



Guide to Brush-Stroke free painting of fixtures.

You will need:

Degreaser. We use Zinsser Degreaser. Sugar soap is an option. Always rinse the surface of the product immediately after degreasing and dry it off quickly, you don't want surfaces to be wet for too long.

A Mirka dust free hand sanding kit. Visit <http://www.restexpress.co.uk> for this.

<https://restexpress.co.uk/View/20816/mirka-abranet-hand-sanding-starter-kit-70x198mm>

If you regularly do DIY you will be glad you bought the dust free sanding kit. It will fit most Vacuum cleaners, ideally a DIY drum vacuum.

Vacuum. If you are in the market for a great workshop vacuum, then Nilfisk is a high quality reasonably priced unit. <http://www.screwfix.com/p/nilfisk-aero-26-21-pc-1250w-25ltr-wet-dry-vacuum-cleaner-240v/66972>

If you want to keep costs down, then this drum vacuum from Wickes will also do.

<https://www.wickes.co.uk/Wickes-Wet+Dry-Vacuum-with-Blower-20L---1250W/p/215735>

Bags. You will need vacuum cleaner bags to ensure the filters on the vacuum don't clog. These bags will fit the Nilfisk unit and the Wickes unit mentioned above. Bags improve the performance of the vacuum and keep dust out of the room.

<https://www.screwfix.com/p/nilfisk-alto-aero-302002404-vacuum-cleaner-bags-4-pack/24431>

Sandpaper. Mirka sanding strips 180, 240 grade and Super fine 500 grade. Again go to RestExpress.co.uk for these.

Tub of Sugar soap wipes or Wonder Wipes. Buy these from any DIY shop.

Low tack masking tape for delicate surfaces - Buy these from any DIY shop.

Rollers. Two fussy blokes' smooth rollers buy a box. These rollers produce the smoothest rolled finish we have seen, they are no more expensive than cheaper rollers, available online. <https://www.mypaintbrush.co.uk/two-fussy-blokes-mini-smooth>

A high quality undercoat. We use Otex High Performance Adhesive Primer from Holmans Specialist paints, order online and tint the primer to your colour too. You could also use water-based Zinsser 123 or Zinsser BIN if you prefer a solvent based primer. If we are spraying your doors, we will supply the primer and paint for you to paint the fixtures.

2 x 100mm Laying off Brush. Use the Hamilton Pure Synthetic Laying Off Brush available online. Use separate brushes for solvent and water-based paints.

Paint. We'll supply this too if we're spraying your doors. We use primarily Mylands or Little Greene eggshell, both available online. Buy fresh paint, shop bought paint may have been on the shelf for too long.

The steps to painting brush-stroke free fixtures

This guide will share a method to get a brush stroke free finish on fixtures to seamlessly sit alongside your spray painted cabinet doors.

Removal of doors and Drawers to access fixtures

We call them fixtures because they are fixed in place and have to be painted in situ. Fixtures are typically the end panels, cornices, pelmets and sometimes the visible edges of the cabinet carcass. Remove all the doors and drawer fronts, leaving the hinges in place. Commonly two small screws hold each hinge to the door, these are what you will remove to free the door. If you have any tricky drawer fronts to remove or appliance doors, try Youtube for tips on removal of these, help to remove most types have been posted up.

Some of the fixtures may come off dependant on how the kitchen was fitted, these being the pelmets, cornices and plinths, you can decide if you want to paint these by hand or get them sprayed, you may even decide to paint them in situ if you choose to. We find it's easier to disassemble as much of the kitchen as possible.

Preparation. More time should be spent in preparation than any other step.

Clean

Clean all the surfaces that will be painted. Greasy areas will need degreasing with any cleaning product that removes grease. Use Sugar soap wipes for less dirty areas.

Mask the edges

Protect areas around the fixture with masking tape, typically this will be where a wall joins a side panel or a unit edge meets an appliance. Use tape that has minimum adhesion, use 2 inch/50mm wide tape.

Key the surface

Any surface that is going to be painted needs to have its surface keyed with fine sandpaper to help the new paint adhere. Do not skip this step no matter how much the primer manufacturer says that their product does not require keying, it's just not true. Wear a mask to protect yourself from dust. Your fixtures are likely to be varnish, lacquer, paint or melamine, you only want to key the existing finish, you don't want to sand right through it. Using the Mirka dust free sanding pad, 240 grit is best if a surface keys easily, use 180 grit if the surface is harder, trial and error will tell you which to go with. Change paper often, once or twice a door. If the surface you are preparing is decrepit then you may have to sand off the old finish entirely, the job will be a bigger one of course.

Connected to a vacuum, gently key the surface of your fixtures, in a slightly circular movement, this will produce a fine dust. You need only make the surface matt and smooth, no scratches should be visible, this is enough to provide an excellent key. If there are scratches then try a finer paper and change the paper regularly, it's a false economy to drag sandpaper out. Once done, vacuum any

remaining surface dust off and wipe down with a sugar soap wipe. Your fixture should now be matt, smooth and dust free, ready for primer.

Prime

Thin your primer with whatever thinner the manufacturer recommends. Mix it thoroughly. It should be no thicker than single cream. If your primer is solvent based, thin a little more. Apply to the fixture using a laying off brush, laying off brushes are typically used for finishing varnish, we will use them throughout the process. Apply a thin even coat of primer with the brush, do this quickly, do not over work the primer, ensure the room is cool so that the primer does not cure too fast. Next, wet a mini roller with primer too, not too heavy, but you must have some evenly applied to the roller. Before the brushed on primer starts to dry, gently roll the fixture that you just primed with the brush. Don't press hard, hold the handle loosely and let the roller roll freely across the fixture. What we are doing here is applying the primer with a brush and then texturing it with a wetted roller to achieve an even application of primer. The finish should be even, thin, wet, and slightly mottled. Because the primer was thinned it should stay wet for longer, this will give the primer more time to flatten out to a smooth finish. Some fixtures may only need a brush finish, for instance, cornices. If the odd small imperfection or fluff has found its way into the finish, don't touch it, these will come out later when we deburr. Repeat this step if necessary, insuring the first coat has dried fully. Stop once you have a solid finish with no background surface showing through.

Deburr

Once your primer is thoroughly dry, you can then deburr it with a pad of 500 grit paper using the Mirka pad, use the sponge attachment if necessary. Deburring is a very light going over the area, so lightly that you don't go through the primer. Your intention is not to key the primer, this is unnecessary, your aim is to skim off any high points or bits of fluff that found its way into the primer and smooth any stippling left by the roller. Once done vacuum and then wipe down with a sugar soap wipe to remove any dust.

First coat

Paint needs to be thinned to the consistency of thick milk or thin cream. Mix your paint thoroughly and regularly each time you load your paint tray, use a kettle, not the tin and only mix what you will need. If you are in a warm room open the window, you don't want the paint to skin over quickly. Apply the first coat of paint in exactly the same manner as the primer, first with a brush, then with a wetted roller lightly to texture and add more paint. The perfect finish is even, thin, wet and slightly mottled from the roller. There may be some air bubbles on the surface, this will likely pop or will burst when you roll the area lightly. Use a fresh roller every panel or two, you don't want it clogged with paint. Some fixture may get a better result with the brush alone. It's unlikely that this first coat will have an even colour because the paint was thinned to extend drying time. Once thoroughly dry, deburr any imperfections in this first coat.

Second coat.

This coat is the same process as before only we're not going to deburr, we're after a flaw free finish in the wet stage. Again, apply with a brush, texture with a roller that has also been wetted with some paint. Note that this coat will likely want to dry very quickly as it is being applied to paint, so, you may want to thin this coat a smidge more if you find it dries too quickly. Keeping the area that you are painting cool helps too. If it doesn't go well don't despair, follow the same process until you nail it. Usually two coats of paint will do the trick, three or more is fine too.

The process in a nutshell is to apply thin wet coats of paint that build up to a smoother finish. It is unlikely that under the closest inspection that the finish will be entirely free of a little roller texture or minor brush strokes, but you will have to be going out of your way to see it. Overall, the finish will be excellent and combined with the newly spray-painted doors.

Once you perfect this method of painting you can use it on quite large areas, like window sills and doors, and still get a super brush-stroke free finish.

Happy Painting!