



# How to use a Paint Pen

## Tech Tips



# How to use a Paint Pen

## General Definitions

**Base Color (Basecoat):** A color coat requiring a clear coat. Base Color provides color and appearance, while the clear coat provides gloss as well as UV protection and chemical resistance.

Base Color is also referred to as a “two stage” coating because you first apply Base Color, then secondly the Gloss Clear.

There are also “three stage” Base Colors consisting of a solid Base Color (stage 1), a metallic or pearl second Base Color (stage 2), and then finally Gloss Clear (stage 3).

**Base Color can be matched to any OEM vehicle.**



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## General Definitions

**Clear Gloss (Clearcoat):** The clear, non-pigmented top coat that is applied over a Base Color (basecoat). Most late-model cars have factory-applied clear coat paints. Clear coat provides gloss and protection, increases paint durability, and provides resistance to harmful environmental effects.



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## General Definitions

**Gloss Color** (single stage): A single stage system that combines the color and clear in one coating.

Gloss Color can be matched to any solid shade such as black, white, red, blue, yellow, orange, etc.



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## General Definitions

**Etch Primer:** Etch Primers contain acid to help bond or etch the primer to bare metal substrates. Once an Etch Primer is applied to properly prepared bare metal (sanded, clean, free of rust and contaminants) the Etch Primer provides excellent adhesion to the substrate, and added corrosion resistance by preventing moisture from penetrating the bond between the Etch Primer and the metal surface.

Although Etch Primers are designed to bond well on metal surfaces, they also work well on aluminum, fiberglass and gel coat surfaces.



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## General Definitions

**Primer Filler** (also referred to as a Primer Surfacer):  
Primer Fillers contain solids such as talc and resins to provide extra filling properties to fill sand scratches, pinholes and other surface imperfections.

Primer Fillers sand very easy, and should be sanded before top coating with Base Color or Gloss Color.



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## General Definitions

**Rust Seal:** A high gloss, moisture cured, urethane coating for restoring and protecting rusty metal.

- Paint direct to rust or bare sanded steel.
- Seals current rust and prevents new rust from forming.
- Dries to a glossy, non-porous, rock hard surface.
- Excellent durability and chemical resistance.
- Will not chip, crack or peel.
- The Rust Seal Pen is great for very small rust spots.



# How to use a Paint Pen

The following guidelines will help to make sure you are using your Paint Pen correctly.

## 1. Clean Surface before applying Paint

- If vehicle is dirty, wash with soap & water. Dry thoroughly.
- After vehicle is clean, wipe the repair areas with Wax & Grease Remover to remove any silicone or other contaminants that may affect paint adhesion.



Soap & Water



WGR-PB4  
Wax & Grease Remover



Clean Towels  
KIM 33944

# How to use a Paint Pen



## 2. Sand & Prep Repair Area

- Remove any rust that may have started on bare metal. The Prep Pen (Image 1) has an adjustable sanding tip to allow you to sand small bare metal spots, or rust spots.
- If you are down to bare metal, you should apply a Primer Filler or Etch Primer before applying Touch Up Paint. The Primer Filler and Etch Primer also work on plastic.
- If there is still some rust remaining, or if you want to touch up the rust at a later date, use the Rust Seal to seal the rust spot.
- Glossy surfaces should be dulled using a medium to fine grit sand paper. This will ensure proper adhesion of paint.
- Remember to shake the Touch Up Pen (Etch Primer, Primer Filler, or Rust Seal) first before using.

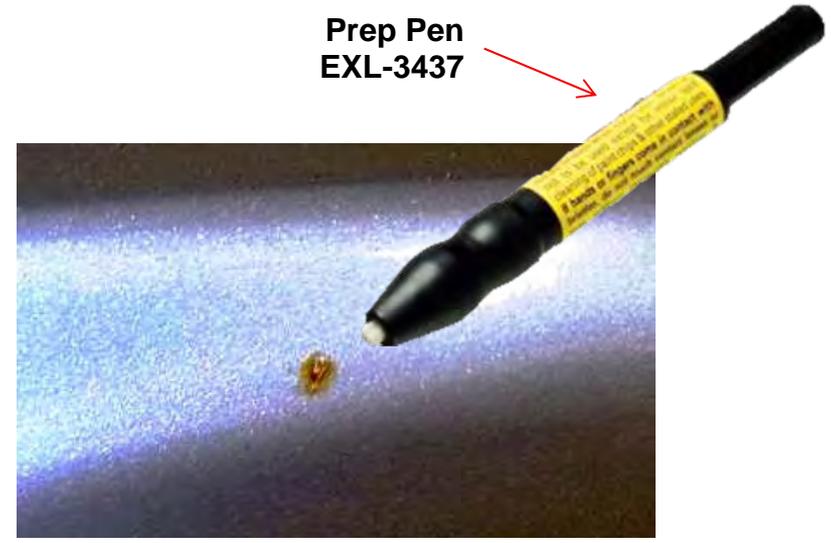


Image 1



Etch Primer Pen (EP-PN)



Primer Filler Pen (PF-PN)



Rust Seal Pen (RS-PN)

# How to use a Paint Pen

## 3. Apply Touch Up Paint

- Shake the Touch Up Pen (Base Color, Clear Gloss or Gloss Color) first before using. You should hear the agitator ball inside start to rattle.
- Remove the cap on the Touch Up Pen and press the tip down 2 – 3 times on a test panel (e.g. a piece of cardboard) to get the paint flowing before you start to touch up the vehicle (Image 2).
- Once flowing, apply Base Color or Gloss Color with smooth strokes using light pressure when touching the Pen to the vehicle (Image 3)
- If using Base Color, apply Clear Gloss after Base Color has dried completely.
- If using Gloss Color, do not apply additional coats of color once the paint begins to dry.



Image 2



Image 3



Base Color Pen



Clear Gloss Pen (CG-PN)



Gloss Color Pen



# How to use a Paint Pen

## Other Useful Tips

- The optimum painting conditions are temperatures between 65°F (18.3° C) and 85°F (29.4° C) and relatively low humidity (20% to 50%).
- Do not paint in direct sunlight.
- Do not paint over fresh enamel (enamel paint that has not fully cured).
- Try to apply paint in low-wind conditions to avoid having dirt or debris land in wet paint.
- Always use appropriate personal protection (safety gloves, safety glasses, safety respirator).
- Allow paint to dry overnight before handling, or polishing.
- Always dispose of used paint products in compliance with local and federal regulations.

50°F 10° C (or below)	60°F 15.6° C	70°F 21.1° C	80°F 26.7° C	90°F 32.2° C	100°F 37.8° C (or above)
Do not recommend painting at 50°F or below (paint products will dry too slow, or not at all).					Do not recommend painting at 100°F or above (paint products will not too fast leaving a rough surface).

Optimal Painting Conditions  
65°F - 85°F Temperature  
20% - 50% Humidity



# How to use a Paint Pen

## Trouble Shooting

- **Color Doesn't Match:**
  - The paint in the Pen was not shaken enough (*The pigments inside the bottle must be mixed thoroughly to achieve the proper color and gloss*).
  - Please also see "Color Matching Challenges"
- **Color Appears Flat or Hazy.**
  - Humid conditions may exist. Use at room temperature (70°F) for best operation.
  - The surface may be too hot. Remove from direct sunlight or heat. Cool surface, then continue.
- **Paint Appears Streaky**
  - The thickness of the paint film is uneven.
  - Apply an additional coat of paint and try to get it as smooth and uniform as possible.
- **Cannot Achieve Proper Gloss**
  - Apply additional coats of paint or clear.
- **Paint is too glossy**
  - Apply thinner coats of paint.
- **Paint Appears Saggy or has Runs**
  - Too much paint was applied. Apply lighter coats.
  - The temperature of the paint or surface may be too low. Allow surface to warm to room temperature.



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Please email any questions that you may have to  
[info@touchupzone.com](mailto:info@touchupzone.com)