


visualInstall Series

	Project	Application	Original Release
	Touch-up paint application	2002-2006 RSX	May 2005 Date vS-PDF Issued Apr 2007

PARTS LIST

Paint Scratch touch-up, 1 oz bottle

Paint Scratch clear coat, 1 oz bottle



TOOLS AND SUPPLIES REQUIRED

- 3M 600 & 1,000 grit sandpaper
- Meguiar's Paint Cleaner
- Meguiar's Paint Polisher
- Tamiya High Finish flat brush, .02, #87045
- Terry cloths

INSTALLATION

NOTE:

- Difficulty Level: [07/10] intermediate
- Time required: 1-3 days, per spot

You can order 1 oz. brush bottle of touch-up paint and clear coat from PaintScratch (www.paintscratch.com). If you order from them, it will take them approximately 6 days to mix up your paint color prior to shipping it out to you.

They also carry paint in different oz bottle, aerosol spray and 1 gallon buckets as well as other detailing accessories like sandpapers and rubbing compound.

A high quality hobby paint brush is highly recommended for your project. If you buy the brush bottle, you will soon realize that the quality of the brush is just not up-to-par for a detailed job. The hobby brush used for this write-up is a Tamiya, Brush No. 2, #87045.

I. APPLYING BASECOAT & CLEARCOAT

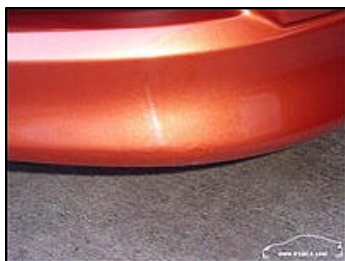
1. First, locate a spot you'd like to work on. For this touch-up project, work on one spot at a time. Meaning don't even think of working on another spot until you've finished the spot you've started working on. Our blemish is located on the lower-left hand side of the front bumper:



2. For spots with scuffles, you will need to sand the spot until it evens out and becomes streamlined with the rest of the bottle. Usually, this only appear on plastic surfaces. For this particular spot, we used a 600-grit sand paper and sanded the area for 10 minutes, ensuring that the scuffles are gone while maintaining smoothness throughout the entire area.
3. If you will be doing some major sanding that will reveal plastic or metal surface, you will need to apply the appropriate primer prior to applying the basecoat. The primer adheres to the raw surface and the paint will adhere to the primer. For plastic surface, you will need primer that adheres to plastic / rubber surface.
4. Be sure to work under the shade and ensure the temperature outside is 50-degree or higher. Start by applying a light coating of basecoat with your handy brush. Completely cover the affected area and ensure that each time you brush, the paint is applied evenly across. This is what it looks like after the 1st layer of base coat:



5. Use a 1,000-grit sandpaper to smooth down the painted surface, then wait a minimum of 60 minutes for each layer to dry. After the sufficient amount of time have passed, the paint needs to be sanded down a little bit and the 2nd layer applied:



6. Another shot of the 2nd layer:



7. Once again, more basecoat was applied than needed so it was lightly sanded down with 1,000-grit sandpaper. After the application of the 3rd coat the following day:



And a brief moment of wet sanding again



8. You are now ready to apply the clear coat. Before you apply the clear coat, you need to make absolutely sure the basecoat has dried/cured completely. Even if it's dry to the touch doesn't mean it has been 'cured' completely.

After your final layer, you should wait at least 4 hours. You can wait 24 hours for the best result. If you do not wait for the basecoat to dry completely, the clear coat will begin to eat it away when you start to apply it, creating ugly smudges that will require you to perform additional sanding work to smooth out the surface.

9. We will be applying three layers of clear coat over the basecoat and waiting 3 hours in-between layers before applying the next subsequent layer. Here is an image of the first layer of clear coat being applied:



10. The 1st layer of clear coat awaiting to be dried:



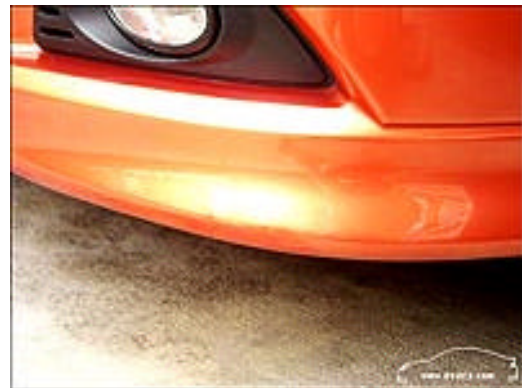
11. The results after 1.5 days of work, so far:



12. After the 2nd layer of clear coat::



13. And finally, the 3rd and last clear coat layer:



Before applying additional clear coat layers, touch the texture the applied area and make sure it's not "rubbery" to the touch. If it is, then that means the clear coat layer has not dried sufficiently yet. Let it dry until it's hard to the touch and feels smooth when you run your fingernail across it

14. Upon closer inspection, you can see an overdose of clear coating. If you've applied too much clear coat, you can wet sand it down a bit with 1,000 grit sandpaper. After that, clean the surface off. Wash it down and dry it up. Make sure the touched-up area is absolutely clean and that the clear coat has dried/cured complete before proceeding!

If it's not cured completely, you'll be rubbing off clear coat with the polishing agent.

Project progression after the 4th day.



II. POLISHING & FINISHING UP

The next step is polishing the repaired area. Grab yourself a 100% cotton terry cloth and your favorite polisher / automotive rubbing compound.

1. For this write-up, we used Meguiar's Polish (step #2 of the Meguiar 3-step detailing set).

Apply a little bit of the polishing agent on your terry cloth:



2. Rub generously around the touched-up area. You want to extend a centimeter or two over the unaffected paint area to buff the repaired area and blend it with the rest of the body:



3. Work on the area segment by segment. Our area of repair spread about 5-inches across. I worked on a 1.5 inch area at a time. Also when you rub the compound, rub it uniformly; that is rub it horizontally and keep it horizontal (or vertical, but don't rub in a circular motion!).

Apply more polish if necessary and turn your cloth over and continue rubbing with unused area of the cloth. After you are done, wipe it down clean with unused portion of the terry cloth, or use another terry cloth altogether:



THE FINISHED PRODUCT

Before:



After:

