

## HELPFUL TIPS FOR PAINTING LEXAN BODIES

**LEXAN** is the strongest, most impact-resistant body material on the market today, but because its oily surface doesn't hold paint well, we must first prepare the plastic surface.

**STEP 1** To make the surface to be painted free of oil, mold release and dirt, we recommend first cleaning it with a mild liquid dish detergent such as Ivory, Joy, etc. These cleaners remove the oil extremely well, yet do not scratch the plastic. Wash your hands afterwards too, because they also have oils.

**STEP 2** Now we are ready to mask the body. (Mask and paint on the inside of the body before you trim it.) Mask the window areas with masking tape first, preferably #3M masking tape. (It comes in many sizes and sticks extremely well.) Mask off the stripes or whatever design you have. If it is a complex, overlapping design, remember that since you're painting on the inside of the body, you must mask your patterns in reverse order: the last thing masked will be the first you will paint. After masking is complete, seal the tape by burnishing its edges with your fingernail so the paint cannot seep under it.

**STEP 3** You may paint the bodies by using a brush, spray can and/or the airbrush. Since each method requires a different type of paint, it is a good idea to check with your hobby dealer for the

best paint for the plastic. New products are coming on the market all the time and the dealer may be able to help select the best paint for you. Follow the instructions on the paint container you buy. And it is always good to first practice on a piece of the body you'll be discarding (such as the wheel wells or back panelling) to check if the paint is compatible with the plastic. Whichever paint application you do use, be sure not to spray too much paint on at one time—several light coats are better than one thick coat. Let each layer dry before laying on another coat.

**STEP 4** Trim the body after the paint is dry and the tape is removed. Using a very sharp knife or Weiss cutters, follow closely the trim lines around the sides and cockpit area and smooth the edges with a sanding block, course file, or a burr on a hand grinder. Some bodies have a spoiler outlined on a portion of the rear plastic that is normally cut away; take care not to damage this when trimming.

**DRIVERS** can be painted the same way the body is—cleaned and masked on the inside. You can also paint the driver on the outside so it has a dull appearance, making it appear lifelike.

**THESE TIPS** can help you create the type of look you will be proud of. Take your time and *good luck!*