

# LIGHTWEIGHT AIRBRUSHED SILVER FINISH

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For many years, I've been trying to achieve (to me) acceptable silver finish for small models. After some fits and starts, here is what appears to work for me.

The technique is an old one (I believe I saw it first described in an old issue of *Model Builder*) that, due to fear of failure, I've never tried before. Basically, it involves the following steps: an airbrush equipped with the largest nozzle, a compressor running at 25 psi, Deft brushing lacquer, lacquer thinner, aluminum powder, and **a 3M respirator intended for use in spray-painting applications**. The reason for the emphasis will become apparent in a moment.

1. In a 1-ounce airbrush bottle, mix 60% thinner and 40% Deft brushing lacquer. This mix is then fogged on the parts of the model (distance of airbrush to model ~12").
2. After donning the respirator open the bottle of aluminum powder (which is ground so finely that some of it will rise like smoke; hence the respirator) add ~1/4 to 1/3 teaspoon of powdered aluminum to 1 teaspoon or so of the 60/40 mix, and top off the bottle with thinner.
3. Fog one coat of this mix onto the model. A word of caution here: When wet, the mix appears to be virtually transparent; the silver **"comes out" as the coating dries**.