

“Boat Anchor” Paints

by

Glen E. Zook, K9STH

Copyright 2007, 2010 by author

Every so often I get requests for the formulas of the paints that I use on boat anchor cabinets. Here are the formulas from Sherwin-Williams of the cabinet colors that I have had matched to date. Note that these are for 1 quart unless otherwise noted. Also, all but 2 of these I now have in acrylic (which dries MUCH harder than normal enamel) and all are water-based except for the Johnson maroon which also has an oil base formula listed. The 2 that I have not yet acquired in acrylic are for latex enamel but acrylic is available and your local Sherwin-Williams store (and virtually any other paint store that has paint mixing capabilities) can provide acrylic paint using the same color formulation. Also, I normally get the paint in either “satin” or “semi-gloss” finish.

I always prime the cabinet before painting and what I use is the “el cheapo” primer from Walmart which costs around a dollar for a 10 ounce spray can. It is ColorPlace Gray Primer #20010.

For a light to medium “crinkle” I overspray the primer with Plasti-Kote “Stone Touch”. This comes in several colors but I have had the best results with Manhattan Mist #11444. You have to hold the can between 12 and 18 inches away from the surface and spray in very short “bursts” while moving the can slightly. It takes a little bit of “practice” (try spraying on a piece of cardboard) to “get the hang of it”.

There are various brands of “crinkle” or “wrinkle” paint available. However, it has been my experience that the Plasti-Kote paint works better and is more consistent with the finish.

After the “crinkle” or “wrinkle” paint has dried you need to overspray with the correct color.

Using these paints requires some type of spray paint rig (unless your paint store is one of the relatively few stores that can load spray cans). There are all sorts of possible solutions ranging from simple arrays that consist of a can that may be pressurized using a bicycle pump all the way to air compressors and “real” paint guns. I use a compressor and paint gun. However, for occasional use those cans that can be pressurized do work. They are available from various sources.

Now for the formulas:

Collins:

St. James Gray (used on the “A” Line equipment)

BAC Colorant	oz	32	64	128
B1 Black	2	-	-	-
Y3 Deep Gold	-	13	-	-

Acrylic: Ultra Deep Base 6403-25981

S-Line Cabinet (formula for 1 gallon but store can reduce this for 1 quart)

BAC Colorant	oz	32	64	128
B1 Black	4	-	-	-
Y3 Deep Gold	-	62	-	-
N1 Raw Umber	2	6	-	-

Acrylic: Extra White B20 W51 6403-36442

S-Line Trim Ring

BAC Colorant	oz	32	64	128
N1 Raw Umber	-	17	-	-
G2 New Green	-	1	-	-
B1 Black	-	2	1	-
Y1 Yellow	-	1	-	-

Acrylic: Extra White B20 W51 6403-36434

Heath:

Apache Green

BAC Colorant	oz	32	64	128
B1 Black	-	32	-	-
G2 New Green	-	16	-	-
Y1 Yellow	-	12	-	-
L1 Blue	-	12	-	-
W1 White	-	8	-	-

Acrylic: Ultra Deep Base 6403-25981

SB-Line Cabinet (the best looking of the 5 colors that Heath used for the SB-Line)

BAC Colorant	oz	32	64	128
B1 Black	-	7	1	1
L1 Blue	6	1	-	-
N1 Raw Umber	-	62	-	-
Y3 Deep Gold	-	-	1	1

Acrylic: Extra White B20 W51 6403-36434

DX-Cabinet (DX-20, DX-35, DX-40, DX-100, etc.)

BAC Colorant	oz	32	64	128
--------------	----	----	----	-----

B1 Black	-	24	-	-
N1 Raw Umber	-	40	-	-
R3 Magenta	-	3	-	-

Latex Enamel: Deep Base 6405-13974

Acrylic: Deep Base 6500-96606

DX-Cabinet (DX-20, DX-35, DX-40, DX-100, etc.)

BAC Colorant	oz	32	64	128
--------------	----	----	----	-----

W1 White	-	25	-	-
B1 Black	-	12	-	-
N1 Raw Umber	-	29	-	-

Oil: Ultra Deep Base 6403-25775

Hallicrafters:

Cabinet gray (HT-37, etc.)

BAC Colorant	oz	32	64	128
--------------	----	----	----	-----

B1 Black	-	21	-	1
N1 Raw Umber	-	21	-	-
Y3 Deep Gold	-	5	-	1
W1 White	-	12	-	-

Latex Enamel: Deep Base 6405-13974
(available in acrylic, store can use proper base)

Cabinet Black (S-40 series, S-85, SX-99, SX-100, etc.)

Requires no mixing.

Acrylic: Low Sheen Black 6403-26047

Johnson:

Maroon (Ranger, Valiant, Pacemaker, etc.)

BAC Colorant	oz	32	64	128
B1 Black	-	22	-	-
R3 Magenta	-	6	-	-
R4 New Red	-	8	-	-

Acrylic: Ultradeep Base 6403-25981

Oil: Ultradeep Base 6403-25775

National:

Cabinet gray (i.e. NC-2-40DT, NC-200, etc.)

BAC Colorant	oz	32	64	128
B1 Black	-	41	1	-
R2 Maroon	-	-	-	1
Y3 Deep Gold	-	6	-	-
W1 White	-	18	-	-
R4 New Red	-	-	1	1

Acrylic: Ultradeep Base 6403-25981

“Off the shelf” or “standard” paints for those who do not want to get their paints specially mixed:

Collins:

KWM-1:

Standard formula paint ASA 61 Gray. This is a “standard” industry formula and should be available at many paint stores. The ASA 61 is an “exact” color match to the KWM-1.

RME:

Cabinets from the late 1930s through the 1950s. A really close “off the shelf” paint is Krylon 1608 Smoke Gray.

I do not have any other paint "matched" at the present time. The formulas are presented for those who are wanting to repaint the equipment the original color. Please note that these formulas are for the original color as when the unit was shipped new from the factory and do NOT reflect the changes in color due to age. Therefore, the colors are usually more "vibrant" and "brighter" than what the units look like today, 40, 50, 60, and even more years later.

Most of the radio manufacturers did NOT prime their cabinets before painting. I do NOT recommend painting over the original paint because this will often cause the original paint to "flake off". You need to completely strip the original paint (sanding where necessary) and then prime the cabinet. Finally paint it with the desired color.