

CHOOSING YOUR FIRST PAINT 1.3

Now you have assembled your kit you will want to paint it. Most model kits require some painting before completing gluing together all the parts. Cars and aircraft have interiors which you won't be able to get to once everything is glued together so you need to follow the instructions and carefully plan your sequence of building.

On the outside of your kit and on the instructions you will see a list of paints to buy. The main colours are essential but the minor ones less so. As you build more models you will build up a selection of paints which you can use on future models.

There are several different types of paint available for model kits. You will need model paints and NOT crafting paints which won't stick to the plastic and will make a horrendous mess of your model.

These are the main base types of paint available for model kits. Be aware, you cannot mix the different base types of paint. You can only mix like with like.

1. ENAMEL PAINTS

These have been widely used for decades and come in small metal tins. They require frequent stirring and paintbrushes must be washed out with thinner (white spirit is fine). They can have an odour and be slow drying, especially the gloss colours. Humbrol and Revell have the widest ranges.

2. ACRYLIC PAINTS

These are the most popular paints and are produced by a wide range of manufacturers and give great coverage. Brushes can be washed out in water and the paints are non-toxic. They will brush paint well but beware, some manufacturers sell pre thinned paints for spraying. These are less suitable for brush painting. Tamiya and Vallejo are two of the most popular brands for the beginner.

3. LACQUER PAINTS

These are aimed at advanced modellers and designed to be sprayed with an airbrush. They give a great finish but chemically based and potentially toxic. NOT recommended for beginners.

Always look after your paints. Make sure they are well mixed and the lids are securely closed when you have finished modelling.