Subject: Need advice on painting MDF
Posted by newsjeff on Sat, 10 Apr 2004 21:10:48 GMT
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Looking for tips on painting my Flexy Rack. I used 3/4" MDF and have primed with one coat so far. Any other suggestions before I start with the top coat? Thanks in advance.

Subject: Re: Need advice on painting MDF
Posted by wunhuanglo on Sun, 11 Apr 2004 07:42:52 GMT
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I'm not much of an expert, but two things to consider. If it doesn't look good in primer, it will only look worse with a finish coat. Several coats of primer sanded in between will make a big difference.The second thing is that sanded areas and cut edges of MDF are unpaintable. You have to seal them with something (spot putty or Bondo or the like) to get a paintable surface.I really like Krylon - you have to work at it to screw it up. Rustoleum is a better finish, but you have to be much more careful and it takes forever to dry between coats (not my long suit).Hope that helps.

Subject: Re: Need advice on painting MDF
Posted by newsjeff on Sun, 11 Apr 2004 19:41:28 GMT
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Thanks for the advice, Wun. Good point about the edges. They look terrible with the primer. I was concerned about finishing them they way they are now. A guy I work with just told me to use shellac on the edges. Makes sense to me. I think I have a good start on my project at this point. Thanks again.

Subject: Re: Spraying, rolling, brushing?
Posted by BillEpstein on Mon, 12 Apr 2004 00:22:18 GMT
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Don't know why properly sanded edges would look bad with paint? One thing though, you have to bondo EVERYWHERE an edge meets a plane, then prime, then use a 'body filler' like 'Icicle' on the places the primer reveals. Print through of the panel intersections is the main problem. A very good technique is to use reveals everywhere panels meet or use a BIG roundover bit that bites into those crevasses.One or two good sealer coats and then 5 or 6 color coats should look great.

Put a clear coat on top.

Subject: Re: Spraying, rolling, brushing?
Posted by wunhuanglo on Mon, 12 Apr 2004 00:56:29 GMT
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My experience painting MDF is that once the smooth, "sealed" factory surface is cut or sanded it becomes infinitely porous. No matter how many coats or what paint (spray only) that I used it always showed flatter than the surrounding areas.Maybe I didn't sand well enough? I don't know, but I don't think that's the problem. It's like painting a roll of toilet paper, end on.

Subject: Re: Spraying, rolling, brushing?
Posted by Bill Martinelli on Mon, 12 Apr 2004 02:31:34 GMT
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Have never painted mdf for a finish but after painting some bits and pieces just for the sake of it. I noticed the edged are like you say.I wounder how bullseye123 would work? maybe it would seal it? There must be some kind of seal coat you can put on the whole project so its not continuing to soak up the paint. Bill

Subject: Re: Hmmmmmm.....
Posted by BillEpstein on Mon, 12 Apr 2004 08:36:50 GMT
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My latest painted project, the white speaks were sprayed by a friend with what he called "catalysed Acrylic" from Sherwin-Williams. I wasn't there when the work was done but did notice the primer coat was beige. He said "that was what was in the gun". I'll ask him if it was a sealer or just the paint thinned.Other times I have brushed, rolled and sponged MDF never had the soak up problems but I was putting on very thick coats and then sponging a texture.Let you know what the painter says as soon as I see him.

Subject: Re: Hmmmmmm.....
Posted by Bill Martinelli on Tue, 13 Apr 2004 03:04:46 GMT
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Those white speakers look great. I didn't any seal coat and just sprayed a few light coats of color. Primer would no doubt help!