

# Repainting Horn/Grill Badges

I got this idea from an article off the old Galeforcezephyrs Site, Author Unknown. I have revised it to what I found easiest for a good result.

What you will need Tamiya Translucent Red, Tamiya Gold, VHT Plate Finish (gives the best finish), Citadel Black Model paint or similar (water base), Oven Cleaner, Wax & Grease remover, Liquid Mask, Really good quality soft pointy paint brush

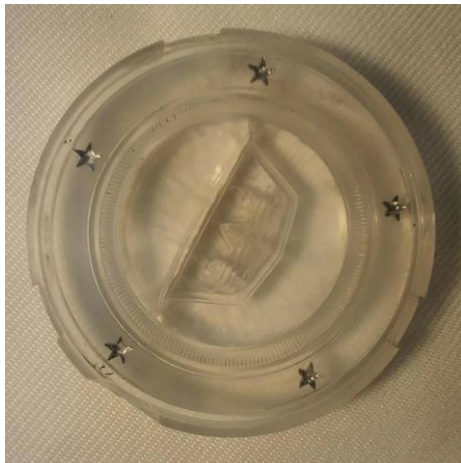


First, you need a decent, craze free badge. (The badge I am using for the start of this article is a reject one that is badly crazed and chipped but will do for this as I did not take photos of the first few processes) Sometimes you can't really see the crazing till it's painted. If you have a crazed/chipped badge I would suggest a practice run. It took me 5 attempts to get the process right.

You need to strip the paint, but not damage the plastic. For this use oven cleaner. I used Mr Muscle. It takes a while so spray it on, scrub it into all the cavities with a toothbrush and leave it overnight, then scrub with the toothbrush under running water. You may need to do this twice. Once that's done, use toothpicks and a needle to carefully remove and stuck bits of paint. You need to get rid of every single trace of paint. Using thinners or paint stripper will damage the badge.



Next you need to paint the stars by brush. Spay some of the chrome paint into a plastic cup or something and dab the paint into the stars, hold up to the light to see if you have coverage, now you need to remove all traces of the chrome paint from the flat surface. For this, use wax and grease remover and cotton buds. Wax and grease remover is strong enough to remove the paint before dry and not harm the badge. It won't remove dried paint. Keep going over the surface with clean cotton buds until all traces of the paint is removed and plastic is perfectly clear, even a light film of the chrome smeared on the surface will cause issues.



Next you need to paint the black. Paint the black section of the shield, and the black ring with the stars in, and the black outer, it will take several coats. This is the most time consuming part. Be careful and very neat. Stuff up here and it will ruin the finish. If you scrape off paint that has run over the edges it will ruin the finish and you will have to start again. (You will see why when you spray the chrome on if you do scrape it off). Any paint that accidently gets on other parts of the badge can easily be rubbed off with a toothpick (just not on the edges as I stated before) keep checking from the front. Hold it up to the light to make sure you have 100% coverage. The lines on the shield are tricky but with care and trial and error it can be done easily. If you stuff up the lines, let it dry and scrape it off with a toothpick



Next stage is to apply the liquid masking to the red area and the edge of the badge. It goes on milky and dries clear. If you get it wrong, let it dry and peel it off.

Next paint the silver. We want this to be as 'chrome' as possible. I used VHT Plate Finish.. Just spray the whole badge. Do 3 VERY LIGHT coats, allowing 10 mins or so to dry between each coat. Leave it until dry.

Peel off the Liquid Masking. Use a cotton bud and remove all traces of silver on the red area. It should look like this when done.



Time to paint the red. Spray 3 light coats of Tamiya Translucent Red, you should still be able to see through it when held up to the light. You only get one shot at this process so don't be heavy handed, should be like looking through red glass or a red tail light lens



This needs to be left to dry fully. Overnight to be safe. Once the red is fully dry we need to give it a dust coat of gold. I'm using Tamiya Gold. Spray on a light covering, don't go too heavy.



Let this dry, won't take long. Then give it 3 more dust coats of chrome. We're only worried about covering the 'red' section although it doesn't matter if we paint it all. The red is transparent, the gold gives it a little shine and the chrome backs it all up. Once done it looks very original.



Top Badge has bad crazing but still looks pretty good. The other 2 are going on the car.



Cheers and good luck if you attempt this

Popey