



## How To: Disguise stone chips

Courtesy of **gscas64**

The below are a variety of suggestions on how to tidy up stone chips that have affected the exterior of the car:

**Question:** I have picked up some quite small but annoying stone chips, other than touch up paints which i don't like at all, has anyone got any idea how to disguise the chips, i thought of colour magic polish but the nearest match to sparkling graphite is black and i'm not sure how succesful that would be, any ideas welcome thanks

### Suggestion:

- Best solution is a respray...but that can be a tad overkill
- For best results, never use the brush supplied with cans of paint. Buy a couple of modelling paint brushes (the very small ones).
- If you can, get a can of the right colour spray paint. Spray a small amount into the cap or a high sided dish (its much thinner than the touch up in the small tubes) and dip the end of the brush to get a small blob of paint on it.
- Literally "blob" this drop of paint into the chip, and it will, if thin enough, run to the inside edges of the chip.
- You can then repeat this a few times to build up the paint layers, and finish off with a tiny blob of clear coat. If you do it right, there will be no new paint on the original paint around the chip, only in the chip itself.
- If you can't get a spray can, use the touch up paint in the tube, but make sure its warm and very well shaken, and again, use your modelling brush (the smaller the better).
- Will never be as good as a respray, but much better than spreading on the touch up paint like nail varnish.
- If you are unsure to begin with, put a later of polish over the chipped area, and if you make a mess you can simply wipe the paint off before it dries.
- Expect to go back a few times for the bigger ones.

### Another suggestion:

- Best way is to get an airbrush from a local modelling shop. You need to shake the paint as the metallic particles settle to the bottom of the paint. (Which is why when you use touch up paint it looks flat. The particle sink to the bottom.)
- Polish the stone chip using a Scratch removing polish (You need one with abrasive in it). It will break down the edges of the chip. Clean the residue out of the chip. Use Fairy, it will remove any polish that is on the paintwork.
- Use the air brush and spray a fine coat of paint over the chip. Don't worry about overspray. Let the layers dry. Build up layers of paint until the chip is nearly filled.
- Let it dry. Use the Scratch removing polish to polish off the overspray.
- The chip will look dull in comparison to the other paintwork and should have a little dip. Use the lacquer to coat the top. You really need thinners for the lacquer, but I could never find out what to use. If you can thin the lacquer, you can put it in the airbrush and repeat as above.
- If not, modelling paintbrush and put lacquer in the chip. Let it dry and then polish the

residue off with the Scratch removing polish.

- Once this is done, the chip should have gone. You then need to polish the whole area where the repair has been done, wax it and Bob is your Fathers brother.
- The other option, which is what I did first time, contact your local "Chips away" guy. For a few stone chips, it should cost much more than about £ 50.00.
- If you watch what those guys do, you will find how I came to the above.
- Oh and a word of warning. BMW paint is VERY thin. If you get a bit over zealous you can polish off the Lacquer, so be careful! The advantage of this is that you can therefore polish out light scratches, very easily!

**Another suggestion:**

- One small tip – the best thing to apply touch-up paint with is the end of a wooden cocktail stick. Just dip the end in some very thin paint, and touch it into the centre of the chip – the paint should spread out to fill the chip and not overflow the edges. Allow to dry and repeat...