

Seventy-Five Years of Olive Drab 1900-1975



Seventy-Five Years of Olive Drab

- History
- Factors Impacting Color
- What Paint to Use?
- References

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○ History

- 1900-1920
 - OD was a combination of orange oxide and charcoal black - produced wide variations in color
 - Paint mixed and applied at unit-level
 - Tactical vehicles – lusterless OD
 - Admin vehicles – gloss OD

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○ History (Cont)

- Inter-war Years

- QM Corps adopted QM #22 as standard vehicle color
- Tactical vehicles – lusterless OD
- Admin vehicles – gloss OD
- 1928 QM Corps authorized application of spar varnish to achieve gloss finish
- Early 1941 – all vehicles painted in lusterless OD

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○ History (Cont)

- World War II
 - USA Engineers adopted Color #9 as standard vehicle color
 - Paint applied at factory or by Ordnance or Engineer Camouflage units
 - Late war vehicles were darker due to changes in formulation process
 - Camouflage – temperate, desert and artic

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History (Cont)

- Korea thru Cold War
 - 1950 - TT-C-595 created OD 3412
 - 1956 – Federal Standard (FS) 595 – created FS34087
 - 1960 – FS595 Addendum 2 – FSX34087 lighter and yellower than previous FS34087
 - 1968 – FS595A – FS34087 lighter and browner than FSX34087

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◉ Factors Impacting Color

- Manufacturing
 - Manufacturing processes
 - Adherence to standards
- Application
 - Factory
 - Ordnance & Engineer Units
 - Field

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- Factors Impacting Color (Cont)
 - Environmental



- Scale Effect
 - Scientific vs Artistic

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What Paint to Use?



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○ References:

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Seventy-Five Years of Olive Drab Questions?

