



Painters Guide for Cellulose Paint

Cellulose Automotive Paint

Cellulose automotive paint a petroleum based material and has not been used by car manufacturers for over thirty years. Although it is still very popular with classic and vintage car restoration companies and customers wishing to paint / refurbish cars at home.

Cellulose paint still has a few advantages over some of the modern automotive paints, mainly that it is easy to apply and if you make a mistake it can be rectified straight away, the down side is you have to cut and polish all cellulose paint to get a good acceptable gloss finish or alternatively you can apply a couple of coats of 1K Acrylic lacquer.

Preparation

Prepare the workshop for spraying paint and primer. It is a must that you use the correct protection: Face Mask, Painters overalls and gloves, always spray in a well ventilated workshop or spray booth (see manufacturers health and safety instructions on our web site).

Cellulose paint will react if applied over synthetic oil based paint, so it is important to check the old paintwork on the car. The easiest way to test is to flat a small area with 400 grit wet / dry paper, put some cellulose thinner on a piece of cloth and hold on the flatted area - it will react if the surface is painted with a synthetic material. If you get a reaction you will need to apply a couple of coats of barcoat sealer before you apply any paint or primer.

Carry out any repairs make sure you do not overlap the body filler over the existing paintwork, fill any imperfections in the body filler with a 1k acrylic knifing stopper, treat any rust spots with Ferrozinc rust cure, spot prime any bare metal with Jawel self-etch primer.

Mixing ratio: 1 part Etch Primer 1 part Etch Solution or for a small areas use an aerosol of etch primer. Flat the car with a Grey Scotch Pad when you are applying the paint directly on to a pre painted surface. If you are priming the car first use a Red Scotch Pad. Alternatively, you can use 600 grit wet / dry paper or 500 grit DA Discs. Remove any dust with an air blow gun then use a tack cloth before you wipe with panel wipe, wax and grease remover.

Applying Cellulose Primer and Paint

When the surface has been prepared and all repairs carried out you are ready to apply your cellulose primer. Mixing ratio: 1 part cellulose primer – 1 part cellulose thinner this can vary depending on spray gun set up.

Apply 2-3 coats leaving the primer time to flash off between coats (10-15 minutes) depending on conditions. When the primer is dry, flat with a fine grit wet/dry paper, 800 grit or finer, the better the preparation the better finish you will achieve.

Once you are satisfied with the primed surface blow any dust off with a blow gun, tack cloth and panel wipe the surface before you apply your top coat. Avoid leaving the primer overnight in a damp workshop if possible as primers are porous so could absorb moisture resulting in poor top coat adhesion.

Applying Cellulose paint

It is very important that the workshop is at room temperature, cellulose paint will BLOOM (haze over with matt finish) if applied in cold damp conditions, always **STIR WELL AND CHECK COLOUR**. Most colour problems are caused because the paint has not been stirred thoroughly.

Mixing ratio: 1 part cellulose paint 1 part cellulose premium thinner.

I prefer to use a high pressure spray gun at 45psi with a 1.4 or 1.6 nozzle set up. Apply a cover coat and leave for 5-15 minutes depending on the temperature before you apply your next coat. It is normal practice to apply 3-4 top coats of cellulose paint. If you see any imperfections between coats you can flat them out with a fine wet / dry paper and recoat, once the paint is dry / fully cured approx. 12 hours you are ready to cut and polish. I normally use the Farecla G3 compound available in liquid or paste form.