

Antler Finishing Instructions

*Use gloves, a face mask, and eye protection in a well ventilated area.

**Be sure to predrill all holes in the skull area. Trying to force a screw through the base may cause it to split. Also there are two large bolts going up the main beam and into the skull area. If you hit one just re-drill the hole somewhere else.

1. Using a triangle sander, 120 grit paper, remove the seam line. For areas that the seam line is very minimal, use steel wool.
2. Around the bases, the burrs may not allow sanding. Use a small dremel bit to remove seam line.
3. If any repairs need to be made, now is the time to make them. I use a product called "So Strong" along with "Apoxie Sculpt". Add one drop of white "So Strong" to 5 grams by weight of both A and B "Apoxie Sculpt". This will lighten the color of the epoxy so the repairs will color easier. Let them dry over night and lightly steel wool to finish repair. (Foot note: small bubbles on the antlers may be ground completely down and sanded instead of filling). If you don't have "So Strong" you should be able to mix white paint with the epoxy. Mix a small amount up for a test to see if you like it. It will also dry a different shade of white.
4. Cut about 1/3 of the hair off a one inch paint brush. This will give you a nice stiff brush to work with. Using "Brush-On/Wipe-off" raw umber antler paint straight from the container, place a very small amount on the tip of the main beam and work your way down to the next point. Place some lacquer thinner in a small cup for dipping the brush to thin the antler paint already on the antler.
5. Wipe the painted area with a clean dry cloth to remove excess paint/color. Sanding from the triangle sander will show up during this process. Use steel wool to buff the sanding marks off, then retouch the area again with paint. Going from one point to the next until the antlers are painted.
6. Once the antlers have been painted, look at them from a distance and see if more color or less color is desired. Use the steel wool on the antler tips to lighten them. Lightly steel wool the base area. Using a dry paint brush with very little paint in it, lightly brush the base area to get the desired color or shade. Use "Brush-On/Wipe-Off" black to darken desired areas, this can be mixed with the raw umber for the desired color or shade.
7. The "Brush-On/Wipe-Off" paint should only take a short time to dry. After the paint has dried, use "Krylon Clear Matte Finish #1311" to seal the paint. Do not gloss this on, rather just spray lightly with several light bursts of #1311. Let dry!!