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## Guidance for using Basecoat and Clear Lacquer



# Basecoat and Clear Lacquer Car Paint

Basecoat colours require a clear lacquer to be applied on top of the colour to obtain a high gloss finish. Most basecoat colours are metallic/micas type finish. The basecoat contains the metallic particles, is fast drying and can only be applied by a spray gun. Our Acrylic basecoat colours have excellent covering power, and can be used as a part repair or complete re-sprays. You will need a clearcoat/clear lacquer applied on top which can be 2K Lacquer requiring an activator/hardener (contains poly isocyanate), or a 1 pack Acrylic Clear lacquer. Needs to be applied by spray gun, not suitable for brush painting.

## Health and Safety.

Products should be used in a well ventilated area, preferably in a spray booth. Personal protection should be worn by the operator, suitable face mask, overalls, gloves etc. Always ask and follow the Paint Manufacturers data and technical sheets. **For professional use only:** If using the 2K clearcoat/lacquers it is important to wear air fed respirator in a spray booth or oven that is warm and well ventilated. Important to follow manufacturers instructions.

## Preparation

Before applying Basecoat colour to a painted panel make sure the panel has been thoroughly cleaned with a degreaser, and the surface has been sanded to provide a good key. Normally P600 - P800 grits should be sufficient to provide a good key. Stir the colour thoroughly before spray application.

### ***Damaged areas on the vehicle panels.***

Remove the existing paint by grinding the area with a fibre disc P36 grit. Treat any rust areas with a quality rust remover. Apply a body filler by mixing the hardener and paste in accordance with the manufacturers instructions. Apply the filler, allow to harden and then sand to required shape to the vehicles contours. Sanding the filler is best done using P80/ P120 grits, coarse grades are available but if used further filling might be required. If there are small imperfections fill in with a knifing stopper and sanded with P180 grit.

Any bare metal areas should have a self-etching primer applied. Mixing ratios are normally 1 part primer + 1 part solution (follow manufacturers instructions)

Once the repairs have been completed apply a 2K primer, over the filled areas, commonly known as spot priming. If the substrate of the whole vehicle panel is poor you might decide to the primer the whole panel. In this situation make sure that the area to be painted has been cleaned and sanded prior to the primer being applied. In this case apply a degreasing solution over the panel having sanded with P600 - P800 grit.

## Apply the 2K primer

Mixing ratio depends on each manufacturer. 4 parts primer (or 5 parts primer) + 1 part hardener plus 10-20% 2K thinners. Apply 2- 4 coats allowing a flash time between coats of 5 to 10 mins. Thinning ratio's can change depending on the spray gun set up. Once the primer has dried wet sand with Grit P600 - P800 prior to applying the Basecoat colour coat. It can help prior to sanding the Primer to apply a guide coat. This is light misty spray of black so that it is easier to see the sanding process. After sanding blow off any dust and use a tack cloth to remove any small residue or dust particles.

### ***Alternative to 2K Primer***

As an alternative to using 2K Primer it is possible to use Lechler 05548 Primer, which does not require an activator/hardener.

**Prior to Basecoat Colour:**

Once the primer has dried wet sand with Grit P800 prior to applying the basecoat colour coat. It can help prior to sanding the Primer to apply a guide coat. This is light misty spray of black so that it is easier to see the sanding process. After sanding blow off any dust and use a tack cloth to remove any small residue or dust particles.

**Applying Basecoat Colour**

Stir the paint thoroughly, poorly stirred paint can change the colour. Check the colour against the vehicle on a clean compounded area to ensure that colour is correct.

Mixing Ratio: 1 part basecoat colour : 1 part basecoat thinners.

Normally 3-4 coats are applied, allowing 3 - 5mins flash between coats. Mist coats are need to effect the metallic finish. Spray gun set up will depend on your equipment. Normally a high pressure spray gun is used at around 45psi.

This product is air dried and will need a clearcoat/lacquer which should be applied 10-20 mins after it has dried. It is **important** to apply the clearcoat within 8 hours of the basecoat colour.

**It is important not to mark or sand the basecoat colour.**

**Applying Clearcoat/ Clear Lacquers**

2K Clearcoat/lacquers will require the use of activators/hardeners (contains poly isocyanate). Normally the mixing ratio will be 2 parts clear and 1 part Activator plus 2K thinners to adjust for spraying viscosity. Some Clears might have slightly different mix ratio so essential to read manufacturers instructions to obtain the best results. 2K clears provide tough, durable and a great gloss direct from the gun. This can be cut and polished to remove any blemishes once dried.

**Alternative to 2K Clear - 1K Acrylic Clearcoat**

We sell a RFU Clearcoat, this does not require any activator/hardner and as suggested is ready for use. Ideal for door shuts, and small repairs.

**Things to do:**

Use a water trap between air compressor and spray gun.

Keep the workshop area warm.

Keep surface clean.

**Things to avoid:**

Do not leave a primer coat on the vehicle overnight as primers can absorb moisture.

Make sure your air lines are clear of water. Use a water trap, between the compressor and spray gun. Ignoring the above can result in something called micro-blistering.

Check out our range of [Basecoat products](#) available from our website.

**Disclaimer**

*This information is given as a general guidance without any warrantee and it is advised that reading the manufacturers data and technical sheets is always advised.*

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