

Rustbuster Epoxy Mastic 121

An effective way to protect bare metal after restoration

I recently bought a product I was really impressed with; Rustbuster's Epoxy Mastic 121. During my front end restoration on my Range Rover Classic, I knew I'd need to protect the metal after the weld repairs, and Epoxy Mastic 121 seemed to offer the best solution, as well as having come out best in a number of classic car press tests.

You can read Rustbuster's website (www.rust.co.uk) for the full-on technical lowdown, but basically, Epoxy Mastic 121 is a two pack paint that you mix yourself, then thin down to suit how you're applying it - either brush, roller, or spray gun for a flat finish. What is special is the way it works. Unlike popular (single pack) paints that aren't flexible enough to reach every tiny nick, pit and scratch on metal, the construction of Epoxy Mastic 121 means it has a much lower surface tension, so flows into everywhere. The difference of course is that conventional paint leaves 'voids', in which corrosion can start, spread, and then cause the paint to flake off, spreading further. Epoxy Mastic 121 prevents this, and in addition, has a thicker final film thickness, which also helps protect the metal underneath. It sets iron hard, but yet will still flex as the base metal does, and resists salt water, oils and mechanical damage.

To use it, you need bare metal, cleaned ideally with a mechanical wire wheel to remove rust back to pitted steel. Next you degrease the surface with a panel wipe - though I used thinners on a wipe - and you're ready to mix the paint. It comes in three parts; Part A (base colour), Part B (hardener), and some epoxy thinners. Mix equal parts of A and B well, then leave to stand for 10 minutes; Thin down to suit your application method, and apply. I used a normal two inch brush, and a little went a surprisingly long way. Imagine painting with thick engine oil, and you're not far off.

The Epoxy Mastic really does set like iron, and I'm a real fan of what it offers. I gave it two coats, with the first still tacky when I applied the second, and left it to harden, before seam sealing. You can prime and paint over the top, or leave it as is, though I simply coated it all with Dinitrol.

I've since used Epoxy Mastic 121 on my radius arms, and I'm about to use it on my axle cases. If you want possibly the best protection to steel components, I'd definitely suggest you check it out for yourself, to my mind, it really does a great job.

Reviewer Alisdair Cusick

Price £26.59 ex VAT

What we liked Simple to use, very effective, attractive final appearance

What we did not like Judging the right quantity at first

Website www.rust.co.uk

Rating 5/5

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