

AirSick 101

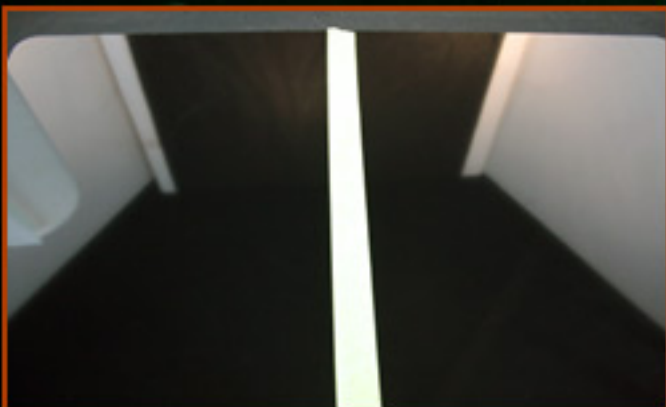
AIRBRUSH TRAINING

Surface Prep - Starting off right

Prepping your surface is a crucial part in any paint job. Without a solid foundation the rest of your work can be compromised causing your paint job to be more trouble than it's worth. Prep work for each type of paintable surface may vary. We will be covering several basic steps that all prep jobs have in common. For this tutorial we will be prepping the surface of an aluminum panel that has already been painted and cleared.

Step 1: Start with a clean surface.

By making sure your surface is clean, you will keep debris from creating problems for you down the line. Wiping down your surface before scuffing it can also help prevent deep scratches from dust or sand.



Here you can see our shiny panel. We put a line of tape down the middle so that you can note the difference in the surface as we begin to prep it. Prepping your surface before any kind of paint is applied is a vital step in keeping your paint job looking good for years to come.

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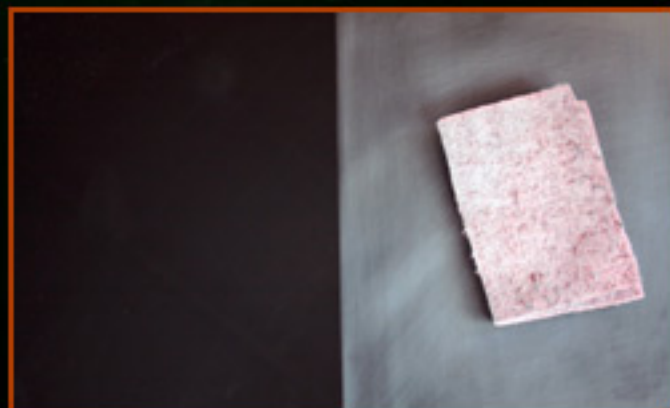
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Surface Prep - Starting off right

Step 2: *Creating tooth for the paint to stick*

“Creating Tooth” is a saying used to describe the process of scuffing thousands of microscopic grooves into the surface you’re about to paint. We do this so that the paint has something to hold on to. If you decide to skip this step your artwork won’t fall off the surface, but it will make problems for you while painting later on.

To effectively scuff the surface, I am using a red Scotch-Bright pad. I keep my hand flat to the surface, and with a light pressure I will move with the grain and against. I will do this until the entire surface has been visibly dulled.



Note: While using the Scotch-Bright pad, remember that you are only creating small grooves by scuffing the surface. Not by sanding it. You don’t want to leave peaks and valleys that will be a pain to get rid of in the end.

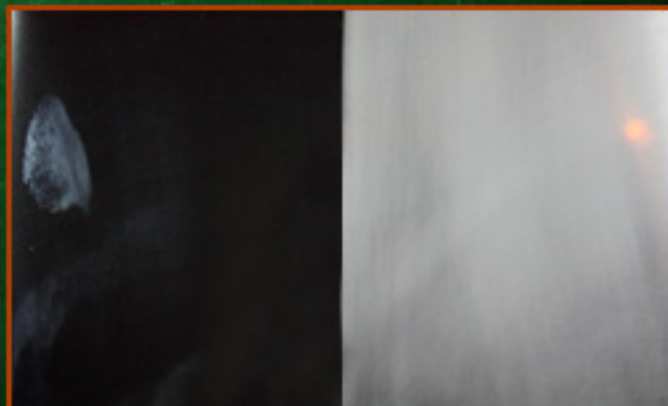
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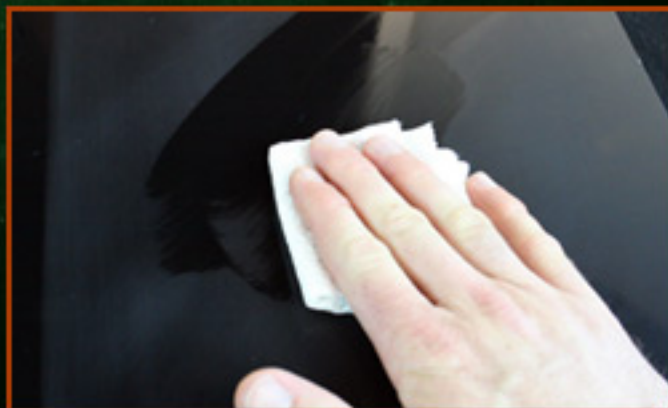
Surface Prep - Starting off right

Step 3: Wax and grease

Most likely you have left finger prints or some other contaminant on your surface while scuffing. To effectively remove contaminants at this stage, we recommend using a good wax and grease remover. This product uses a very mild solvent to remove contaminants that ordinary paper towels and tack rags miss.



Do not over use the wax and grease removal. Just a little bit will due. As you're wiping the product on with a clean towel, you will need to be wiping it off as well. You can wipe your artwork with this stuff if you're not careful.



Step 4: Dust removal/Tack

As a final step in the preparation process, we will be using a Tack Rag to pick up any final debris left behind. This cloth is mildly tacky or sticky making it a perfect tool to pick up loose dust particles, hair, bugs... Anything that can get between you and a flawless prep job. Giving your surface a good once, twice over with the tack rag will ensure a higher quality paint job in the end.



**PRINTER
FRIENDLY**



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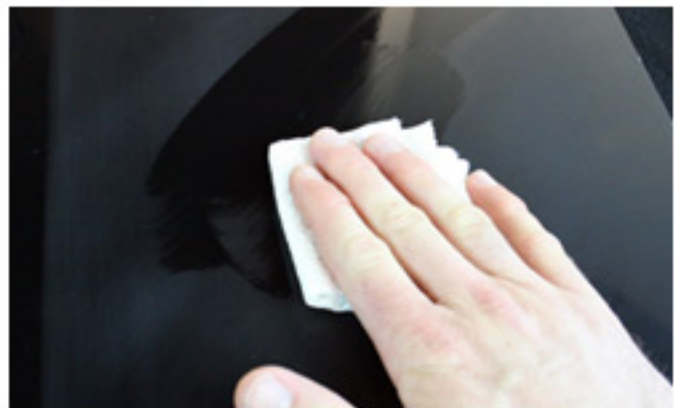
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