

## Using Mr. Surfacer as a Primer and Filler



Mr. Surfacer 500 and 1000 from Gunze Sangyo can fill a number of rolls during a models construction—

Modelers are always looking for a product or tool that will improve the finished look of their model while eliminating construction time and headaches. At least for me filling seams and priming model aircraft has always been a real pain in the a\*\*\*. After reading a couple of online articles touting the attributes of Mr. Surfacer I decided to give it a try.

Gunze Sangyo's Mr. Surfacer is a primer, that's available in both spray can and bottle. What is Mr. Surfacer? It is a thin filler, almost the consistency of paint. It works great for filling small gaps, seams and scratches. It is easy to apply and quickly dries to a smooth surface without bubbles.

It comes in bottles in four grades, #500 (the thickest formula), #1000 in gray and white and a new #1200 that is currently available only in a spray can.

### As a Filler

The #500 grade is great for filling small seams, ejection pin marks and flaws on the model surface. I apply it using a paintbrush and thin it if necessary using Gunze Sangyo Mr. Thinner. Once it has dried you can sand the surface. Mr. Surfacer can be sanded to a very fine, feathered edge. If you are filling a seam like a wing root or canopy frame you can remove Mr. Surfacer using a Q-tip and a small amount of the Gunze Sangyo thinner. This method provides a great transition fill without removing any detail plus the thinner does not attack the plastic.

This brings me to the only disadvantages. It isn't intended to fill large gaps. Because it is so thin when compared to putties it tends to shrink. I may apply two or three coats to fill a seam. For large gaps I will use super glue and finish the fill with Mr. Surfacer. It may be an extra step but the product's lack of bubbles and fast drying time more than make up for the extra step.

### As a Primer

Mr. Surfacer #1000 makes a GREAT primer. It can be thinned with Gunze Sangyo thinner, or as I have used, Dio Sol, and airbrushed (If you don't have an airbrush, it also comes in a spray cans).

Using it as a primer the first time is an interesting experience. I prefer Dio Sol because it really etches the primer to the surface of the model. For airbrushing I thin the Mr. Surfacer #1000 with Dio Sol in a 50/50 mix. I apply the mixture with a number of coats misted over the model at approximately 15-psi. It blends perfectly with any areas you have used the Mr. Surfacer #500 to fill and provides an even finished primer coat on the model. It takes very little time to dry and the primer allows every detail to show, but it fills any small sanding scratches that remain.

Now for the cool part...once the primer has dried it can be polished to almost a gloss finish using a soft cotton cloth. This provides an even surface to apply different shades of paint and works well as an undercoat for Alclad natural metal finished aircraft. I have actually tinted the Mr. Surfacer with Gunze Sangyo colors that providing aircraft panel demarcation when it is over-sprayed with the final finished color.

Mr. Surfacer #1200 (gray): Currently only available in a spray can -- smoothest finish of the Gunze primers.

Mr. Surfacer #1000 (white): A great base for colorful, brightly finished aircraft or cars. Comes in either bottle or spray can.

Mr. Surfacer #1000 (gray): Comes in a bottle or spray can.

Mr. Surfacer 500 (gray): Also comes in a bottle or spray can form. The "500" means it's rougher and thicker than the 1000 or 1200, which makes it more useful for filling small pinholes, cracks, and other anomalies.

Mr. Resin Primer: Special formulation of primer used in priming resin kits. Comes in a bottle.