

# TECH TIPS



## Improve Color Match with One Easy Step!

Applying low pressure control coats to spray-out panels, before applying the color to the vehicle, can improve color match while saving you precious time and money.



### Spray-out Cards – A Great Tool for Every Painter

Spray-out cards (a.k.a. test panels) are small rectangular metal or paper panels to which coatings are applied with the purpose of checking color accurateness and hide. They are a great tool for checking waterborne and solventborne color accuracy *before* you apply the color to the vehicle. Taking a few minutes to spray a test panel can save you significant time and money by avoiding repainting bad color matches.

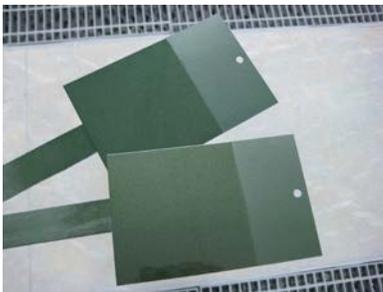
When coating spray-out cards, best practice is to spray two cards for each color: one with a low pressure control coat and one without. (Note: a 'one card' method may also be used)

### Low Pressure Control Coats – A Definition

A low pressure control coat is defined as; reducing the spray gun's inlet air pressure by about 25 to 30% and applying a light coat over the repair area to ensure an even finish. Low pressure control coats can make a considerable difference in the color match, especially in effect colors, metallics and pearls. It is also used to help with blending or fading the color into the existing finish.

To apply, *increase* your gun distance 2 to 5 inches and maintain steady gun speed. Spray the test card in the same manner as you would the refinish area on the vehicle – this maintains color consistency. The control coat should not be as wet as a normal coat but should be damp. Do not dry spray or over fan the gun when applying the control coat. Keep it even and when applied, it should appear as a satin finish. Allow each coat to dry completely.

Now that we've explained the concept and benefit, it's time to put the procedure to practice.



### **Spraying Your Test Panels (Spray-out Cards)**

Ideally, the best time to check color is well **before the vehicle is ready to be painted**. Spray-out cards can be made in many ways, the following are three suggestions:

- **Option One – Two Card Method**: apply color on 2 spray-out cards at the same time and once coverage is achieved, apply the control coat to only one card. Once the basecoat is dry, apply clearcoat to half of each card.
- **Option Two – One Card Method**: apply color to one spray-out card. Once coverage is achieved, mask off half of the card and apply a control coat on the unmasked half. Once the basecoat is dry, apply clearcoat to half of the card.
- **Option Three – Vehicle Method**: making a spray-out card can be done during the paint process by taping a test card to an adjacent panel or a paint stick and spraying it while spraying the refinish area.
- **Note**: we recommend applying clear to only 1/2 to 2/3 of the spray-out card; this allows for color evaluation before and after clear is applied.
- Before the final blend or control coat is applied to the repair, finish the spray-out card and clear it for final color evaluation before clearing the repair. If a color adjustment is necessary, it can be made before the repair area is clear coated.

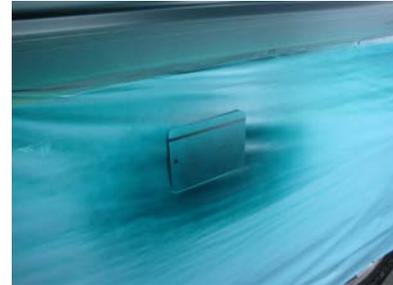
After the clear is dry, check your color and make any necessary adjustments. Remember that the clear will generally make the color darker. Final color evaluation should be made with a clear coated spray-out card.

Be sure to save your spray-out cards to create an awesome color reference library!

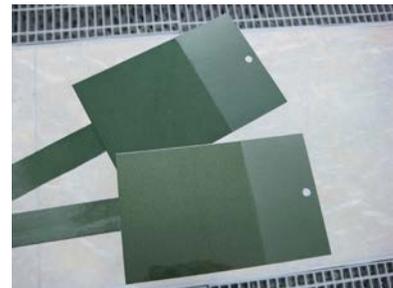
**HOT PRODUCT: Be sure to check out Pro-Spray H2O Waterborne Basecoat. The color is pure and applies like a dream!**



Shown above: comparing spray-out cards to the vehicle.



Two Card method shown above.



Two Card method shown above.



One Card method shown above.