

OPENING THOSE PESKY PAINT BOTTLES

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If you're like me, you've got a large collection of partially filled paint bottles left over from previous modeling projects. If you were careful when you last used a particular color, and wiped down the lip of the bottle and the threads of the cap with a paper towel wet with thinner, you probably won't have too much of a problem getting the paint bottle open again. Alas, how many of us do that? What you will likely run into is a bottle whose lid won't budge no matter what you do because you were careless in the clean up process before storing it away. Here's how to fix the situation and keep things moving along.

First, invert the bottle and stand it upright on your work bench. Next, using an appropriate thinner for the type of paint inside the bottle flow a little thinner (a medicine dropper works well for this) into the opening around the bottle and its cap. Let the bottle sit undisturbed for about 15 -20 minutes as the thinner works its way in and softens up the hardened paint. Usually, the cap will come off readily with a minimum of manual effort after this one application of thinner. If not, some extra leverage will be needed in the form of a large pair of pliers. It's a good idea to wrap the cap with masking or plumber's tape so that the pliers grip better when you apply pressure. Also, don't grip the pliers so tight that the bottle shatters if it's made of glass. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. (wear goggles over your eyes and gloves on your hands - Tailspin Editor).