



- [vortex forums](#)
- [news](#)
- [features](#)
- [galleries](#)
- [resources](#)
- [marketplace](#)
- [about vortex](#)

[My Profile](#) | [Active Users](#) | [Help](#) | [Search](#) | [Google Search](#)

You are not logged in, [Log in](#) | [Register](#)

VWvortex Forums > **Golf III & Jetta III** > **DIY: How to paint stock Bugatti alloy wheels (pic intensive and long) [Archived]**

- [Post New Topic](#)
- [Start New Poll](#)
-
-
-
-

[PRINTABLE VERSION](#)

[EMAIL THIS TOPIC TO A FRIEND](#)

[TRACK THIS TOPIC](#)

[Help](#)

becomingx
Member

[DIY: How to paint stock Bugatti alloy wheels \(pic intensive and long\)](#)

[«](#) [»](#) 4:33 AM 11-29-2006



Offline

Member Since
5-9-2006
152 posts

Warner Robins GA
1999 VW Jetta GLX
VR6

I had 2 days off in a row, so I thought I'd do a few cheap mods (being Christmas time and all, funds are tight). So, today I decided to paint my stock GLX wheels. This is a long post, so thanks in advance for your patience....

First, here are a few before shots, just to see what I had to start with. The car is 7 years old, so they have a bit of road rash and the usual damage....





Yes, I know the front half of my car is a different shade of Silver Arrow!

So, on to the good stuff...

Step 1: Jack the car up and get jack stands under the car. Unfortunately, I only have 2 jack stands, so it slowed down the process of painting all the wheels considerably. Remove wheels.



Step 2: Wash wheels to remove road grime and other matter. I used an all purpose cleaning spray from Armor-All, it cleaned the wheels in no time with a little scrubbing. Rinse, repeat if necessary.

Step 3: Remove the factory clear coat by scuff sanding with a Scotch Brite pad. These are available in the automotive dept or the paint department of your local discount store (Walmart in my case). I sanded the entire wheel until there was more of a satin finish, and very little to no clear coat remained. Note that I had ugly wheel weights on my wheels from my new tires, so I just said, hey, whatever, I'll paint over them! So, scuff those too. Why not?



This can get messy, and safety is important, so for your sake, wear a mask to not inhale all the dust created in this step. As my mask model and assistant shows, the mask can't protect you from yourself:



Okay, moving right along!

These are the products I used to paint my wheels: Dupli-Color High Performance Wheel Coating in Graphite. This is also available in silver, white, black and bronze. There is an optional clear coat spray for extra gloss and durability. I opted not to use it, because I plan on getting some nice wheels by the time my new tires wear out.

Oh yeah, and your standard 3M Automotive grade masking tape. I bought these from my local O'Reilly auto parts



Step 4: Mask off tire if they are mounted to the wheels you are painting.



I used pieces of tape maybe 5 inches long, overlapping them to keep it as tight as possible to the edge of the wheel. Make sure to tape off your valve stem also.



I ran into a problem though: The tape would not stick to my tire at all, because I had used some tire shine spray in the past, so I had to tape extra pieces down the tread to hold it all to the tire (See below).



This step takes awhile, but as they say, its 90% prep, 10% actual painting..

Step 5: LET'S PAINT!!!

So, the directions on the paint said to spray 2 light coats and then a thicker wet final coat (10 minutes or so between coats)

Here is what I had after the first coat. I think I could have applied more here. Make sure to hit all the little corners between the spokes and the small spot under the valve stem.



Here is the result of the second coat, we're getting there..



Now, the final result after the third coat. It looks thick and glossy, just how I wanted.



NOW, the wheels have to dry for about 3 hours before I can mount them back on and start working on the rear wheels...

SIDE PROJECT, or Center Cap trial and error:

So, I wanted to do something to tone down the chrome look of the center caps, so I washed them off, scuffed them a little, and used some smoke Metal Cast spray paint (the same spray I did my dummy panels and front turn signals with).



Ehhh.. Its looks stupid, apparently it was either too humid or there was some bug/tar matter on them, because it was blotchy and ugly...



So, lets remedy this.. I decided to scuff it down again and hit it with my wheel paint (lets take the badgeless thing a step further LOL!)



The kinda cool thing is, the VW logo on the caps is sort of raised up out of the plastic, so in the right light, you can see the logo "ghosted" on the caps:



I like the finished product, kinda stealthy.. 😊

Now it started getting dark, so I took some comparison shots to show before and after, then I mounted them and finished the back 2 wheels. Tomorrow I will post some good daytime pics. I think it looks hot, and as soon as I get my suspension (ordering this week) the car will be on its way to looking cool...





Thank you for taking the time to read this, and hopefully, it will help anyone thinking about doing this. There were a few other DIYs that helped me decide to do it, so thanks!