

Painting Plastic Pieces for C6 (headlight bezels, radio surround consoles, etc)

Using Rattle Spray Cans

Tools Required

Lacquer Spray Paint (aerosol can)

Adhesion Promoter Primer (aerosol can)

Clear (aerosol can)

400 grit wet/dry sandpaper

1200 grit wet/dry sandpaper

2000 grit wet/dry sandpaper

Polishing Compound

Wax and or Polish

3" Air Mini polisher with application pad and buffing pad

(nice to have, but not required)

Small bucket with 4-5 inches of hot water

6 new lead pencils/with erasers. Use a hole punch to cut out small circles of the sandpaper(1200 grit, and 2000 grit) before starting the paint project. Attach the sandpaper circles to a new pencil eraser using crazy glue. Once they are dry, put them aside for use later.

NOTE: A vacuumed, clean area, and having the object elevated above the paint work table, and clean rags placed under the paint project will give excellent results 90% of the time. The rags will trap any paint mist (overspray), and will prevent the aerosol propellant from releasing the mist into the air, and making paint dust which will probably settle on the wet paint.

Newspaper used under the work will not trap the paint mist as well, and fog up the area more, creating a dust mist (dust particles).

TIP- Warm Paint will atomize much better than cold or cool paint and give a real smooth layer or coat of paint, and reduce the likelihood of orange peel.

1. Start by lightly wet sanding the work surface with 400 grit sandpaper.
2. Once sanding is completed, wash the surface with clean water, and dry completely.
3. Place the cans of adhesion promoter, and lacquer in the bucket of hot water.
4. After 5 minutes, remove the adhesion promoter, dry off the can with a rag and shake as per the directions of the can.
5. Start by using 3-4 light coats of Adhesion promoter, followed by (1) final heavier coat. Between each coat, shake the can for 10 seconds.
6. Since the adhesion promoter dries very quickly, as soon as the final heavier coat is applied, wait 5 minutes before applying the lacquer paint.
7. Remove the lacquer paint from the bucket of water, dry off the water from the can with a rag, and shake as per the instructions on the can.
8. Once ready, apply thin coats of paint (5-6) shaking the can between each coat.
9. Because the lacquer is layered in thin coats, it will dry rather quickly, so once the 5-6 coats is applied, the paint should be starting to show a wet glossy shine, but if not, use 1 or 2 heavier sprays until a wet shine is seen to the whole paint job. This will lessen the amount of orange peel as well. Just be careful not to leave the spray pattern in one spot too long, as this will make the paint run.
10. Once the paint is a nice wet glossy look, let the project sit for 25-30 minutes.

11. There may be a few dust marks, but leave them alone or you will do damage if you try to fix them at this time in the project.
12. Once 25 minutes are up, the paint should be dry to the touch.
13. Replenish the hot water in the bucket and put the clear spray can in the water.
14. After 5 minutes, remove the clear spray can, dry off the can with a rag and shake as per the directions of the can.
15. Once ready, apply thin coats of clear (3-4) shaking the can between each coat.
16. Once these light coats are completed, do a bit heavier last coat of clear spray.

Wait for the paint to dry (24 hours)

Once the paint has had 24 hours to dry, now is the time to look over the job. If there are any imperfections, these can now be fixed.

Most times, any imperfections to the paint will be usually be:

- 1) Dust particles in the paint/clear coat.
- 2) Orange peel will be the 2nd most common imperfection.

The next section will show you how to deal with each imperfection.

DUST PARTICLES

Using the 1200 grit paper on a pencil eraser, wet the surface where the dust particle (s) are located, and wet the sandpaper in a bucket of water. Carefully try to only sand the bump off the dust particle if possible. Once the mound is almost flush to the painted surface, use wetted 2000 grit, and go over the area until it is smooth and even with the painted surface.

Once all the particles are wet sanded and smooth to the painted surface, then use some polishing compound on a foam pad, and using the 3" polisher, go over the sanded areas until the surface is glossy like the rest of the paint job. Clean off the polishing compound, and then use the buffing pad to get rid of any scratches or swirls. This can also be done by hand, but takes a bit longer.

Use your favorite wax or polish to finish off your project.

ORANGE PEEL

This is a bigger job than fixing dust particles. The whole project will have to be wet sanded using 1200 followed by 2000 or 2500 grit. Once the sanding is completed, then use polishing compound and a polisher until the entire surface is smooth and glossy. Finish it off with a coat of your favorite wax or polish.

Fixing orange peel can be challenging if the project has crevices or inward curves, because most polishers will not reach some of those areas.

It is best to get a nice glossy wet coat of paint on the surface initially and lessen the orange peel effect.

NOTE: Some painters do a very light wet sanding before the clear coat is applied to get rid of the dust particles or orange peel. It's a crap shoot sometimes, because you have to wet sand really light on relatively freshly dried paint.

I find if I keep my work area clean, vacuum the area prior to painting, and lay out the rags under my work, then I seldom get any dust particles in my paint.

