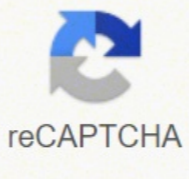




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How to mix auto paint colors

Collect a mixing pail and purchase enough single-stage or two-stage paint to cover your entire car. Read your single-stage paint's label to determine what measurements you should pour into your pail and then, mix and test your paint. For two-stage paint, mix base coat with thinner in one pale and clear coat with hardener in another, mix both compounds together, and finally, test your paint. 1 Purchase a mixing pail or cup. It is well worth your while purchasing a container made specifically for mixing automotive paint. Not only will these better endure the repeated use of harsh chemicals, but also come with side-markings which will be invaluable when it comes time to measure your paint. [1] 2 Choose single-stage paint if you're looking for a quick and cheap option. Selecting the paint you will work with is more than simply choosing a pleasant colour. Different kinds of paint do different jobs. Single-stage paints are those which can be used independently, without an extra base or finishing layer. A good comparison is to nail polish. You can apply as many or as few layers as you wish, with nothing else being required. [2] Single-stage paints are recommended for basic colours such as red, blue, or yellow. They dry to a glossy finish and are easy to prepare, so are perfect for the novice painter. Note, however, that these are rarely used to coat an entire car. [3] Advertisement 3 Choose a two-stage paint method if you want a longer-lasting result. Two-stage or base coat/clear coat paints will involve at least two coats (one base, one clear). The base coat provides the colour, while the clear coat provides extra protection against scratches and the elements. [4] A two-stage method tends to yield a more metallic finish. If this, along with greater protection, appeals to you, then opt for a compound coat. 4 Be consistent when mixing your paint. Whatever you choose, try not to vary your paint types or brands, as this can create an uneven result. If you don't know which paint or method is best suited to your vehicle, consult your owner's manual or local car dealer to find out. [5] 5 Find your paint's technical information. When mixing paint, you need to know what additional materials are required, as well as any safety precautions to take into consideration. However, this information is not difficult to find. Simply inspect the side of the can. [6] If the technical data specifies the use of paint thinner and/or paint hardener, these will need to be purchased as well. In the unlikely event that this information is not printed on the can, go to the manufacturer's website or contact the retail outlet where the paint was bought. [7] Advertisement 1 Gather your paint and other required materials. Single-stage paint will usually require the mixture of three basic substances. The paint itself will determine the colour of your mixture. 'Reducer' or 'thinner' serves to dilute the paint, avoiding solid clumps or 'orange peels' in your coat. 'Hardener' will help your paint dry for a convenient finish. [8] 2 Pour your materials into a mixing container. The paint's technical information will inform you of what ratio of materials are needed, written as a series of 3 numbers. For example, a standard mixing ratio for single-stage paints is an 8/1/1 mixture. That is to say, for every 8 parts paint add one part thinner and one part hardener. [9] If you are using a paint mixing cup there will be fractions which correspond to this ratio. So, you might fill the cup with paint to the '8' level, use thinner to reach '9,' and top it up to '10' with hardener. [10] 3 Stir the paint well. Paint sticks can be acquired from any trade store, otherwise a sturdy piece of wood or old tool will suffice to stir the mixture. Do so thoroughly to create the appropriate consistency. [11] Whatever you use to mix the paint with will be ruined, so choose something that will not be missed. 4 Test the paint with a spray gun. Add a small amount of the paint to the gun, and have a disposable surface set aside to test the suitability of your newly mixed paint. If the paint is not flowing well from the spray gun, add more thinner to increase the flow. If having sprayed the surface you see that the paint is running, or is having trouble drying, this is an indication that more hardener is required. [12] Advertisement 1 Gather the different paints and their additional materials. Both the base coat paint and clear coat paint will require pairing with an additional substance. Base coat paint will be paired with reducer or thinner to ensure the best viscosity. Clear coat paint must be combined with hardener before being applied to your car's surface. [13] 2 Combine your materials in a mixing container. Refer to the technical information you sourced earlier to determine the ratios for each coat. The ratio of base coat paint to reducer will always be 1/1. Your container, preferably a mixing pail, should therefore be half paint and half thinner. Your clear coat will be slightly more complicated. Depending on the brand, the ratio of clear coat paint to hardener will usually be either 4/1 or 2/1. [14] 3 Mix your compounds thoroughly. Using a paint stick or similar tool, stir the contents until they appear smooth. Don't worry about getting the consistency exactly right first time, you will have a chance to test the texture before painting your car, and to stir further if necessary. 4 Spray a test coat on a safe surface. Place a small sample of both coats into your spray gun and apply on something dispensable - a wooden board or old piece of equipment would be best. Your base coat should be checked for viscosity as this will contribute most to the colour of the vehicle. The clear coat, while colourless, generates that much coveted gloss or shine. Both ought to flow smoothly from the gun. Advertisement Ad New Question Question I want to mix some rustoleum paint with thinners. It says mix between 5/25% volume of thinners. What does that work out at in milliliters? The best way to solve this for me is to go to your local hardware and pick up some measuring cups in the paint section - they have it all on the side of cup. Mixing rustoleum paint for a paint gun, mix a 1-1 or half to half ratio of. 1 part paint with 1 part acetone it thins it down quite a bit. If you want thicker, then use less acetone. Question What is car paint activator for? Activator is an interchangeable name for catalyst or hardener. The activator helps the basecoat or clear coat cure and harden which prevents bubbling or fading of the paint. Ask a Question Advertisement Advertisement Thanks! Advertisement This article was co-authored by wikiHow Staff. Our trained team of editors and researchers validate articles for accuracy and comprehensiveness. wikiHow's Content Management Team carefully monitors the work from our editorial staff to ensure that each article is backed by trusted research and meets our high quality standards. This article has been viewed 53,500 times. Co-authors: 5 Updated: March 18, 2022 Views: 53,500 Categories: Car Maintenance and Repair Print Send fan mail to authors Thanks to all authors for creating a page that has been read 53,500 times. CC0/Pixabay/Pexels Is your car's paint scratched up? Did you replace a body panel and now it doesn't match the rest of your car? You want to do some touch-up painting, but how do you know what color to use? You can't just go by the name. Manufacturers will change the shade of color but not the name. You can't just guess either, even a subtle difference will be noticeable. What Is Auto Paint Made Of? There are three components to automotive paint, pigment, solvent, and resin. The Pigments is the powdered color or toner that gives your paint that beautiful finish. The solvent is what helps the paint to be applied in a smooth finish. The Resin determines how durable your paint is going to be. Find Your Color Code The first step in an auto paint color match is to see if you can find your vehicle's color code. To find auto paint codes you will need to know your car's manufacturer, model, and year. Then you can go to the manufacturer's website and see if they still have the paint code listed. The older your car, the less likely you will find the code here. If the manufacturer website wasn't successful, you can look on enthusiasts or aftermarket websites. Sometimes they will cater to owners with older vehicles. Get Your Car Painted Once you have the code you can go to an auto body shop or shop that specializes in painting and tell them the code. They will be able to use that code to match your car's original paint exactly. There is a slight catch with this. The older your car gets, the less likely the new paint will exactly match the paint on your car. Cars that are in the sun or elements a lot will have faded paint. Higher quality paint will take longer to fade, but it will happen eventually. High-performance auto shops will know this and be able to adjust the paint from the color code to match the faded paint on your car. Another trick that professional painters will do is blend the new paint into the old paint. If the paint isn't blended, there will be light or dark spots from where the new paint was applied. Blending tricks the eye into not noticing where the new paint was applied. What If You Can't Find the Code Online? Try looking around your car. Many times manufacturers will put it somewhere on the actual car. There are a bunch of places it could be depending on the manufacturer and model. Glove box Driver's door jam Under driver's seat Driver's sun visor In the center console Engine bay firewall Trunk lid Spare tire wheel well in the trunk The Owner's Manual If you don't feel like digging around your car, you can try looking in your owner's manual. The code should be in there too. Check under the section that talks about the specs or exterior of the vehicle. Beware of the 5% Rule Manufacturers factor for a 5% variation in color. This means that even though you have the code, it may not be an exact match to your car. It helps to use a color chart like the DuPont auto paint color chart to account for that variation in color. Color Analyze Soon color matching your car's paint is going to be as easy as a scan. Currently in the works is a device that your shop could hold over your car. The device will then scan your car's paint and use its massive database to determine the exact shade and elements of your car's color. Once you know your car's paint color code, you can work with a professional to fine tune the color to be a perfect match. This can be an expensive process due to how time-consuming it can be. You may want to ask your shop about auto paint financing. While you're at it, ask them about the best auto sealant. You are paying to have your car repainted to look amazing, don't you want to keep it looking that way as long as possible? A paint sealant will help keep your paint looking like new. MORE FROM QUESTIONSANSWERED.NET

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