

# Airbrush tip 1

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Here I am going to offer you a VERY handy hint I use in most automotive airbrush work I do. This hint may seem very obvious, as it is a common sense idea and common sense ideas often seem very obvious. The question is though;

Are you doing it?

The tip is quite simply this. When you are working on an airbrush job, whether it's to be the whole car or just one panel you're airbrushing, **order a quantity of paint from the base colour of the car or bike you're painting!** At the minute you *might* be thinking "what! Is that it?"

The thing is, it makes a BIG difference to your work and your business in a lot of little ways. If you're doing it already; FANTASTIC, that is great to hear. If you're not; you should be! This is a very simple thing but the thing you'll find is that the things that will lift your work up level after level is a series of *very simple things*.

This tip is a great thing to do for a couple of reasons.

**Added value 1:** Very importantly it allows you to blend your artwork back into the base colour of the car. This may only be to clean up an edge, or to fade a whole image into the panel. It may just be to fade a small area out. Whatever it is, it will allow you to do it smoothly, quickly (because you know it's the exact right colour), and importantly, CLEANLY.

**Added Value 2:** It allows you to build your paint arsenal. By ordering 500ml (approx. 16.9 oz) of your base colour (which is usually the minimum for a custom order and what you would order if you were airbrushing a single panel) you will end up with a significant portion of that colour left. Now this will not by any means be enough to spray a whole car, but any airbrush

artist will tell you, a little paint can go a long way. You might have enough to base a set of motorbike tins, or base a helmet. You'd have more than enough to use the colour for a portion of a graphics pattern, or work them into artworks. You will end up with a great range of colours and that **promotes choices and choices lend to creativity.**

You might end up blending a colour onto a helmet, bike or car graphic that you wouldn't have otherwise used because you find yourself thinking *"I've got that really cool metallic purple from that bonnet I did"*

**Added value 3:** It lifts the quality, level and standard of your work. By having your work look smoother and cleaner you will present more professional looking airbrush work. In addition as with point "2", you will present more creative work with little bits of "flair" that weren't there before because you find you've got a great library of paint to airbrush with.

Where do you find the colour code? In Australia (and I'd be very surprised if it's not the common method world wide) there is a VIN plate under the bonnet/hood of the car. The V.I.N stands for Vehicle Identification Number. This plate has the vehicle number on it as well as all sorts of interesting facts INCLUDING, you guessed it, the paint code. It usually just says "PAINT" and then under it it's got a code like "P 23". That was the code for the XR6 we just completed.

So, just by spending \$50 on average on 1/2 a litre of your base colour (which you can very soon start costing in to each job because your work's getting cleaner and more inventive) you can add a whole new level to your business.

This technique was used on the "Jungle Ute", "Hot Pink WRX", "Breed 1" and "Hellboy" Jobs to name a few.

Trust me; if you start doing this it will make a serious difference in your work.

Keep Painting

Daniel

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