

Progressive Engineering Solutions Limited's "Sphere" Line of Paint Racks

by John Kaylor

As many of you can relate, the window ledge in front of my modeling workstation was covered end-to-end with Tamiya paint bottles. Actually opening the window took several minutes of reorganization, so I was looking for a good solution to my space problems. Progressive Engineering's paint rack was the perfect answer.

I was looking for a rack with at least two levels, because I envisioned my paints taking up just a corner of my 2x4 foot work table. Progressive's rack was just the ticket. Its profile is around the same as a legal-sized piece of paper (15.75" L x 6.9" W x 6.75"H), and holds 81 Tamiya 23ml paint bottles and 12 brushes (available in other paint varieties—listed to the right.)

The rack comes all-inclusive, including the only tool required for its assembly: an Allen wrench. The kit includes six laser-cut pieces of MDF, and twelve screws and associated nuts. Its assembly took me around twenty minutes, most of which was perhaps justifiable caution in sliding the very tightly fitting pieces together, and turning nuts so that the sides slipped into their slots, which would have been much easier had I merely used some tweezers or needle-nose pliers.

Because the rack is made of MDF, and because the large number of bottles doesn't leave a lot of "meat" in two of the pieces, and because the laser-cutting process makes the assembly quite tight fitting, it is wise to take your time slipping the pieces together. Once together, the unit is extremely sturdy.



The rack comes stock for the following paint varieties:

- Andrea/Vallejo
- Foundry/Humbrol
- Tamiya 10ml/old GW
- New style GW tapered
- Model Masters/Testors
- Tamiya 23ml

Large Paint Rack Specifications (mm)								
Paint Type	Capacity	Hole Size	W	D	H	d1	d2	d3
Foundry	81	31	375	160	181	31	100	31
Vallejo	89	27.5	375	160	191	36	100	36
Tamiya	81	35.5	400	175	172	26	100	26
New GW	81	33	385	175	162	21	100	21

My wife, Kris, was interested in one of these racks for some of her craft tools, so I wrote to Jon Page at Progressive, and he gave me the following chart (see below) of bottle dimensions, and told her to send him the dimensions of her product if any of these did not suffice, and he would make a custom layout for her, which opens up possibilities further for interested individuals with eclectic varieties of paints or other supplies (his web page advertises custom laser-cutting work.)

I only had two issues with the product. First was that due to variations in the diameter of Tamiya bottles, sometimes the fit is just a tiny bit snug. The other thing is that the paint names are

obscured by the shelves, which is easily remedied by writing the name of the paint on a piece of tape and affixing to the top of the bottles.

Progressive has many modeling products (boxes for transporting models, workstations, vises, racks and holders, etc.), and I'm sure that all of these are of the same high production quality.

Orders placed from their web site (which takes PayPal) include shipping to the States in the price.

RATING: ★★★★★

COST: \$67 includes shipping



<http://www.progeng.co.uk/paint-racks>