

Since I was painting bodies this year, I thought it might be a nice idea to document how I do it. This is not the only way to do it, and is it the best, I don't know. It does work for me and I have done this for 3 years. Each year I paint 3 bodies. So, if you are new to painting quarter scale bodies, or not so new, I hope this helps.

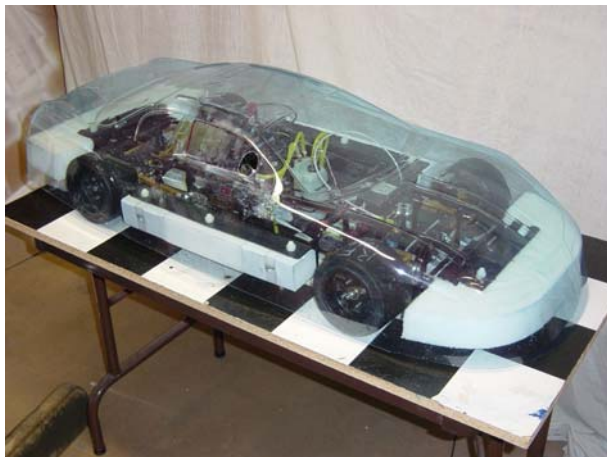
Greg Hilber

PICTURE  
01:



This is the body right out of the box from the manufacturer. Since I like Monte Carlos, this is the MC from WCM.

PICTURE  
02:



The first thing I do is place the body on the car. I make sure that it is sitting square on the front and rear bumpers. I also cut a hole in right side window to allow the fuel filler to poke thru.

PICTURE 03:



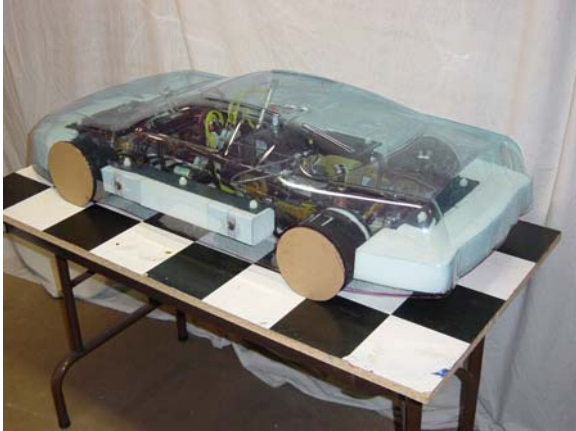
Once I am happy with the way the body is sitting, I drill holes for the mounting buttons. Then I secure the body to the car. Once that is done, I draw a line around the bottom. Since I run on a high banked track, I like to have just under 1 inch of ground clearance. I have 2 templates that I use. One is for the sides and the front, the other is for the back. All I do is take a marker, rest it on the template (block) and move it and the marker around the body drawing the line.

PICTURE  
04:



Once the line is done, I take off the body and cut along the line. I then put the body back on the car.

PICTURE  
05:



To cut the wheel wells out, I have 2 templates. Since the left rear tire is smaller than the rest, I have one template for it. Since the right rear is the largest, I use another for it and both front tires. All I do, is just match the template up against the tire and trace it on the body using a marker.

PICTURE 06:



I now take the body off and cut out the wheel wells. When finished, I use a Dremel to smooth out any rough spots from cutting.

PICTURE  
07:



Next I cut out the side windows and attach the rear spoiler. As you can see, the more work that is done, the more dust collects on the body. That's why I like to get as much body work done before painting.

PICTURE  
08:



To get ready for paint, I remove the spoiler, take the body off and wash it with soapy water. I like to wash both sides. You can now see how clean it looks.

PICTURE  
09:



To help the paint stick to the body, I scuff the entire body, except windows, with a scotch-brite pad. I know it seems that it will not work, and that you might see the scratches, but you don't. The other thing to keep in mind is do not remove the plastic covering on the outside of the body. This will prevent paint from getting on the outside of the body.

PICTURE :10



After scuffing the body, I wash it again with soapy water. Here is where I wash the body. Nothing fancy, it's just the stationary tubs in the basement. If I splash and get some water on the floor, who cares, it's the basement. I also attach a hose to the faucet to allow me to rinse the body.

PICTURE  
11:



Now the body is ready for decals. Since we do a lot of rubbing at our track, I like to go with decals that go on the inside. I also tape off the windows and headlights at this time.

PICTURE  
12:



Since this is going to be a 2 color paint scheme, I mask off one of the colors. It's always a good idea to paint the darkest color first. Then work your way to the lightest color. If you do the reverse, there is a chance that the darker color might show through the lighter color. I get my decals from Graphic Results. I like them because when I tape over the decals, then pull the tape off, the decals stay on the body.

PICTURE  
13:



Here you see one of the colors is finished. I like to use FASCOLOR from Parma. It is a water based paint that is used with an air brush. The nice thing about this is clean up is easy because you use just soap and water. Also, there is no bad smell like with Pactra. I can paint in the basement and my wife does not mind.

PICTURE  
15:



Something I started last year was to paint my own headlights. A few years back I tried decals, but before the end of the year, they always started peeling off. The ones I paint on are just as durable as the rest of the paint. For the MC tail lights, I had a template for the black part of the lights. It was applied at the same time as the decals. Now its time to remove it.

PICTURE  
14:



Now the second color has been applied.

PICTURE  
16:



To get the red lights, I now apply masking tape cut in circles. I have templates for those as well.

PICTURE  
17:



Now, I peel the headlight masks off and mark where I want the amber part of the light to be. I then use an air brush and paint it. You can see that the grill has already been done. I did that when I did the black part of the tail lights.

PICTURE  
18:



Back tail lights with the black part painted and red mask in place.



"Quarter Scale Auto Club"  
[www.qsac.org](http://www.qsac.org)

PICTURE  
19:



Back to the front, I finish off the headlights by spraying them silver.

PICTURE  
20:



Once all the paint is dry, I take the body outside, and back it with Pactra white. This will do 2 things. First it will protect the inside of the body from fuel and exhaust. And second, I think the white seems to brighten up the colors. Once this paint is dry, I attach the spoiler and remove window masks, and the shrink wrap from the outside of the body. Here is the final result.