BASECOAT PAINT APPLICATION GUIDE

ZERO PAINTS

COLOUR MATCHED, AIRBRUSH READY, AUTOMOTIVE MODEL PAINTS

www.ZERO-PAINTS.com

WHAT ARE BASECOAT PAINTS?

Zero's basecoat paints are solvent based Paints which come in Metallic, Mica/Pearl and Solid colours, all requiring a clearcoat. Once mixed, they can be colour matched to almost any 1:1 car or motorcycle. The colours are mixed using a formula which guarantees a 100% perfect reproduction of the original colour. As they are designed with model makers in mind ,we scale down some paints by reducing the silver flake in some metallics.

SURFACE PREPERATION

Start by removing all mould lines from the body, using various grades of abrasive paper or sanding sticks, (figure 1). Most manufacturers of resin and plastic kits use a mould release agent, this needs to be removed, as it prevents the paint from adhering properly. This can be removed by cleaning with Zero's Key and Clean, (Part No. ZP-6002), this contains a dual-action cleaner that removes silicones, waxes, other contaminates and contains micro abrasives which help to scuff the plastic, helping the primer adheres better (figure 2). Alternatively wash with mild warm soapy water and lightly sand the panels/body with P1500 abrasive paper, keying the plastic for the primer.

PRIMER

Primer is a preparatory coating put on before painting. This ensures better adhesion of paint to the surface, and provides additional protection for parts being painted.

Basecoat paints MUST be applied over a primer, This can be virtually any primers; they have been tested with most popular brands with model makers e.g. Halfords, Tamiya and Mr. Hobby's Mr Surfacer and our own Zero Airbrushing Primer/Micro Filler. (Part No. ZP-3001) (figure 3) Apply your primer with a light mist coat followed with a few medium coats until you have full coverage. (figure 4) Leave until fully dry. Flatten the primer with P2000 abrasive paper, or Micromesh 4000/6000, wash clean with warm water. (The smoother the primer coat the smoother the over finish will look). Ensure the body is clean and dry. It is recommended to use a Tack Cloth to remove all contaminants, surface dust, dirt, etc, left from sanding before continuing. (figure 5)

PAINT APPLICATION

Always give the paint a good shake/stir to ensure it is fully mixed. (The individual colour components can separate and settle over time.) Set the pressure of your compressor between 20-40 PSI, test and adjust as necessary for your own equipment.

Zero Basecoat paints are supplied pre-thinned to suit most airbrushes with 0.3 or larger nozzles. If more additional thinning is required, Basecoat Thinners are available separately. (Part No. ZP-5004)

GROUNDCOAT/UNDERCOAT

Most colours can be applied over a white/light grey primer, but some require a particular Groundcoat colour (also called Part 1 or undercoat) to be applied first to get the correct finished colour. If these are required, apply 2-3 coats ensuring an even coverage, leaving to fully dry before applying Part 2 or the Basecoat colour.

APPLING THE BASECOAT COLOUR

Depending on the colour supplied, you will need to apply about 2-5 light coats. (figure 6) Each coat will dry within a few minutes. DO NOT apply Wet Coats, the paint will dry MATT (this is normal), just ensure you have even colour coverage. The final coat should be applied in a criss-cross fashion to allow an even consistency of the metallic particles.

figure 1



figure 2



figure 3



figure 4



figure 5



figure 6



SPECIAL PAINTS :

Fluorescent colours need to be applied over a white undercoat (Part No. ZP-1032),
apply the fluorescent paint in light coats building up the colour until the correct shade is achieved, this is the same for any paints which are very transparent. DO NOT put on heavy coats or it will just run. Candy Paints are translucent paints, which require a metallic base coat to be applied first, apply in light coats.

CLEARCOATING

As mentioned earlier, the basecoat colours will dry with a Matt finish therefore MUST be clearcoated. For the ultimate shine and colour depth Zero Paints 2K (2 pack) High Solid Acrylic Clearcoat (Part No. ZP-3006) is recommended. Once the basecoat colour is fully dry you can clearcoat, this can sometimes be as quick as 30 minutes. Clearcoats will have their own instruction depending on the brand.

The following brands of Clearcoats have also been tested without any issues: Tamiya TS13, Mr Hobby range (Mr Top Gloss etc) and Halfords Lacquer.

HARMFUL FLAMMABLE

Avoid prolonged breathing of vapours. Use in a well ventilated area. Avoid contact with eyes, Harmful if swallowed, call physician immediately. Keep out of reach of children. Keep away from sources of ignition. Please download the MSDS from www.zero-paints.com/downloads/

Basecoat Finished

