



How To Series

Choosing Your Paint, Tints and Lacquers

There are a number of finish options for your guitar so ordering the right products can be hit and miss. To help you select the products to achieve the finish you want, here are a few guidelines. Remember; achieving a good finish takes time, patience and skill.

Your success in applying the tints will be down to your experience and knowledge. If you are unsure, practice on scrap timber until you are confident and read a good book on finishing techniques. These notes are here to guide you in your purchases and are insufficient to explain the precise application of the products.

Safety.

Nitro-Cellulose paints are highly flammable and contain toxic solvents. You must always use them in well-ventilated atmospheres; we recommend you use appropriate breathing apparatus to avoid inhalation of the airborne particles produced from the aerosol can, and keep well away from ignition sources, do not leave the aerosol in direct sunlight or expose to high temperatures.

Clear Lacquers.

We stock two types of clear lacquer.

Pre-Cat Nitro-Cellulose is a modern version of the old classic "Nitro" lacquer. It contains a catalyst to speed up the drying time and contains stabilisers to prevent discolouration over time, and minimise cracking. Pre-cat cellulose is almost crystal clear so causes less discolouration per coat which makes it ideal for spraying over colours or natural wood finishes.

Nitro-Cellulose is the more traditional lacquer still used by manufacturers like Gibson and is the preferred lacquer for the refinishing and restoration of vintage Fender, Gibson and other instruments.

Clear Cellulose Sanding Sealer.

Cellulose sanding sealer is a high build filler/base coat which is designed to seal the timber and provide a good base to spray onto.

Some timbers like Mahogany, Cedrela and Ash may require a grain filler prior to the base coat applications.

Solid Colours.

Our solid colours have been matched as close as possible to the original DuPont Duco and Gibson colours. We recommend you use our white base coat before applying the final colour. This will ensure an even shade all over in fewer coats

We recommend you use two cans of solid colour unless you intend to use a clear or tinted lacquer over your chosen colour, but generally, clear lacquer is only required for tinted transparents, metallic and sunbursts.

You can however use one of the Tonetech tinted lacquers (like the Nicotine tint) to add a more vintage look to your instrument.

You can cut back and polish the solid colour as you would clear lacquer. Always cut back and polish carefully to avoid "sanding through" any colour or lacquer. A good number of coats with plenty of drying time will help eliminate the risk of "rub-through's" .

Tints.

Tonetech tinted transparent lacquers should be applied in very thin coats to achieve an even colour and to avoid colour bleed and runs. Once you have achieved the colour you want, DO NOT use any abrasive paper and apply clear lacquer straight over the tinted transparent lacquer.

To achieve an aged look for lighter shade solid colours you can use our Nicotine Tint. Apply the nicotine tint until you have the desired depth of colour - it can also be applied un-evenly to give the impression of wear and uneven fading.

Our Amber and nicotine tints are also recommended to add a depth and colour to maple necks.

TV Yellow Tint: Light shade:

Clear Base Coat, followed by Blonde Tint, followed by TV Yellow Tint, followed by Clear Lacquer.

TV Yellow tint: Dark shade:

Clear base coat, followed by TV yellow tint, followed by clear lacquer

Blonde:

Clear Basecoat, followed by Blonde Tint, followed by Clear Lacquer. (recommended over Ash only)

Butterscotch / Aged Blonde:

Clear basecoat followed by Blonde Tint, followed by Nicotine Tint, followed by Clear Lacquer. (recommended over Ash only)