

# How Does Kevin Sherman Get that "purty color" on his Models?

*An interesting article useful for larger rubber and gas models, published in the February 2003 issue of the "Flight Plug," the newsletter of the Southern California Ignition Flyers, Mike Myers, Editor*

Kevin Sherman writes about how he colors his models, which he covers with Polyspan. He says he uses House of Kolor Kandy paints, which are translucent. House of Kolor has been selling custom auto paints since the mid 1950's. In any event, here's Kevin: "The House of Kolor product is called an intensifier. I checked on the House of Kolor website and there are about 20 colors to choose from. We have found that it takes about 1 ounce of intensifier per quart of thinned nitrate dope. The intensity of the colors build as coats are added, so it is important to put it on fairly even so it doesn't look blotchy or streaky. After covering with polyspan, we brush 4-5 coats of 50/50 nitrate dope. We very lightly sand the covering with 400 grit paper (don't sand much or you will go right through the dope over the ribs). If numbers are desired, we put them on at this point. We use black tissue numbers, and apply them with acetone over the doped polyspan. Because the candy paint is translucent, you can paint it right over the numbers, and they will not be covered up. When done, it actually looks like the numbers were applied over the candy color. If numbers are applied, we put an additional couple coats of dope over them. We then are ready to apply the candy colored nitrate dope. We put three even coats, letting it dry good between coats. Don't try to get all your color in one coat, as it will only cause problems. If you are not proficient at painting, spraying your coats in opposite directions is recommended (cross coating). After three coats of tinted nitrate dope is applied, we let that dry until it does not smell, and has gassed out all the thinner.

There are 20 different Kandy colors available. We fuel proof with Fuller Plast. One even coat does the job. It is a two part clear, and dries fully in about a day, depending on the weather. If the nitrate dope has become "milky" because of moisture in the air, it does not matter. The Fuller Plast will turn it back to perfection when it is applied. I have shot Plast on dope that was almost white from moisture in the air, and it turned it translucent in seconds. It is a great fuel proofer, and has excellent properties for extended life. We have used this method for about 10 years, and the Kandy paint does not fade at all (like most of the dyes do). The covering still looks almost as good as new. I am sure I missed a few things, but that is the basics of our methods. I use a cheap touch-up gun, similar to what you can buy from Harbor Freight. I think I paid \$25 for it. It holds about a 1/2-1 pint of material. I have a compressor and water trap system for the air supply. I buy the Fuller Plast at a local paint store called, "Fuller O'Brien". I think they may be just a local paint store. They offer it in Gallon quantities, and it is about \$70 per gallon. It does do a lot of models though, so the price per model is quite low. Al Heinrich at Aerodyne sells it in smaller quantities." *Kevin Sherman*