

Dark Rainbow

Midjourney Chronicles · Episode 20 · Reference PDF

`--sref 2782311405 1630585373`

What happens when you forget to clear your first SREF?

The idea

Two style references that pull in opposite directions, used together on purpose.

`2782311405`	**ember rim lighting** Almost black. Light only on the edges, like embers.
`1630585373`	**rainbow gradient chromatic noise** Loud metallic rainbow with grain.
`Both`	**Dark Rainbow** Black frames where the rainbow only lives on edges and reflections.

Parameters

`--chaos 5`	keeps the four images close to each other
`--ar 4:5`	series format
`--raw`	less Midjourney polish, more photo
`--sref A B`	the two codes; add ::2 to one to make it win
`--sw 500`	scenes (300 for covers with text, 150 if letters break)
`--stylize 250`	350 for landscapes
`--hd --v 8.2`	high detail, version 8.2

Where it shines

Hard, glossy surfaces: car paint, chrome, glass, wet pavement, lightboxes, brass. Soft things (fur, wool) stay flat. Our black stallion test was cut for that reason.

Starter prompt

```
a cinematic photograph of [SUBJECT] in [DARK PLACE], ember rim light along [EDGES], metallic rainbow reflections on [GLOSSY SURFACE], deep black shadows --chaos 5 --ar 4:5 --raw --sref 2782311405 1630585373 --sw 500 --stylize 250 --hd --v 8.2
```

Filled in

```
a 1960s American muscle car parked in a dark garage, low front three-quarter view, ember rim light running along the chrome bumper and fender lines, metallic rainbow gradient reflections rolling across the black paint, wet concrete floor, single hanging bulb in the background --chaos 5 --ar 4:5 --raw --sref 2782311405 1630585373 --sw 500 --stylize 250 --hd --v 8.2
```



01 · The garage

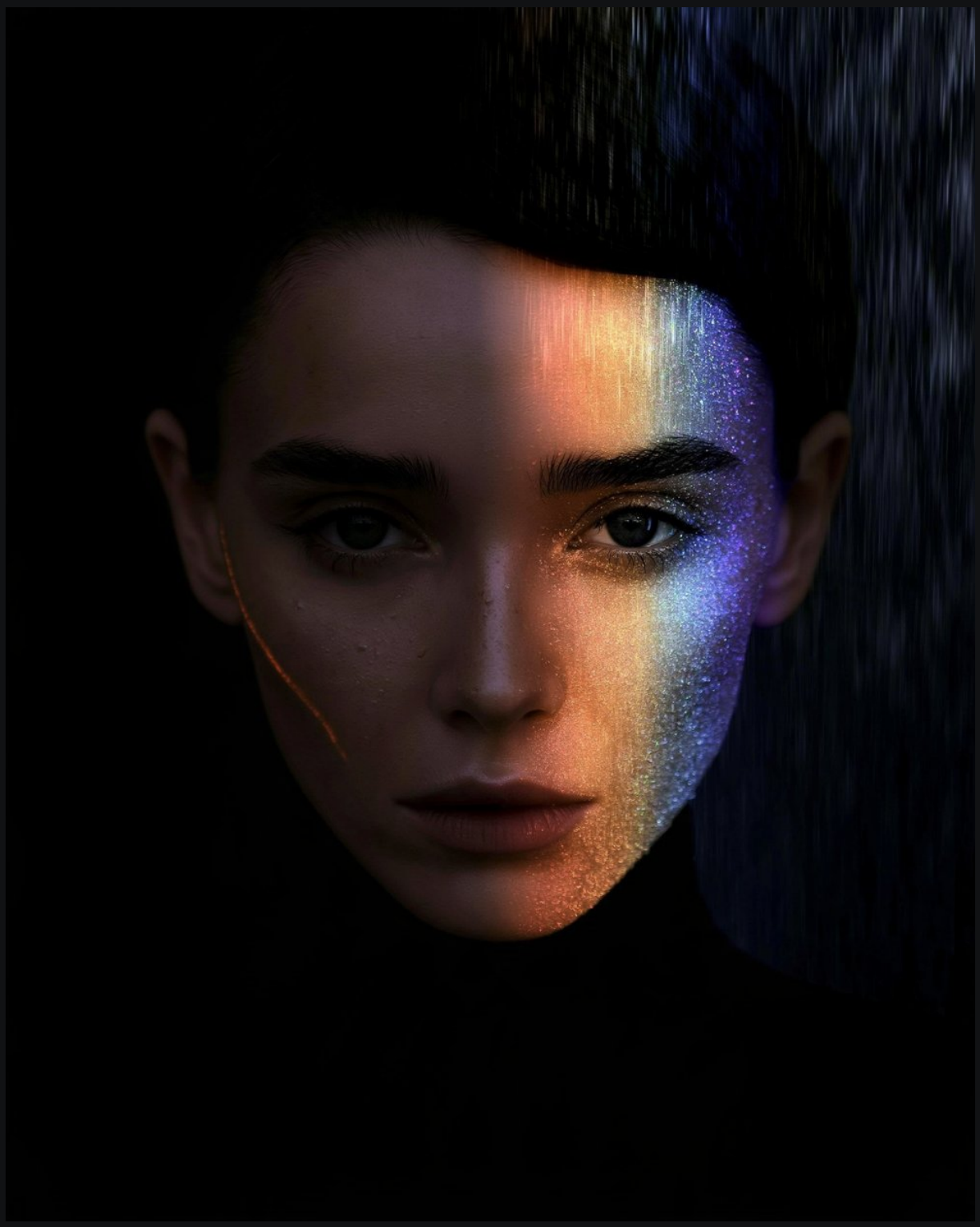
The approved one. Rainbow only on the hood, roof and windshield; the rest is black space.



```
a 1960s American muscle car parked in a dark garage, low front three-quarter view, ember rim light running along the chrome bumper and fender lines, metallic rainbow gradient reflections rolling across the black paint, wet concrete floor, single hanging bulb in the background --chaos 5 --ar 4:5 --raw --sref 2782311405 1630585373 --sw 500 --stylize 250 --hd --v 8.2
```

02 · Rim-lit portrait

Rain on skin catches the rainbow. One side lit, the other in black.



```
a close-up portrait of a woman with short black hair and dark eyes looking just past the camera, rain drops on her skin, thin ember rim light tracing her cheekbone and jaw, iridescent metallic rainbow light reflecting across one side of her face, black turtleneck, pure black background --chaos 5 --ar 4:5 --raw --sref 2782311405 1630585373 --sw 500 --stylize 250 --hd --v 8.2
```

03 · Last set

The trumpet bell turns into a prism. Ember light outlines the shoulders.



```
an old jazz trumpet player resting backstage after a show, gray beard, sweat on his forehead, holding a brass trumpet across his chest, ember rim light outlining his shoulders, metallic rainbow reflections sliding along the trumpet bell, dark dressing room, smoke in the air --chaos 5 --ar 4:5 --raw --sref 2782311405 1630585373 --sw 500 --stylize 250 --hd --v 8.2
```

04 · After the rain

Warm lanterns stay warm; the wet street takes the rainbow.




```
a narrow Tokyo alley at night after the rain, wet pavement reflecting iridescent metallic rainbow light, ember glow from paper lanterns on dark wooden storefronts, a person with a clear umbrella walking away from camera, steam rising from a ramen shop --chaos 5 --ar 4:5 --raw --sref 2782311405 1630585373 --sw 500 --stylize 250 --hd --v 8.2
```

05 · Black sand

The aurora becomes a rainbow arc; the sand sparkles like chromatic noise.



```
a black sand beach in Iceland at night, sea stacks rising from dark iridescent water, a metallic rainbow aurora bending across the sky, ember rim light on the edges of the basalt rocks, waves leaving glowing chromatic foam on the sand --chaos 5 --ar 4:5 --raw --sref 2782311405 1630585373 --sw 600 --stylize 350 --hd --v 8.2
```

06 · The marquee (cover variant)

Text spelled right at --sw 300. The rainbow sits behind the letters.




```
a cinematic night street photograph of an old theater entrance after the rain, a large wide marquee sign close to the camera reading "MIDJOURNEY CHRONICLES" on the top line and "EP. 20" large below it, huge bold lettering filling the whole sign, the whole sign fully visible in the frame, ember rim light along the marquee edges, iridescent metallic rainbow reflections on the wet pavement, a lone figure in a long coat walking past, deep black shadows --no credits, small print, fine print, billing block, watermark, signature, logo, repeated text, duplicate letters, cropped sign --chaos 5 --ar 4:5 --raw --sref 2782311405 1630585373 --sw 300 --stylize 250 --hd --v 8.2
```

The cover




```
a cinematic photograph of a lonely desert highway at night, a large wide roadside lightbox sign close to the camera reading "MIDJOURNEY CHRONICLES" on the top line and "EP. 20" large below it, huge bold lettering filling the whole sign, the whole sign fully visible in the frame, black sky with stars, ember rim light on the sign frame, iridescent rainbow chromatic glow on the asphalt and desert sand --no credits, small print, fine print, billing block, watermark, signature, logo, repeated text, duplicate letters, cropped sign --chaos 5 --ar 4:5 --raw --sref 2782311405 1630585373 --sw 300 --stylize 250 --hd --v 8.2
```

Cover tips

- Lightboxes win: the rainbow becomes the sign itself, and the black letters stay readable.
- Use --sw 300 when there is text. At 500 the style starts eating letters.
- Zoom in before you approve. Our spiral ramp read "CHRONIICLES" and a garage sign lost its "E".
- Keep "text" and "letters" OUT of --no on a cover; ban credits, small print and duplicate letters instead.
- Some signs come out dark and dim. Pick the one where the number glows.

Cheat sheet

Darker	`--sref 2782311405::2 1630585373::1`
Even	`--sref 2782311405 1630585373`
More color	`--sref 2782311405::1 1630585373::2`
Text on screen	`--sw 300 → 150 if letters break`
Landscapes	`--sw 600 --stylize 350`
Best subjects	`cars, chrome, wet streets, glass, brass, lightboxes`
Weak subjects	`fur, wool, matte fabric`

Try Personalization ON vs OFF on the same prompt: your profile pulls the palette toward your own taste, which changes how much rainbow survives.

Your turn

Challenge: pick one shiny thing you own (a guitar, a watch, a car, a kettle) and run it through Dark Rainbow. Post your result and the subject you chose.

Bonus: run one prompt three times with the weights ::2/::1, even, and ::1/::2. Post the three side by side.

Credits

The "Dark Rainbow" mix was found and named by a member of the FTA community, who stacked these two SREFs by accident.