

Auto Finishes
by George Honeycutt

The true way to finish a model with a nice paint job is to start with a nicely primed surface. George begins this process by using a Micro-Mesh Finishing Kit. The kit comes with all you need to work off those blemishes from the kit's construction. It contains sanding pads in 2400, 3200, 4000, 6000, 8000 and 12,000 grits. When it's time to prime, a lot of modelers use automotive-grade primer sprays. But George notes that these must be sanded down to be smooth enough for scale model finishes. Instead, he uses Gunze Sangyo Mr. Surfacer 1200 grade. This primer goes down beautifully and does not need sanding.

Before the color coat is applied, always check for dust on the surface. It can easily be corrected now, but not so after the color is laid down.

For pearl or metallic finishes, George likes a product called "Model Doctor Ultraflake." These paints actually have Mica flakes with titanium dioxide and iron oxide. He first applies them and then overlays a clear lacquer color coat. He uses an automotive grade clear for this because of it's clarity and durability. If

using a spray can, warm the can first in warm water for a few minutes. This helps the paint to mix better and counteracts the cooling effects that happen as the can is depleted. George actually prefers to decant the spray cans into a bottle for use in his airbrush. This method of painting is more controlled. The popular Candy Apple is Silver or Gold with a clear Red overlay.

Useful in painting car bodies is a wire form that holds the body while painting. It makes it easy to handle without touching the model, and after painting the model is stashed in a dust-free environment to harden.

If the finish needs to be brightened further, George uses Micro-Gloss Polishing Cream or a product called "Liquid Ice."

