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## How To Customize Your Kicks with Angelus Sneaker Paint

This information was compiled from my personal experience, along with the most in depth online guides, like the Wonder Guide, and more from NikeSB.org and Sole Collector

## Materials Needed:

- » Fresh pair of kicks (new or old, but preferably new.)
- » Angelus Leather Sneaker Paint
- » Alcohol
- » Acetone
- » Lots of Cotton Balls
- » Paint Brush(es) You need at least a medium shader brush for acrylic paint - although I would suggest a fine, medium and broad brush. Just ask the dude at your local store where to find them, they should definitely know where to find them.
- » Optional: Duller, Masking Tape, Finish Coat. Duller is mixed in with your paint to dull the shine/gloss. Masking tape is great for well, masking. And Finish Coat is an added protector as well as being used by some to either dull or gloss your final product.

## Step 1: Get It Prepped.

Like most things in life, preparation will usually determine your success, and with sneaker painting that could not be more true.

First, run your finger across the leather so you can get a feel for what it is like before the waxy finish is removed. Then hold the sneaker up real close to your face, check out the very subtle texture on the leather - that is the waxy film, you want that gone.

Start off by putting on some gloves because Acetone may not seem harmful since ladies use it for taking their polish off, but believe me it is an irritant and it is potent.

Please don't sniff it either, I did and I had a headache for hours. Please don't ask what possessed me to sniff it - I was just curious to see if it was true how potent they said it was on all the How-to's - they were right.

So now we are getting started, get that Acetone on a cotton ball, you are going to go through crazy amounts of cotton balls - about 30-50. What I do to save my cotton is use one side and flip it over once I am ready to change. You will be changing often believe that!

So get your hand inside that sneaker and start rubbing away at that Leather. Once you begin to see some film on the cotton ball, kind of like a white/light grey waxy layer that makes the cotton ball fuzzless, it is time to change. Either flip the cotton ball over or grab a new one. And keep pushing.

Please look at your cotton often, this is not the part of the customizing process that you want to sleep on.

Do this until you've gotten around the entire sneaker.

What are you looking for to know that the sneaker is "prepped" for painting, a few things that could tell you that, not all happen all the time. First, if the leather looks greyish, it is very ready although getting to this point is not always necessary, the leather is less waxy or slippery, when you run your finger on it meets a bit more resistance (this one is a tough one because the truth it is still pretty smooth) and finally if you put the shoe up to your face and it looks smooth no longer having that texture it had before you prepped then it is ready.

## Step 2: Painting

I will assume you already have an idea in mind or you put something together in Photoshop way before you started this.

So here is the bottomline. Paint, let dry, paint, let dry, paint, let dry some more. And possibly, paint and let dry again.

Na, there is more to it than that:

Paint in thin layers, you won't get it painted in one coat so don't try. your paint will look blotchy and uneven, no worries, this is perfectly normal. After your second coat it should look better, but maybe still a bit blotchy.

After each coat, let the paint dry for about 30-45 minutes, to be completely sure that the paint has dried and has bonded to the Leather, wait 1 hour. You are hungry from all that scrubbing, grab a sandwich and pop in that Just For Kicks Documentary - so what if you already watched it 40 times yesterday. Now get back to your kicks and repeat this process another two to three times - you will know when they are ready because the paint will not look blotchy anymore.

Clean your brush everytime you change from one color to another. You can use brush cleaning solution if you wish, but water should do as long as the brush has not been sitting out for a while.

Yes, you can paint the midsoles, but it is not recommended if you plan on rocking these on the regular. You can paint them with Angelus Paint but I would predict that eventually they will crack or peel. What you can do to prolong the duration is 1) apply some form of varnish and 2) walk very slowly and carefully.

After your final coat of paint, once you think you can lace these bad boys up and rock 'em, I hate to break it to you, but you have to wait. This masterpiece will need to sit for at least 24 hours. During this period the Leather and the paint become one in a process called "Curing."

## Step 3: Finish (Optional)

And finally those grueling 24 hours are over, I know you went back and looked at your work at least every hour on the hour, and now you can add a Finish Coat if you desire.

Angelus Sneaker Paint is waterproof, but added protection never hurt anyone. Finishes are also used to give the shoe a matte or glossy/Patent Leather look.

For more details on special techniques like splattering paint, alligator skin, glow in the dark pigment and more check out the Guides we mentioned above. They are worthy of being read by anyone aspiring to customize kicks whether as a hobby or a business.

For Sneaker templates to work with either by hand or in Photoshop, [click here](#).