

Mixing Colours – Where to Start

*We just received some new Colour Mix guides from Klass Kote's head office in the US. These colour mixes cover a number of very popular military colours including the RAF colours, US Navy, Japanese Navy, German Luftwaffe, Italian Airforce and other federal colours

Introduction

As many folks are aware, Klass Kote provides a number of different colours, primers and a clear coat. To match these, we also offer the Gloss and Satin catalyst for getting the proper finish for your product. In addition to the paints above, we provide a “white tint base” used for tinting paint. It has less titanium than the regular white that we sell.

We get asked regularly about:

- Mixing colours
- Matching colours (to pictures, paint chips, old aircraft, lacquer paint, FS numbers as well as competitors water based paints)
- Matching paint to Frank Tiano’s Colour Guide (available through Klass Kote UK in limited quantities)

The biggest challenge we face (both as a company and in our case as the new UK & EU representative) is:

- Trying to match / mix potentially millions of colours and shades
- Maintaining stock of certain colours
- Ensuring that our colour mixes or suggested mixes meet the scale folks needs
- Getting digital images and trying to match a picture on computer

Although aircraft colours are more popular, there are dozens of choices for the various militaries around the globe. We also get feedback from pilots and scale modellers at times suggesting that a particular scale colour is too dark, too green, too light etc etc. Its hard to match certain military colours given fading, lack of good examples, oxidation and a variety of other factors..

So what does a modeller do? Can Klass Kote help? The answer is yes...to a degree.

- Our products can be mixed and with close to 27 colours, there are few colours that we can't mix. That said, getting the exact colour is always a challenge .
- Our products are compatible with Hobby Poxy and K & B Superpoxy. The colours are VERY close. As an example, our Battleship Grey #112 is the same as HobbyPoxy H70 grey. The HobbyPoxy Stinson Green can be mixed by combining equal parts of our Blue Green #358 mixed with our Medium Green #355. Cub Yellow can be mixed using 2.5 grams of our Orange #250 with 1 qt of Yellow #160*.

*OUR YELLOW #160 CAN BE EASILY MADE INTO A "CUB" YELLOW, BY ADDING A VERY, VERY SMALL AMOUNT (1 DROP PER FEW OUNCES) OF ANY OF OUR RED(S) - #204 OR #206. YOU MAY ALSO WANT TO TRY A VERY TINY AMOUNT (A DROP) OF ORANGE #250 IN THE YELLOW #160 INSTEAD OF OR WITH THE RED. IF YOU NEED AN IROX YELLOW (SIMILAR TO ID YELLOW - FS 33538) THEN YOU WANT TO CHOOSE OUR WARM YELLOW #162.

- Of course Hobby Poxy and K & B Superpoxy are no longer available (unless you find a stash hidden away somewhere). But Hobby Poxy did provide mixing charts that could certainly work with our paints to provide colours that are very close. Are they perfect 100%? No. That's impossible. But you will in all likelihood get something close enough or allow you to experiment. We certainly encourage and heavily promote testing and mixing at the client end.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q) Do you mix paint for clients?

A) At this stage regrettably no, our time is filled selling paint, marketing and trying to establish our products in model shops across UK and the EU. We strongly suggest the client purchase some of our base colours and try mixing at their end.

Q) What about Dave Platt's video? Will that help?

A) Yes, we have a copy of it and it provides lots of great advice on mixing Klass Kote. Will it show you how to mix ALL the military colours? No. I don't think any resource on the market can do that. But Dave's video is a great start.

Q) So do you plan to sell ANY mixed Colours?

A) In the future yes. What we are going to try and do in the immediate future is provide ideas and potential mixes for specific colours.

Q) How much should we mix?

A) I wouldn't mix a great deal until you are sure you are close in terms of the colours you are looking for. Certainly mixing a few cc's at a time or 10 grams per colour might be a good start. As much as we would like you to buy our product in larger quantities to mix, please test small batches first. And remember you are catalyzing the paint part A and then thinning for spraying.

Q) Some guys measure by weight (oz or grams) or volume (X parts or cc's). What is the best way?

A) Although we would prefer to measure by weight using a scale that measures in grams accurately , its sometimes easier to start with x number of parts of one colour and measure by volume. I think this is a personal choice. Always keep in mind that many paints (and Klass Kote is no different) vary quite a bit in weight depending on the pigments. Our 1 pint of white #100 will weigh differently than our Bright Red #206.

Q) Why can't I just take a paint chip down to the local paint store and get them to match it?

A) They might get a pretty good colour match...but what kind of paint is it? Enamel? Waterbased and non fuel proof? Will it sand properly? What about fading and the opacity of the pigment? How does it spray? Everyday I get emails from people using other products and the colour might match but there are problems (as indicated above) that make the paint job problematic.

So you want to mix military colours? ...

Mixing Colours – Using the old Hobby Poxo mixing charts

Hobby Poxo used to provide mixing charts for their product lines. What I might suggest is that you consider mixing up some of our paints using the suggested formulas below. Are you going to get a legitimate colour that is certifiable? I can't guarantee that. You will in most cases get something very close. **As always, please test and experiment BEFORE you paint an aircraft or project. I (or Klass Kote) cannot be responsible if you mix and spray a colour that doesn't work 100%. The information on this page is simply a starting point.**

A couple of IMPORTANT Notes:

- ✓ Hobby Poxo H70 Grey – this grey matches very closely our Battleship Grey #112

- ✓ HobbyPoxo Stinson Green – this can be mixed by combining equal parts of our Blue Green #358 mixed with our Medium Green #355.

- ✓ Hobby Poxo Cub Yellow (H-49) can be mixed using 2.5 grams of our Orange #250 with 1 qt of Yellow #160*.

- *OUR YELLOW #160 CAN BE EASILY MADE INTO A "CUB" YELLOW, BY ADDING A VERY, VERY SMALL AMOUNT (1 DROP PER FEW OUNCES) OF ANY OF OUR RED(S) - #204 OR #206. YOU MAY ALSO WANT TO TRY A VERY TINY AMOUNT (A DROP)

- ✓ Irox or Warm Yellow – this colour is very close to identification yellow Shade 48 - FS33538.

- ✓ Indigo Blue – With this blue, you can add small amounts of black to obtain a colour close to Insignia Blue – Shade 47 – FS 35044 shown in Frank Tiano's Military Aircraft Colour Guide (available from Klass Kote).

- ✓ Klass Kote Tile Red is Red/Brown shade

- ✓ Satin Black – If mixing a satin catalyzed black, be sure and use our Satin Black #900. If you intend to mix Part A colours with Gloss Catalyst, use the Gloss Black #70.

A second VERY IMPORTANT Note...

After mixing the Part A colours together, add equal amount of Part B Catalyst (also known as hardener). Satin Catalyst #463 for satin finishes, Gloss Catalyst #405 for gloss finishes. The majority will be satin.

AGAIN>>>> these mixes will provide colours that are very close but may or may not meet your needs. We highly recommend that you work with an experienced scale modeller or purchase both Dave Platt's CD and Frank Tiano's Colour Chip Book (which we carry).

UNITED STATES

US Airforce (WW II)

Neutral Grey (FS36173)

- 4 parts White
- 2 parts Black
- 1 part Light Blue

US Navy (WW II)

Sea Blue (FS35042)

- 3 parts Black
- 2 parts Stinson Green
- 1 part Deep Blue

Intermediate Blue (FS35164)

- 4 parts Battleship Grey
- 3 parts Deep Red
- 1 part Deep Blue

Underside White (FS37875)

- 4 fl oz White
- 8 drops Black (continued)

GERMANY

Luftwaffe (WW II)

Grey

- 20 parts Battleship Grey
- 2 parts Cub Yellow
- 2 parts Bright Red
- 1 part Stinson Green

Light Blue (RLM65)

- 10 parts Battleship Grey
- 7 parts White
- 2 parts Light Blue
- 1 part Stinson Green

Black Green

- 5 parts Black
- 2 parts Stinson Green

Light Blue (RLM76)

- 48 parts White (continued)

- 3 drops Cub Yellow
- 2 drops Stinson Green

US Airforce & US Navy (WW II)

Interior Green

- 5 parts Cub Yellow
- 3 parts Bright Yellow
- 2 parts Stinson Green
- 1 part Black

US Navy & US Marine Corp (mid 50's till present)

Light Gull Grey (FS36440)

- 50 parts White
- 21 parts Battleship Grey
- 2 parts Deep Red
- 1 part Cub Yellow

Trainer Colours (Orange Yellow)

- 20 parts Cub Yellow
- 4 parts Bright Yellow
- 1 part Deep Red
- 1 part White

Light Blue

- 4 parts Light Blue
- 3 parts Deep Blue
- 1 part Bright Red

- 3 parts Battleship Grey
- 2 parts Light Blue
- 2 parts Black
- 2 parts Stinson Green

Dark Green (RLM1)

- 7 parts Bright Red
- 4 parts Stinson Green
- 3 parts Black
- 3 parts Bright Yellow

Grey Green

- 6 parts Black
- 2 parts Battleship Grey
- 1 part Stinson Green
- 1 part Bright Yellow

Grey Violet (RLM82)

- 2 parts Black
- 1 part Battleship Grey
- 1 part Bright Red
- 1 part White

Dark Green (RLM82)

- 4 parts Black
- 4 parts Stinson Green
- 3 parts Bright Red
- 2 parts Cub Yellow

ROYAL AIRFORCE (WW II)

Dark Earth

- 4 parts Bright Red
- 2 parts Cub Yellow
- 1 part Black
- 1 part Battleship Grey

Dark Green

- 6 parts Deep Red (you can try Tile Red as well)
- 2 parts Stinson Green
- 1 part Cub Yellow
- 1 part Black
- 1 part White

Middle Stone

- 3 parts Cub Yellow
- 4 parts Battleship Grey
- 1 part Bright Red
- 1 part White

Sky

- 5 parts White
- 1 part Yellow
- 1 part Light Blue
- 1 part Battleship Grey

JAPAN (WW II)

Dark Green

- 6 parts Black
- 4 parts Stinson Green
- 2 parts Deep Red (you can try Tile Red as well)
- 1 part Cub Yellow

Light Grey (A9)

- 28 parts White
- 10 parts Battleship Grey
- 6 parts of Cream
- 1 part Bright Yellow

Light Grey (N10)

- 16 parts White
- 13 parts Battleship Grey
- 8 parts Cream
- 1 part Bright Yellow

Black Green (N1)

- 6 parts Stinson Green
- 2 parts Black
- 1 part Bright Red
- Grey Green (N4)
- 20 parts Battleship Grey
- 2 parts Cub Yellow
- 2 parts Bright Red
- 1 part Stinson Green

Medium Sea Grey

- 3 parts Battleship Grey
- 1 part White

Ocean Grey

- 7 parts Battleship Grey
- 2 parts Black
- 1 part Stinson Green

RAF/RCAF Trainer Yellow

- 9 parts Cub Yellow
- 7 parts Bright Yellow
- 3 parts Cream (#168)
- 2 parts Deep Red (you can try Tile Red as well)

DISCLAIMER - The above mixes are suggestions and are NOT official Klass Kote colours. We offer them as a starting point. Ultimately it is up to scale judges and colour professionals to determine just how exact a colour is. We highly recommend that you work with an experienced scale modeller or purchase both Dave Platt's DVD from Dave Platt Models and Frank Tiano's Colour Chip Book (which we carry).

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² Source: Klass Kote Canada – <http://www.klasskote.ca>