

HOT MODELING TIPS from Bearco Marine

How to Paint Like Picasso Using Walmart Paint

We get this question asked about a million times...*“How can I get professional looking results using a regular can of spray paint?”*

And we understand, not everyone is into airbrushing.

So let us share with you how you can get a professional looking paint job using ordinary spray paint. And I am talking about the .97 spray paint from your local Wal-Mart!

Prep the plastic

All plastic models are made using molds and forms that fit into each other to form the material. And they must have a release agent or lubricant to be able to get the part off the die. So to be sure you have a well-prepped part, we suggest you wash each part in warm, soapy water, rinse with fresh clean water and wipe dry. This makes sure that you remove any residue on the part that can cause “fish-eyes” when you apply the paint.

Apply primer

Be sure the primer you use is made by the same manufacturer that makes the paint you’ll use for your final coat. It is best to use a white or light gray primer. Apply the primer in smooth even strokes and just mist it on the part. Let it dry for 15 minutes or so, then apply an even coat of primer and it is best to apply as little as possible to ensure the paint does not run. Oh, and be sure to take the right precautions by using a 2-stage respirator mask and paint inside a well-ventilated area, or better yet, paint outside on a still day.

Get the paint ready

Place the can of finish spray paint in a container full of warm, not hot, water for about 5 minutes. This really helps the paint flow into a smooth finish and assure even flow from the nozzle. Then be sure to shake the paint for at least one full minute while the marble inside the can does all the work.

It’s time to cha-cha!

The first step to applying your finish coating is to apply a mist coat! Apply a mist coat to the part by holding the can 12”-15” away from the part and just mist it. Resist the urge to fill in all the color! Let it dry for 15-20 minutes.

Warm the paint again and get ready for the first final coat. Spray closer to the model, like 6-9”, applying the color in even strokes and don’t stop spraying until you’re off the part. Work your way around the part evenly. Let this dry thoroughly. Read your paint can to find out if there is a time limit before they recommend a second coat. Now, lightly sand the part with a 220-grit sandpaper or higher. Be sure to wipe off any paint powder with a damp, soft cloth. Now paint the model again using the finish coat technique. You can repeat this sanding and painting for as many coats as you would like until your final coat! And now, enjoy the professional results obtained from your ordinary can of spray paint!

Esther

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