

AUTOMOTIVE Restoration & Maintenance

Paint Layers

For a quality paint finish most automotive paint is applied in at least four layers.

If the paint is of the base-coat/clear-coat type,
then the "clear-coat" is applied as the fifth layer.

NOTE: It is not recommended that the average home-restorer attempt to use the base-coat/clear-coat system as a special paint booth and fresh-air breathing equipment must be used. Most all cities in the USA have strict laws against the use of these types of paints except by a licensed professional.

<p>Clear Coat <u>Not recommended for most restorations</u></p>	<p>(Optional) Clear-Coat - a high-gloss clear top coat. It must be color-sanded for a show finish.</p>
<p>Color Coat</p>	<p>There are two kinds of color-coat paints. A single-stage color-coat or the base coat for a base-coat/color-coat system (not recommended) The single-stage paint is applied in several layers (usually 4) and should be color-sanded for that show finish. (A Base Color-Coat paint is not normally sanded.)</p>
<p>Primer-Sealer</p>	<p>A special "sealer" that seals the porous Primer-Filler from the top color-coat paint. It is not sanded.</p>
<p>Primer-Filler (Base Primer)</p>	<p>A Primer that has special "fill" properties. It fills in minor imperfections and minute scratches in the metal panel and metal primer. It is applied in several layers and is sanded to a very smooth finish to prepare the panel for the sealer and color-coat. It is not applied to bare metal.</p>
<p>Metal Primer</p>	<p>Usually a rust-resistant metal-etching primer. <u>It is applied directly to the bare metal.</u> It is normally a light green color and is not sanded.</p>