



Steve  
Casino -  
Painter of  
Nuts







Kyle met  
Steve  
Casino at  
a toy  
show.

Pop Culture

# Aw, nuts! Artist turns peanut shells into detailed celebrity caricatures



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Steve Casino found a peanut, found a peanut. Then he cracked it open (gently). But he didn't eat it. Instead, the 46-year-old toy inventor decided to paint a face on the peanut shell ... and thus a hobby, and a lucrative second profession, were born.

"I was looking for something unique to work on," Casino says. So he dug into a whole bunch of peanuts at work (snack foods fuel toymaking brains, it seems), and found one that looked like himself. ("I have a shaved head and glasses, so I look like a peanut," he said.) "There are 10 billion people painting on canvases, and it's hard to stand out from the crowd."

So after experimenting with the self-portrait, Casino turned to one of his favorite bands, the Ramones, for inspiration. Soon enough, he had the whole band ("I nearly ran out of steam on Joey"), with Instruments, created on peanuts.

And it all went to shell from there.

In just the past five months, Casino has made approximately 30 creations on nuts, ranging from TV favorite ("Star Trek") to Spider-Man fighting Doc Ock. One guy he knew growing up by the name of Trent Reznor contacted him around Christmas -- "I hadn't talked to him in 20 years" -- and he got a commission to paint the Oscar-winning Nine Inch Nails singer and his family on nut shells. "He encouraged me a lot," says Casino (and yes, that is his real name). "It was just a hobby, and after that it was like, 'This great artist likes my art, I must be an artist!'"



Alex Dieterle

Steve Casino, the peanut artist.





Steps  
towards  
creating a  
peanut  
character





**There is a 4-step process I uses to insure my artworks last a lifetime:**

- 1). Each piece has had the nuts removed from the shell.
- 2). The shells are sealed with archival urethane and glued back together.
- 3). The product is constructed, painted (taking up to 20 hrs.) and coated in clear acrylic when finished.
- 4). The final product is sealed in a glass dome



Rrrr  
rrrrr

.....  
Hulk

Sm  
ash  
Pea  
nut!























<https://www.facebook.com/painterofnuts>



[www.stevecasino.com](http://www.stevecasino.com)

PHOTO: MICHAEL HARTING







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<https://www.facebook.com/painterofnuts>

This is the  
peanut that  
Steve  
showed  
Kyle  
He revealed  
it from an  
Altoia  
container.



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