

# Motorcycle Paint Tips

By James Dean

James Dean's Rebel Design

916-925-0102



Everyone has this experience at some time. You return to the bike parking lot after an event, and know about where your bike is, but there are so many that look similar it takes awhile to find yours. That's the trigger point. You know custom paint is the most dramatic thing you can do to your bike to make it stand out, so it's time to get that custom paint job. Here are some details of the process; getting referrals, looking over portfolios of painted bikes, checking shops to see jobs in process and interviewing the painter-artist. After your diligence, you have selected the painter, discussed the general colors and theme, negotiated the price, and entrusted your bike to the process.

The bike's tin is removed, sanded, smoothed, primed and ready for the art. From the zillions of available colors and the skill and artistry of the painter, the final look emerges and is sealed with several coats of urethane. You return to the shop, love the finished bike, and are eager to show it off. Here are a few tips to insure the paint job retains its show quality pop and glow.

Let the paint cure for sixty days before the first wash. Do not ever, ever use a power washer. You have a work of art that was created by hand, so you wash it the old fashioned way. Wet it down with an open ended hose using your thumb to direct the water spray, use a quality non-abrasive auto washing product, rinse, and dry with a leaf blower and soft micro-fiber cloths. To finish and protect the paint, apply a coat of carnuba wax and use only micro-fiber cloth to polish. Always be careful to use wax products, not polishes. Polishes have some abrasives in them, which wear away the clear coats and will damage the finish. You want to wax, then polish the wax, not remove parts of the final clear coat!

Your bike may have been in the paint studio for several weeks, depending on the complexity of the work, but now you ride it to another event. You enjoy the oohs and aahs of your companions, and know that the first and last thing remembered about your bike is the custom paint job. And best of all, you easily find it in the sea of look alikes in the parking lot.

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