

Product guide

Step by Step



Tutorial

Using Vallejo varnishes

This is a general guide to using Vallejo varnishes, matt, satin and gloss. In this guide we will use the varnishes directly from the bottle, diluted with Vallejo Airbrush Thinner 71.161 at a ratio of 3 parts varnish to 1 part Thinner, and thinned with distilled water. We apply the varnishes using an Evolution airbrush with a 0.2 needle and an air pressure of 1Kg / 12-15 psi.

By Chema Cabrero



1 We are going to apply the varnishes on three previously primed models.



2 We are going to use the Matt Varnish 70.520 directly from the bottle. Shake the bottle well and pour the varnish directly into the airbrush cup. We apply several thin layers working at a distance of 15-20 cm from the model.



3 It will always be better to work with several thin coats instead of trying to cover everything with a thick layer. This can produce unwanted accumulations of varnish, with unpredictable results when drying.



4 We can see the final matt finish.



5 Now we are going to dilute the varnish, using a ratio of 3 parts varnish to 1 part Thinner.



6 Again we can apply several layers, but this time maybe is advisable to add one more coat using a diluted mix.



7 We will now use distilled water to dilute the varnish, again at a ratio of 3:1. We must apply several layers to obtain the desired result.



8 In some places, where the mixture has been applied diluted with water or Thinner, the finish seems a little less matt, although that is perfect for armored vehicles.



9 Now time to work with Satin Varnish 70.522. Using the varnish directly without diluting it offers a good finish similar to that seen on a real vehicle painted with lacquer-based paints.

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10 The model with its correct satin finish.



11 Again, we add Airbrush Thinner 71.161, using the same ratio of 3 parts varnish to 1 part thinner.



12 The final result.



13 Again, we use distilled water as an alternative to thin the varnish. On this occasion we have to apply several thin layers to obtain a convincing satin finish.



14 The finished model.



15 Finally, we apply the Gloss Varnish 70.510. It is important to apply several thin layers if we want to obtain a gloss instead of a satin finish.



16 Again, we add Airbrush Thinner 71.261 at a ratio of 3:1 to obtain a more fluid mixture.



17 The final result is not a 'polished glass shine' but is more than satisfactory for a water-based varnish.



18 We can also thin the Gloss Varnish 70.510 with distilled water to obtain a fluid mixture.



19 Using water, the finish is more satin than gloss. We add a second layer with a satisfactory result.



20 The finished model.