

Lure Making - 7 cm Minnow

STEP 3: Painting the lures

18. **Undercoating** the lure. The simplest method to paint the lure is to buy pressure pack enamel undercoat and paint, from a department or hardware store. It's cheap and it dries hard. Make sure that you read the instructions, and follow the instructions, particularly when it comes to recoating with additional coats of paint.

With my lures, I use acrylic lacquers. Acrylic lacquers dry fast and can be sprayed very fine. To undercoat, I dip my lures into thinned Primer Filler Acrylic Lacquer undercoat, then hang them up to dry for a day. The lures get 5 coats of the undercoat over a 5 day period.



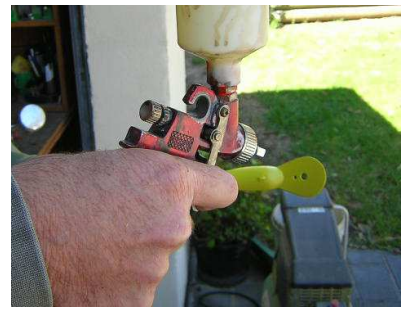
19. **Tuning** the lure. I always tank test the lure before sanding and painting, to avoid affecting the final paint job. After the undercoat is dry, swim the lure in a pool or bathtub to check that it is running straight and has sufficient action. If the lure is leaning to one side, bend the nose eyelet slightly in the direction of the lean (eg. if the lure is leaning to the left, bend the nose eyelet slightly to the left). If the lure is not wobbling, or not wobbling enough, bend the nose eyelet down toward the bib.
20. **Wet and Dry sanding** the undercoated lure. Use 600 grit Wet and Dry, with a bucket of water, or running water, to gently sand the undercoat to a smooth finish. Be careful not to sand through the undercoat. After sanding, wash the lures in clean water and hang up to dry.



21. **Paint the lures.** As mentioned earlier, pressure pack enamel is the easiest and cheapest paint to use. Acrylic lacquer, in pressure packs, will give quicker drying times than using enamel, and can be purchased at most automotive shops.



I use a small, gravity feed touch-up gun and a compressor to spray acrylic lacquer.



When spraying the lures, make sure that you are not in a confined area, where the paint fumes make be a health problem. If you are concerned about breathing the spray vapour, you should wear an appropriate respirator.

For the best results with painting, don't try to paint your lures on humid days. The acrylic lacquer will absorb moisture from the air and cause the paint to go dull or 'milky', giving a very poor finish. Paint only on warm days, when the humidity is less than 60%.

Apply the base-colour paint in light even coats. A second coat of acrylic lacquer can be applied within minutes of the first coat. If you are using pressure pack enamels, make sure that you follow the instructions for recoating.

22. **Stripes, patterns and scales.** Painting vertical stripes on the lure is simple. All you need is a piece of aluminium, plastic or cardboard with some slots cut in it. Place the lure behind the slotted material and spray. Curtain material is great for patterns – the difficult bit is removing the curtain material without smudging the paint. Scales are easily applied by wrapping tulle around the lure and then spraying the lure



23. **Clear coat finish.** It is not necessary to apply a clear coat to your lures, but it does make them look much better and gives them extra protection. Be careful when applying the clear coat – if you apply too much, and it runs, it may drag the other paint with it. So, like the application of the base colour coat – lots of light coats.
24. **Dotting the eyes.** A small piece of dowel or a paint brush handle, in different diameters, is all you need to dot the eyes. The paint will need to be a bit thicker than that used for spraying. Test the eye dot on a piece of plastic before dotting eyes on your lures.

