



Boys' Life

GAMES

JOKES

OUTDOORS & GEAR

HOBBIES & PROJECTS

SCOUTS

CONTESTS

SUBSCRIBE

Recent Comments BroMaster says: "OH Your its on!!!" posted to *Write a Funny Caption For This Photo.*

Type here to search

Home » Hobbies & Projects » BL Workshop » How to Paint a Pinewood Derby Car to Give It the Ultimate Finish

How to Paint a Pinewood Derby Car to Give It the Ultimate Finish

SAFETY FIRST: Ask an adult to help with tools you haven't used before.



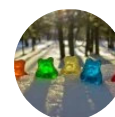
Sandpaper and paint can turn a block of wood into a sleek pinewood derby racer that looks as smooth as steel. The trick is using the right materials and allowing plenty of time.

Don't wait until the last minute! For best results, you'll need to start at least a week or two before the race. You'll also need help from a trusted adult.

ADVERTISEMENT



BL Hotlist



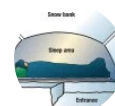
Write a Funny Caption For This Photo



Use Science to Make a Fast Pinewood Derby Car



Knife Safety Quiz



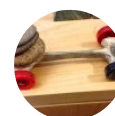
How to Build a Snow Cave



3 Fun Wintertime Projects When It's Cold Outside



How to Make a Fast Pinewood Derby Car



100 Fantastic Pinewood Derby Cars of 2016

How to Finish a Pinewood Derby Car the Right W...



How to Build a
Balance Board



What You'll See at the
2017 Winter X Games



6 Exercises To Help You
Do Better in Hikes
and Sports

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Coarse, medium and fine-grit sandpaper
- Liquid sanding sealer (sold at hobby shops)
- Enamel paint
- Decals or self-stick numbers (sold at stationery stores or hobby shops)
- Clear gloss paint
- Floor wax paste

WHAT YOU'LL DO



Step 1: Begin by wrapping sandpaper around a block of wood 1 inch by 3 inches. Without a block of wood for support, sandpaper can leave dips and gullies in the pinewood body.

Round the corners of the pinewood with coarse sandpaper. Change to medium-grit paper for smoothing rough edges. Finish with fine sandpaper to remove any sanding marks.

ADVERTISEMENT

**THE EPIC JOURNEY
CONTINUES:
SCOUTING FOR ADVENTURE SEASON
5 AVAILABLE ON DVD.**

All four previous seasons are also available,
with special bundle pricing.

CLICK HERE



Step 2: Just painting the pinewood won't hide the wood's grain. Apply two coats of liquid sanding sealer. Let the sealer dry overnight before sanding it lightly with fine-grit paper.

If the grain still shows, apply two more coats of sealer. Let it dry overnight and sand again. Repeat the process until the grain disappears.



Step 3: Choose a color for your racer. Then apply two to three coats of enamel paint to the pinewood body. Spraying the model with paint from an aerosol can is easier than using a brush.

If you use a brush, dip only the lower third of the brush into the paint. Use single, smooth strokes instead of dabbing the paint on the model. Blend the strokes so they can't be seen.



Step 4: Place a race number on the car. Seal and protect it by spraying the entire model with clear gloss paint. Some clear paints might make the numbers curl. To make sure yours works, test it on a decal or number stuck to scrap plastic before spraying your racer.



Step 5: Let the clear paint dry for at least a week. Then cover the model with floor wax paste and polish to a high gloss. The wax will protect the car and help give your racer the look of shining steel.

JUST DO YOUR BEST

This project requires help from an adult and lots of time and patience.

Instead, you can always just paint your car with one layer of paint from your local hobby store. It takes only a few minutes, and it still looks great.

The important thing is to have fun and do your best.



Related



How to Make a Fast Pinewood Derby Car



Make a Pinewood Derby Car Display



How to Polish Your Pinewood Derby Car's Axles and Wheels

[How To videos](#) [Pinewood derby](#) [Pinewood highlights](#)

Submit a Photo of Your Project

Your first name

Tell us about your project

Photo upload No file chosen[Submit Photo](#)

Important Note: Please only upload photos of your project. Because of privacy rules, we can't post any photos that show people's faces. Always ask for your parent's permission before uploading anything to a website.

More Pinewood Derby Fun



How to Make a Fast Pinewood Derby Car

There are many ways to make your Pinewood Derby car go faster. Here are some of them.



100 Fantastic Pinewood Derby Cars of 2016

Here are some of the best pinewood derby cars of 2016 sent in by Boys' Life readers.



How to Polish Your Pinewood Derby Car's Axles and Wheels

The quality of your axles and wheels may be the most important factor in building a fast Pinewood Derby car.



Use Science to Make a Fast Pinewood Derby Car

A former NASA engineer explains how you can use science to succeed at your next pinewood derby.

How to Paint a Pinewood Derby Car to Give It the Ultimate Finish



Sandpaper and paint can turn a block of wood into a sleek pinewood derby racer that looks as smooth as steel.



Star Wars Cars in the Pinewood Derby

Jump into hyperspace with these 25 awesome Star Wars-themed pinewood derby cars built by Boys' Life readers.



Minecraft Cars in the Pinewood Derby

Minecraft-themed pinewood derby cars are super popular this year. Check out these awesome photos.



Pokémon Cars in the Pinewood Derby

In pinewood derbies across the country, Cub Scouts are racing Pikachu, Turtwig and Charizard cars inspired by the Pokémon universe.



Make a Pinewood Derby Car Display

When the race is over, enter the winner's circle by building this display for your pinewood derby car.

[← Previous article](#)

[Next article →](#)

4 Comments on How to Paint a Pinewood Derby Car to Give It the Ultimate Finish

lvy // February 6, 2016 at 9:01 am // Reply

your good i wish i could do that.

Pit Boss // January 26, 2016 at 11:25 pm // Reply

Several coats of Krylon brand spray paint (in a gloss finish) over primer will give the same results (in the article) without the clear coat or the wax. Krylon is also good because it dries to the touch in about ten minutes, and can be handled safely in about an hour. This allows procrastinators (like me) to apply 2-3 coats of paint in one day, with professional-looking results!

Pit Boss // May 26, 2016 at 3:39 pm // Reply

I would also like to add that some light sanding with a fine to very fine grit sandpaper in between coats of primer and between coats of paint will create a very smooth looking finish to your paint job!

Tom // January 16, 2016 at 8:01 pm // Reply

Guys, using modeling paint in a spray can over a primer and a couple coats of gloss do this without the waxing. In fact, that's what I did from the 80's to the 00's using a hint from boys life about making a spray box, taking a block and putting nails level in it to set the car on so the paint covers the entire car and painting then waiting a few days in between each coat of primer, paint, and gloss.

« 1 2

Leave a Reply

Please do not use your real name.

Comment

Nickname

Post Comment

Now on Boyslife.org

Boyslife.org

[Games](#)

[Jokes](#)

[Outdoors & Gear](#)

Boys' Life magazine

Follow Boys' Life

Join Scouting



- Hobbies & Projects
- Scouts
- Contests and Giveaways
- Subscribe



Subscribe today!

Contact Boys' Life

ONLINE: boyslife.org/contact-us
PHONE: (866) 584-6589
MAIL: 1325 W. Walnut Hill Lane, P.O.
Box 152401, Irving, TX 75015-2401

Visit beascout.org to find out how you can get involved in Scouting.