

Basic Instructions for TAKE FLIGHT Butterfly Preparation

If the Butterfly is powder coated Aluminum Alloy (The large Butterflies):

- The first thing you want to do is take a scotch brite pad (the green scratchy things) and give the wings on both sides a light buffing just to take the shine off the surface. This just gives the piece a little “tooth” for the primer to adhere to... you will want to do this to both sides and any surface you are wanting to paint. Then wipe the surfaces down with a little rubbing alcohol on a rag to get any dust and oils from the surface.

If the butterfly is steel (The Medium & Petite “Desktop size” Butterflies):

- Clean with alcohol to get off any finger or fabricating grease off. You need not buff the surface with a scotch brite pad.

On all Butterflies:

- Next you want to prime all the surfaces. An all-purpose spray primer like Krylon is recommended. Some artists use gesso and apply with a sea sponge to create a textured surface, but spray primer is recommended for the best results. Do one side and then turn the wings over and do the other as well as the body (if separate as in the larger butterflies, and nuts and bolts.)
- On the large butterflies, paint the parts unassembled laying flat and then assemble the whole thing and do any touch ups at the end such as the back plate and the bolts as well as the wing edges.
- On the Petite butterflies, paint one side then the other... however it works best for you. Most artists hold the wings in their hand. Some fashion other holders so their hands don't get so tired! Please paint the base as well.
- The type of acrylic paint that works the best and lasts out in the elements with the brightest colors are Golden acrylics and they sell them on-line at many fine art supply retailers. You want to pick colors that are “lightfastness I” for all of your painting, and that is on the label of each color whether you use the heavy body acrylics or the fluid acrylics. They also have a hi flo acrylic hat is the consistency of ink, but that may be challenging to work with depending on what you want to do. The fluid acrylics is mostly preferred by our artists. **Lightfastness I is the critical thing.** Outside of that the lightfastness II and III will fade in the sun.
- When it's all painted, let it cure thoroughly for 72 or more hours before you take it for clear coating. Clear coating will make the colors pop and protect it out in the elements long term.
- **DONT'S - Simply glued and “bedazzled” designs will NOT be accepted**