

MORE HELPFUL TIPS ABOUT PAINTING YOUR MOTORCAR

By Charlie Hulsizer

Thought I'd throw my two cents in on the subject of paint and painting motorcars. I've worked with many different kinds of paint and maybe this will help some of the guys.

The variety of paints and painting systems out there today is amazing. I remember when we used to use straight enamel to paint autos. We used a hot plate to heat up the paint gun as hot as we could get it and shoot the paint on hot. This practice used to do a fair job and it also burned down many body shops when the gun got too hot!

If you use a spray gun, you could use acrylic enamel which is moderately expensive but will give you great results. You could go big bucks and use a two-step system with a color coat and then a clear coat system with urethane hardener, but not only will this send you to the poor house, but it will make you sicker than a dog if you breathe the paint dust; it contains isocyanate, which is a poison. Self-contained breathing apparatus is recommended if you use this stuff in a confined area. The two-step system will give you show quality results even if you are not an experienced painter.

I restored an ex-BAR M14 a few years ago. I used an equipment enamel from an auto parts store. This stuff is around \$30 for a gallon of

paint and one gallon of reducer. The guy who sold it to me told me that it's designed for painting rusty tractors, so it sounded good. I used zinc chromate primer which, I understand, isn't long for the world. I got good results with this paint but still got a little peeling off the aluminum. It was easy to apply and dried very quickly. Later, I painted an ex-D&H M19 using John Deere Yellow with no primer; just blew it on. It came out better than the first car! By the way, if you want to you could apply it with a brush. I did find the yellow a little more pale a yellow than I liked, but the customer was happy.

When I restored my 40-B seven years ago, I used an enamel from True Value called X-O Rust. I used acrylic enamel reducer and not only is it durable and dried fast, but it had a filling characteristic that was super.

If you don't have any spraying equipment, I found some super paint at good old K-Mart. It's Dutch Boy acrylic enamel in a spray can. Not only is it great to put on, but it dries in minutes in any weather or temperature and is tough as nails. Believe me, I sprayed the hood on my truck with it and had a heck of a time sanding it back off. This paint is about \$2.30 a can and K-Mart puts it on sale quite often. It's a good sized can and goes a long way.

Hope this helps out.