

Natural Metal Finishes

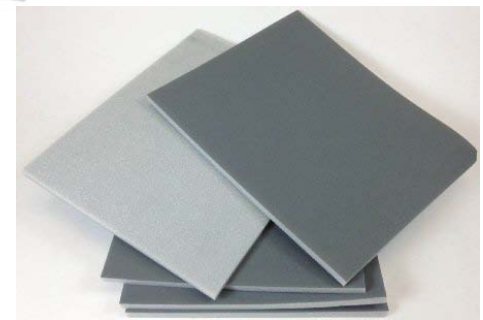


Natural Metal Finishes

- Surface Preparation
- Products
- Priming
- Sealing
- Weathering

Surface Preparation

- Word-of-the-Day:
SMOOOOOOOOOOOOOTH
- Flaws will show up BIGTIME
- Correct blemishes,
then check, check, and recheck
- Wide range of sanding/polishing grits
 - Coarse (80) to StupidFine (15000 and finer)
 - Sandpaper, sanding pads
 - Rubbing/polishing compounds
- **CONs**
 - Too much sanding may result in loss of surface detail
 - Rescribing lost panel lines may be required



Products

- Paints
 - Brush painting: Difficult to create NMF
 - Airbrushing: Preferred method
- Pastes
- Powders
- Foil

Priming

- MAY -or- MAY NOT require primer
- Primer colour may affect final colour
(example, chrome finish best over gloss black primer)
- Primer texture will affect final colour
& ability to buff
 - Best to apply a glossy primer

Lacquer Paints

- **PROs**

- Very good 'bite'
- Ultra-fine pigments

- **CONs**

- Toxic
- Smelly
- Touchup difficult/impossible
- Sealing/clearcoat may alter finish
- Fragile when masking (may lift paint if not cured)

- **Brands**

- Alclad II
- NEW: AK Interactive 'True Metal'



Enamel Paints

- **PROs**

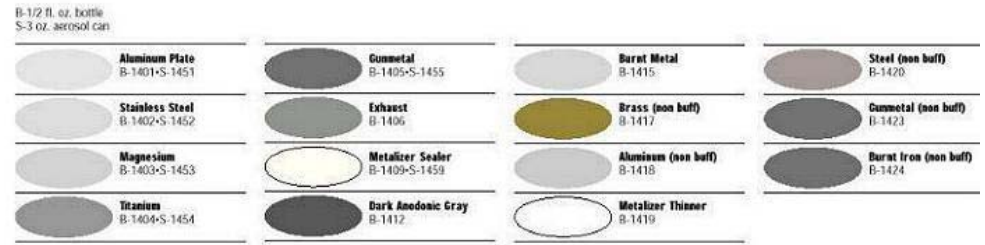
- Good 'bite'
- Fine metallic pigments
- Some can be buffed for brighter, smoother finish
- Easier to seal?

- **CONs**

- Smells (but not as bad as lacquer)
- Touchup still difficult but easier than lacquers
- Dries slower than lacquer
- Still fragile when masking

- **Brands**

- ModelMaster Metallizer
- Buffing & non-buffing versions



Acrylic Metal Paints

- **PROs**

- New formulations
- Good 'bite'
- NO SMELL
- Fine metallic pigments
- Medium-fast drying/curing
- Resists pulling up from masking



- **CONs**

- ???

- **Brands**

- NEW Vallejo Metal Color (good reviews)
- OLD Vallejo Model Air Metallics (not as good)



Pastes

- **PROs**

- Multiple ways to apply:
 - Brush
 - Fingertip
 - Cotton swab
 - Airbrush (when thinned)
- Good coverage
- Very fine pigments
- Low smell
- Polishable

- **CONs**

- ??

- **Brands**

- AK Interactive True Metal



Metallic Powders

- **PROs**

- Good coverage
- ??

- **CONs**

- Get everywhere
- ??

- **Brands**

- ??

Metal Foils

- **Types**
 - Bare Metal Foil: super-thin self-adhesive metallic foil
 - Others?
- **Range of colours**
- **Application**
 - Applied directly to bare plastic
 - Rubbed down onto surface
 - Can use burnishers to adhere foil into recessed details (panel lines, rivets)
- **PROs**
 - ???
- **CONs**
 - ???

Weathering

- Weathering products may affect NMF
(Check references!)
- Sealed
 - Altered colour -or- sheen
 - Safer masking, less chance of lifting

References

Almost too many to mention!

Product sites

- Careful... they are written by marketing people and may not always be truthful or accurate

Online reviews

- If independent (not sponsored by manufacturer) then you may get unbiased reviews

Internet discussion forums

- Umpteen (sometimes endless) discussions about NMF products & techniques
- Likely to describe real-world usage