

"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 fries MUCH harder than normal enamel) and all are water-based except for the Johnson maroon which also has an oil base formula listed. There are 2 that I have not yet acquired in acrylic and those are for latex enamel. However, acrylic is available and your local Sherwin-Williams store (and virtually any other paint store that has paint mixing capabilities) 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 a little over a dollar for a 10-ounce spray can. It is Color Place Gray Primer #20010.

For a light to medium "crackle" I overspray the primer with Valspar "Stone Touch" paint. This comes in several colors but I have had the best results with Alabaster #11439. You have to hold the can between 12 and 18-inches away from the surface and spray in short "bursts" while moving the can slightly. It does take a little bit of practice (try spraying on a piece of cardboard) to get the "hand" of it.

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

After the "crinkle" or "wrinkle" paint had 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" for that are either "exact" or very close:

Collins

KWM-1: Standard formula ASA 61. This is a standard industry formula and is an exact color match for 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 cabinet paints "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 (candling where necessary) and then prime the cabinet. Finally paint it with the desired color.