

Powder Coating in the Home or Farm Shop, by Zane

I recently bought a small powder coating kit off eBay that I paid about \$60 for. I also got a two pound bag of mirror finish chrome powder for about \$14, including shipping. Many other colors are available. I have done some small chrome coated parts from my 1951 Ford four-door sedan that I have had rusting away in a shed for the past 20 or 30 years that I bought in 1956 when it had 60K miles on it.

The pewter parts like the tail light bezels did not do well. Where ever there was a pit in the pewter the powder coating bubbled up and made a zit. Lots of zits ended up on the bezels which were in pretty bad shape. The car spent its first years in Pennsylvania with the road salt, etc.

The steel parts did really well and the finish looks almost like chrome at a distance but a little dull up-close. The instructions say that it can be buffed and polished to high gloss. I am too lazy to do that!

There is no limit to the size that can be done in powder coating and you don't have to have a big oven to put the whole thing in to cure it. I have cured some larger parts by placing the part to be cured up close to a propane gas infrared heater and either placing a shiny reflector behind it or placing another heater behind the part so it heats faster on both sides. As the finish cures to gloss finish just move the part over to expose another portion to the heat so that it overlaps. It does a pretty fair job if you are attentive to the look of the finish.

I came up with this procedure by asking a million questions to people who were trying to sell various powder coating tools and products on eBay.

One idea has to do with the fact that electric lights are readily available on eBay that can be used to cure whole sides of an automobile by moving them over to expose more area as the first areas are cured. I just asked some more and found that infrared heaters are used lots in larger production of powder coating. The one thing you have to consider is that the molten powder coating puts off an explosive fume that has to be vented away to prevent explosions. This work can not be done in a confined space.



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