

### SAVVA Technical Tip 159 – Striping paint

Recently I walked in on a friend who was trying to do the impossible (for an amateur that is) and that was to paint a stripe down the waist line of his car but making a total mess of the task. It's difficult, but not impossible for an amateur. Of course, one can always use the plastic "ready to use" striping tape available from the spares shops. It looks good, but a bit ugly on an elderly car or bike.

Firstly, he was using Duco which is great if you are an expert, however, if you are an amateur rather use enamel. Should you mess up you can always wipe it off and start again. Just remember, don't spray duco over enamel, they don't like each other.

Secondly, he was using standard masking tape which is far too thick and crinkly. The result will be rather messy. Use proper striping masking tape as made by 3M which is thin and flat. It may be difficult to find but it's usually available from the professional car paint shops.

Thirdly, he was using domestic paint which won't give the coverage required. The modern lead-free paint is too watery. The best paint to use is model or sign writing paint. I don't know where to get sign writing paint but the modeling enamel is available from the better model shops and comes in cute little 14ml tins. In the picture are some tins of model paint I've collected over the years, some of which I've had for over 10 years and they are still usable. Another advantage of the model paint is that there is a large variety of colours available and the density of the paint is excellent. In most cases one coat does the job. Being enamel, if you mess up it can be wiped off with turps and start again.

