

## SAVVA Technical Tip 143 – Mixing 2K paints

This article is for amateur painters like myself - or perhaps just to make the experts smile at my stupidity. My task for the day was to paint a spare wheel cover (side mount). So off I went and bought the necessary paint mixed to the right colour and some flattening paper of various grades etc. All the ingredients to do a perfect job.

Unfortunately things went very pear shape. I prepared the surface to be painted with absolute care. Then came the job of mixing the 2K ingredients. I didn't have the special mixing cups with the graduations so I took a chance and poured a golop of this and that in the gun and mixed it there. I then painted with the expertise of a seasoned painter – the only problem was it looked as if I had sprayed over sandpaper. Realising I had totally screwed-up and had run out of thinners I took off to the paint suppliers to buy more thinners and shout for help – what am I doing wrong? I got that blank look from the chaps behind the counter, you know the look – OMG another one of these DIY types. Any rate one of them took pity on me, and sorted me out.

It turned out that in my ignorance, I was painting outside in the sun on a 32degree day which at the time I thought was a brilliant idea! Apparently, a nice cool temperature is far better for good painting and to make things worse I had obviously added far too much hardener. Here is the advise they gave me. Firstly, don't pick the hottest day and then paint in the sun and secondly, make sure your mix is **absolutely** correct – this is critical.

A simple way of ensuring one has the correct mix is to buy a ruler which has the correct mixing graduations on it or use a proper mixing bowl. The picture illustrates a typical mixing bowl. They usually come in three sizes, small, medium and large depending on the size of the job you are tackling. They cost only a few Rand each from the specialised car paint shops and can be disposed of at the end of the painting job.

Needless to say my next attempt was far more successful.

