

# SNAPSHOT

## HOW TO APPLY A TWO-TONE PAINT JOB TO A MODEL CAR

APPLYING A TWO-TONE PAINT JOB to a model car requires precise paint transition where the two colors meet. Use these simple steps as a guide for keeping your edges crisp and to prevent paint from seeping under your masks and ruining your finish.

By Tim Boyd



**1** Always apply the lighter of your two colors first (in this case, gloss white). After the paint dries, mask the areas to save the first color — Tamiya tape works well. Start at the bottom and apply subsequent runs higher on the body, slightly overlapping the previous mask.



**2** Run your fingernail or a toothpick along the edge of the line that separates the two colors to secure the tape. Then, use a sharp hobby knife to trim the tape to the final line. Before applying your second color, mist on a clear coat, like Tamiya Semigloss Clear (No. TS-79), to further seal the mask edges.



**3** Apply your second color, misting the paint on in light coats. Stop as soon as you achieve a consistent color depth. Avoid heavy paint buildup to prevent the paint from bleeding under the mask and to lessen the chance of paint building a ridge along the mask and, subsequently, between the two colors.



**4** As soon as the second color sets up, carefully remove the masks. This will minimize the chance of a paint ridge along the edge of the tape. You should have a sharp demarcation between the two colors. If the paint has bled under the mask, while the paint is still fresh, use a toothpick to gently scrape away the offending color.



**5** To help “bury” any remaining ridges between the two colors, apply several coats of clear, such as Tamiya Pearl Clear (No. TS-65), followed by Gloss Clear (No. TS-13). I masked the radiator grille and painted the shell. I’ll finish the grille with a brush later.



Lastly, smooth the body paint with applications of Tamiya Coarse, Fine, and Finish Polishing Compounds (or your favorite alternatives) and a soft cotton cloth. Note that flat black paint has been added to the grille shell after removing the mask. Now, you’re ready for final assembly! **FSM**