

How to Blackout Rims Using Plasti Dip



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DIY PROJECTS

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The Project

Many car owners can appreciate the style of blacked out rims. However, the expensive and sometimes irreversible nature of popular options such as buying new wheels or powder coating your current set do not appeal to everyone. A cheaper and reversible option that many DIY car enthusiasts have turned to is using a product called Plasti Dip to coat their wheels. Plasti Dip is unique in that it comes in an aerosol can and creates a rubbery layer over what ever you apply it to. This layer is tough, but it can also be easily pulled off if desired. Many who use Plasti Dip also praise its ability to protect their rims through harsh winter weather conditions. Using this guide, you can use Plasti Dip to apply an aesthetically pleasing, protective, reversible coating onto your wheels.

Materials Needed

Plasti Dip (Aerosol Can).....	4 cans
Jack.....	1
Jack-stands	4
Tire Iron/Impact Wrench	1
Notecards ,.....	1 pack
Terry Cloth.....	1
Degreaser.....	1 Bottle
Rubbing Alcohol	1 Bottle

\\Safety and Disclaimer

If done correctly, this process should be completely reversible. However, we cannot be held responsible for any damage you may cause to your health, car or wheels by following this procedure. You proceed at your own risk. To reduce the risk of accident, we recommend you keep in mind the following:

- Work in a well ventilated area
- Follow all safety precautions as indicated by your owner's manual
- This material is flammable and may be ignited by heat, sparks, flame or static electricity
- Dispose of product in accordance with local, county, state and federal regulations

Step 1

Jack Up Car & Remove Wheels

Please refer to your car's owner's manual to find the safest method and the appropriate "jacking points" to remove the wheels to be painted. Remember that if you are not using an impact wrench you will need to loosen the lug nuts using a tire iron before lifting the car with a jack. Carefully lift the car and place jack-stands under the frame for safety. After lifting the car, so the tires are off of the ground, remove the lug nuts completely before sliding the tire off of the studs. Also, it is important to remember which tire belongs in which position on the car. For safety, we recommend removing and painting two wheels at a time.



Step 1 - Removing the Wheels

Clean the Wheels

Use a clean terry cloth and a degreaser to clean the wheels of all soot and dirt. Once the wheels are clean use a lint free cloth and rubbing alcohol to remove any contaminants that may be left over. Be sure to remove any wheel inserts that you don't want to Plasti Dip.

Step 2

Step 3

Mask Off Wheels

Slide the note cards in between the wheel and the tire to create a barrier to keep the Plasti Dip from coating your tires. This is done easiest by holding note card perpendicular to the edge of the rim farthest from you and pushing it down while sliding it clockwise. This may take some time to master.

Start Plasti Dipping!

Hold the aerosol can about six inches away from the area you wish to paint, closer than you would normal spray paint. Apply a light first coat so that you still see the original wheel color underneath the Plasti Dip to begin. Let this first coat dry for 15 minutes before continuing. Next begin a heavy second coat. Spray the Plasti Dip on heavily so that it covers the entire surface without dripping or running. Be sure to spray from different angles with a sweeping motion to cover the entire wheel. Allow this coat to dry for half an hour or until the Plasti Dip turns into a matte black and looks mostly dry. Follow this with three or four more heavy coats. For maximum durability use about one can of Plasti Dip per wheel.



Plasti Dip Application



Step 4



Step 5

Let Dry Overnight

After applying the Plasti Dip allow it to cure overnight for at least 7 hours before moving on. The Plasti Dip will dry into a rubbery matte black covering. Since the coating is chemically resistant, you can then apply a normal automotive clear coat over the Plasti Dip if you desire a glossier look.

Step 6

Remove Masking

Decrease the likelihood of the Plasti Dip from coming off with the masking by lightly running a sharp blade along the edge of the rim where it meets the note card. Carefully remove the note cards one at a time. If the Plasti Dip seems to peel up with the masking, simply use your finger to press it into place.

Reinstall Wheels

Place your wheels back onto the car in their respective places and finger tighten the lug nuts. Be sure to tighten the lug nuts evenly by skipping every other one. Remove the jack stands then carefully and slowly ease the car down.

Step 7

Finished



Pro Tips:

- Apply tire shine to the Plasti Dip to give it a shinier look.
- Plasti Dip can also be used to black out chrome emblems, no prepping necessary! Just mask off an area around the emblem, spray down the Plasti Dip, and peel off the area round the emblem.
- Store the cans of Plasti Dip in room temperature or warmer in between coats, when it gets cold it tends to get thicker and spray unevenly

References:

Plasti Dip FAQ

<http://www.plastidip.com/faq.php>

Car Lifting Safety

http://www.ehow.com/how_4967150_jack-up-car-safety.html