

Model Wash tips

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FAQ

Q : My Model wash is too thin, what can I do?

A: The wash being too thin is most likely due to the pigments settling at the bottom of the bottle. This happens with paints as well as with Model wash when it is not used so often and sits for long periods of time without being mixed. Mix the pigments that have settled using a stick or paint brush.

Q: What can I use to thicken the Model Wash?

A: To thicken Model Wash you can mix very small amounts of Vallejo Matt Medium or Vallejo Retarder Medium. These will not only thicken the wash but you will also extend the working time of the wash. This will vary between the two mediums.

Q: Should I apply a clear coat before using Model Wash

A: Although you do not have to apply a clear coat before applying washes, applying a satin or gloss coat will help the wash disperse and settle in the nooks and crannies.

Q: The wash tends to leech onto the painted areas and not in the nooks or panel lines and starts to stain the paint?

A: A clear Satin or Gloss Varnish clear coat before applying washes will keep the wash in the nooks and also it will make removing excess wash easier and without staining the paint. This should be done before the wash has dried 30 minutes or longer.

Q: What can I use to clean or remove excess model wash?

A: To remove excess Model Wash soon after it has been applied you can use tap water and a clean brush. The brush should be damp and not wet. Be sure to repeatedly clean the brush when removing excess wash.

Q: My wash has stained the base paint, how can I clean or remove the stain?

A: It will depend on how long the stain from the wash has been on the model. After 24 hours the wash is dry and has started to cure and after 72 hours it will be fully cured. If it has been less than 24 hours then a 50/50 mix of Airbrush Thinner and water will remove most of the stain. Straight AB Thinner can be used if it has been longer. A thinner/water dampened brush can be used gently to remove the stain. If too much of the thinner is applied and allowed to sit it will start to remove the base color. The exception would be if an enamel clear coat was first applied before the wash. Applying washes and working small areas will help avoid staining.

Tips & Tricks

- ☒ Removing excess Model Wash. To remove excess wash that has pooled around details or panel lines you can easily remove some of the excess wash using a wide flat brush, be sure to use a brush that is not wet. Simply take the brush and place it close to the wash and at a low angle. The brush will wick away some of the excess wash. To repeat this, simply clean the wash from the brush with a paper towel or rag and repeat.
- ☒ If your wash is too thin, the pigments may have settled to the bottom of the bottle which happens to paints and washes when they sit for long periods of time without being mixed. Simply unscrew the bottle cap and stir the bottom of the bottle with a stick to loosen the pigments. Screw the cap back on and shake the bottle to mix the pigments with the carrier and binder.
- ☒ Don't have the right color of wash you need? Model Color or Model Air paint colors can be mixed with the Model Wash. Simply choose a wash color that is close to what you need and then add drops of paint until you get the color you need. If the wash becomes too thick you can thin it by adding a drop or two of Airbrush Thinner or Airbrush Flow Improver.
- ☒ Model Wash as a Filter. Simply add a couple of drops water, Airbrush Flow Improver or Airbrush thinner to a drop of wash until it is thin enough, but don't thin it too much or the wash will lose its properties.
- ☒ Need the wash to be thicker! You can thicken Model Wash by adding Vallejo Matt Medium or Vallejo Retarder Medium to the wash. Start with a drop or two of wash and slowly add one drop of either medium to the wash and mix thoroughly, adding more medium or wash if needed. Retarder Medium is the consistency of a thick gel so be sure to mix in small amounts at a time.
- ☒ Extend the working time with washes. To extend the working time of the Model Wash you can use Retarder medium or AB Flow Improver mixed with the wash. These will extend the working time, the time you have to move or remove excess wash before it dries and add between 5 and 10 minutes. Always apply washes to small areas at a time and removing excess wash before continuing onto another area. The Retarder Medium will thicken the wash but you can add a drop pr two as needed to thin the wash back to normal.
- ☒ Improving the flow or capillary action of a wash. To break up the surface tension so the wash flows better into the nooks, panel lines and around details you can pre wet the area first. By wetting the area that will receive the wash simply use a large soft brush and water. You want to wet the area but making sure not to use too much water where it will build up around details etc. This is applied similar to a filter. If it is too wet you can remove the excess water and let it dry for a few minutes. Apply the wash as normal and remove any excess wash with a brush or paper towel. This trick will also lessen the chances of staining the base paint and might extend the working time of the wash a few minutes since it won't be absorbed by the paint.