

Custom FX

GENERAL BUILD INSTRUCTIONS FOR MOST KITS

#1 Please read all instructions fully, work carefully and slowly is my best advice!! This worksheet is a general build overview for most of the cars in my range. I do carry all parts if you do make any mistakes! Please contact me if you need further build pictures or advice. Any special tools or equipment can be supplied or supplier details given out.

#2 One of the most important jobs to do first is to check body to chassis fit, have your chassis ready with the wheels and tyres you intend to run. Before doing a dummy build, its best to remove all excess moulding flashing from the body, a Dremel or similar hobby drill/grinder will make short work of this. Pay special attention to the mounting tabs if fitted, quite often the mould can become weak around this area thus making a build up of resin, sometimes these may look like “bubbles”, remove all excess around this area and check for fit on chassis, some of my designs for the Aurora 4-gear or speciality chassis run a new style mounting tab instead of the more common front body post, these square tabs fit into the side cut outs of the chassis, make sure the squares have all sides cleaned up so they snap fit into these cut outs, bodies with the body post style mounting will need drilling out to accept a t-jet sized mounting screw, I recommend starting with a smaller 1.0mm drill and work up to around 1.5-1.6mm depending on the size of the screw you use. Bodies which run an independent body clip will need the clip de-flashing first, remove all excess material so a nice snap fit is achieved, check the body side tabs are also clean of any excess material and remove where necessary, now check body on the chassis clip. You may find painting it black once finished adds to a nicer look so its not so noticeable when looking in through the cockpit or side windows.

#3 At this time as well, check you have the required stance and clearance you need, sometimes it maybe necessary to push on the wheels slightly further in toward the chassis for a better look, in the case of Tomy wheels simply removing the axle shoulders on the wheels allows them to be moved in further. My custom range of aluminium wheels provides the maximum clearance as these are the width of the tyres only. Check you have the wheels running freely in the arches of your body, sometimes some slight clearance work maybe required to achieve this, use a Dremel or similar hobby grinder in the wheel wells.

#4 Now check window/screen glass for fit. Vacuum formed one piece clear screens may require small “nicks” around the window posts (front and/or rear) as this helps the glass fit and bend into place, on some models it maybe beneficial to cut the glass sections out separately front and rear for a better fit, some models come with out side windows but if you wish to add them cut from clear flat plastic (often provided with kit if its required) Most kits come with a resin window option, these just require de-flashing and dummy fitting prior to any painting (black normally being the best colour).

#5 Next prepare any additional body parts such as spoilers, exhausts, bumpers, door mirrors etc, as before, remove all excess material flashing and dummy check each component for correct fit in its location, if its intended they are to be painted the same colour as the main body they can be glued on at this time, I would recommend superglue if a model is intended for display purposes only, if your going racing, I would use the same but add a little 2-part epoxy resin for some extra support.

#6 The body can now be checked and prepared for paint, any small blemishes or air bubbles left in the body can be filled with a model putty or filler such as Squadron brand, leave to dry and smooth back with 1000 grade paper. Any moulding/casting lines can also be rubbed out at this point, again using 1000 grade paper. Use a cream cleaner to “etch” the body ready for its first coat of primer, I use Tamiya XF-2 flat white acrylic. At this point I would say a nice quality airbrush will always give the best results, a budget Badger airbrush is more than adequate for the job these can easily be found at your local hobby store or off internet auction sites. Hold the body in a multi arm hobby tool or something similar in which the body can be held steady, apply coats of paint in light even layers, try and avoid any paint build up. Leave primer to dry and check body for paint runs and general overall application, any high spots can be removed with 1000 grade paper or buff out with a light grade scotch pad. Once satisfied with the primed finish, you can let it have it with the gloss colour of your choice, again I personally use Tamiya X range of gloss acrylics.

#7 With the paint fully dry and hardened you can now apply any decals required, use any of the reference photos on the website for guidance. In the Custom-FX range there are two main types of decal, Laser and Silkscreen printed. Laser printed is a budget orientated range of waterslide decals, these benefit by clear coating with a lacquer first (such as Tamiya X-22 clear) to seal the print on prior to cutting out and fitting. Laser decals require cutting out as close to the logo/stripe etc as possible, then dip in water for a few seconds, the transfer is then ready to slide off in around 30 seconds, apply to body with tweezers or VERY carefully by hand, dry off by dabbing with a tissue or lint free cloth, be careful not to displace the decal from its intended location, If the decal requires conforming to any uneven surfaces or curves in the body, use Microsol or any equivalent decal softener for this purpose. With all decals fitted and body dry, apply a final gloss clear coat to seal and finish and allow to dry.

#8 Any detail parts such as bumpers, grills, door mirrors etc can be painted and added now, also any detail paintwork such as door pillars, side trims, door handles, exhausts etc can be done, use a fine thin detailing paint brush for this job, again, use any reference pictures of the cars on the Custom-FX website if required.

#9 Now fit any windshield/cockpit canopies, if you use the clear vacuum formed pieces, use a pva type clear drying, or any specialist non fogging glue for this, use a small amount to secure in the inside roof area. If a resin part is used, simply superglue into the inside of the roof section.

#10 With all parts dry, fit the body to the chassis, your model is now ready to display or race, well done!!!!

#11 Please remember, this is just a ball park guide, any specific steps go to the build guide specific to your model, if its not posted yet, please feel free to email me.