



# TClinic

## PAINT YOUR WAGON

Painting your car is always a traumatic experience which unfortunately only happens once in a while for most of us. Many permanent and irrevocable decisions have to be made — lacquer or enamel; stock color or maybe a metallic; a \$29.95 cheapie or a \$1,000.00 custom; professional job or maybe a do-it-yourself. To make some of these decisions easier the club offers paint chips of the stock colors and although there are quite a few nice looking non-stock paint jobs around, if you intend to show the car, the stock colors seem to be better received.

Automotive paint has changed considerably in the past few years with the acrylics, both lacquer and enamel, being used almost exclusively. If you want a super tough paint, the new epoxy additive (enamel only) is great. It is impervious to gas, oil, grease, almost everything (don't know about brake fluid). It resists scratching, doesn't chip and is easy to apply but it is expensive (what isn't). A good choice is a mixture of the two types, acrylic enamel (epoxy added) for the frame, underside of fenders, and both sides of the firewall and acrylic lacquer for all outer sides of body and fenders. For the engine use regular enamel — the desirable red is available from Mike Goodman (see ad) in pint cans and will hopefully be in spray cans soon. For the do it yourself type, there is Acme Paint dealer in Van Nuys who has offered the loan of a spray gun and compressor to any club member —see Tom Hatch at 14215 Oxnard Street, Van Nuys, California.

Colors, designs, preparation and final painting will be covered in future articles.

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### 2002 Update

Paint has changed quite a bit in the last 30 years. And a \$29.95 paint job? Better multiply that by 200. Here in the smog prone LA basin you can't even buy the paints mentioned above anymore as they are solvent based. All the new paints are water based. Acme Paint has since closed.

Engine paint is available from Moss but the red they sell at this time for the "T" series is just too bright. The MG A or B engine paint is a closer match to the original darker red.

See TClinic #52, PAINT YOUR WAGON - Part II for striping the old paint off