLINED WORD LOOKS SO MUCH ***STRONGER,*** BUT USING ***JAGGED LINES,*** ADDS EVEN MORE DRAMA AND FITS THE WORD EVEN BETTER.

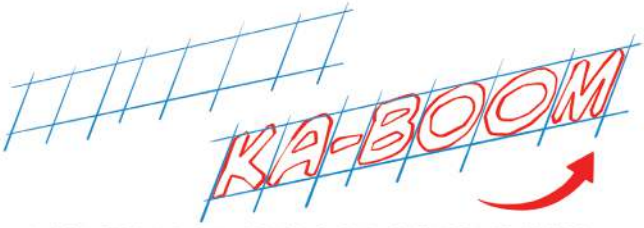
KA-BOOM!

YOU COULD ALSO USE ***SUPER JAGGEDY LINES*** FOR YOUR LETTERING AND ADD BITS OF ***DEBRIS*** COMING OFF YOUR SOUND, ADDING LITTLE DETAILS LIKE THIS ARE A LOT OF FUN.

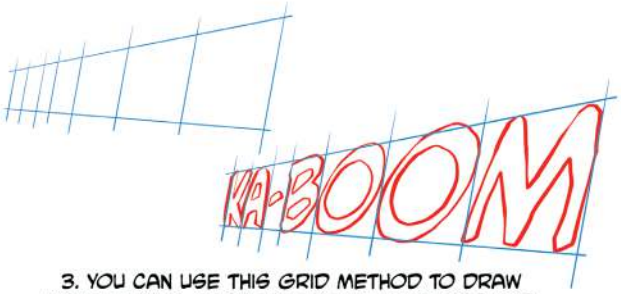
ANGLES AND DISTORTION



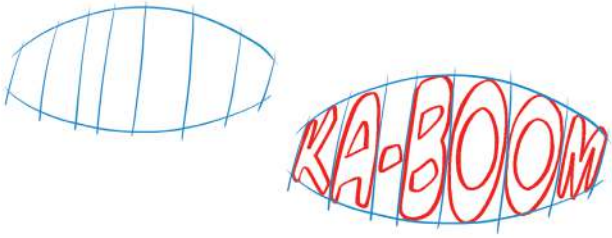
1. YOU CAN ALSO ***ANGLE AND DISTORT*** YOUR SOUND EFFECT. START BY DRAWING A ***GRID*** AROUND YOUR LETTERS FOR REFERENCE.



2. NOW DRAW A SIMILAR GRID, BUT ***ANGLED UPWARDS ON ONE SIDE*** AND REDRAW YOUR LETTERS. THE ANGLE MAKES YOUR SOUND EFFECT LOOK MORE ***DYNAMIC.***



3. YOU CAN USE THIS GRID METHOD TO DRAW YOUR TEXT IN ***PERSPECTIVE,*** WITH THE TOP AND BOTTOM LINES GETTING ***FURTHER APART*** AND THE LETTERS GETTING ***BIGGER FROM LEFT TO RIGHT.***



4. OR USE TWO ***CURVED*** TOP AND BOTTOM LINES IN AN ***EYEBALL SHAPE*** TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE YOUR LETTERS ARE ***BULGING*** OUTWARDS.

MERGED

1. ANOTHER TECHNIQUE IS TO ***STAGGER*** YOUR LETTERING SO IT'S NOT IN A UNIFORM LINE. ***ALTERNATE*** YOUR LETTERS WITH ONE HIGH AND ONE LOW, LIKE BELOW.





2. ***BUNCH YOUR LETTERS TOGETHER*** SO THEY OVERLAP AND THEN ***ERASE THE JOINS*** FOR AN ULTRA-STYLISED LOOK.

3. THEN MAYBE FINISH OFF WITH A BIT OF ***COLOUR.*** CHOOSE A COLOUR THAT SUITS YOUR SOUND EFFECT AND THAT WILL HELP IT STAND OUT AGAINST YOUR ARTWORK. A ***WARM COLOUR*** LIKE YELLOW OR ORANGE IS A PERFECT CHOICE.

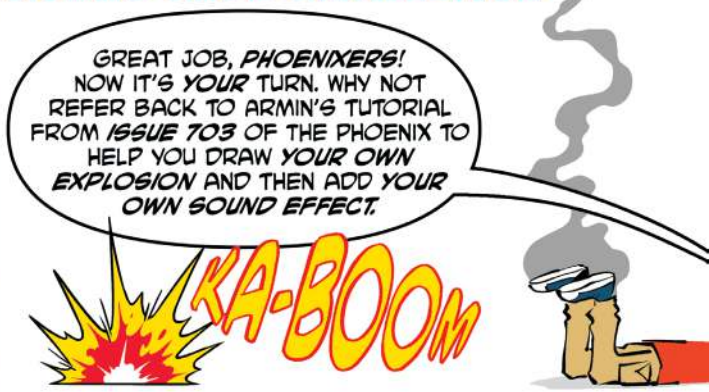


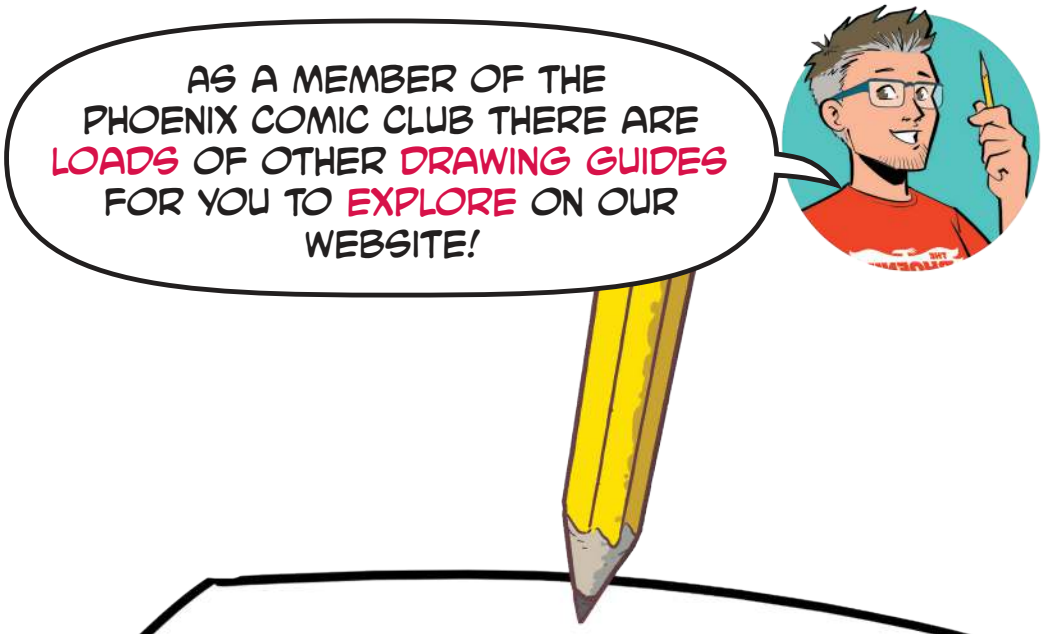
4. ONCE YOU'VE CHOSEN YOUR FINAL SOUND EFFECT STYLE, YOU CAN ADD IT INTO YOUR ARTWORK.

I'VE GONE FOR THE ***MERGED*** LETTERING, BUT YOU MIGHT HAVE CHOSEN DIFFERENTLY. THAT'S FINE, THERE'S NO RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWER HERE, BUT I THINK WE CAN ALL AGREE THAT THE ***BOLDER,*** MORE ***DRAMATIC*** LETTERING STYLE WORKS ***SO MUCH BETTER*** THAN THE HANDWRITTEN LETTERING THAT WE STARTED WITH.



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