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TAUTFLEX - for SLK Benz interiors

TautFlex has successfully been used to repair and repaint entire areas including consoles and dashboards on the SLK Benz interior. The models include SLK 230, SLK 200, SLK 320, SLK AMG 32 all with the same body code - R 170.

TautFlex is a water based paint that is easy to use and has excellent adhesion to most plastic and leather surfaces. It has been formulated in standard Benz colours, to dry to a matt finish to closely match the surface finish in the SLK Benz.

TautFlex is available in 200 mL bottles in the following Benz colours

- Siam Beige 215
- Marlin Blue 212
- Crimson 217
- Leather Sand 225 (sometimes called sienna beige, oyster)
- Scarlet 227 (sometimes called Salsa Red)
- Anthracite 221
- Mondria Blue 222
- Anthracite 211A

You can check your exact colour by putting your VIN into

<http://www.neoriginal.ru/cat/mb/>

or

www.mbclub.ru/mb/vin/index.html?lng=eng

or

<http://www.decodethis.com/list/Mercedes+Benz>

PREPARATION OF SURFACE

Cleaning is vital!!!

1. Any rough edges of the peeling parts can be sanded with a fine wet and dry paper. The paint edges will wet sand smooth, even though of a rubbery texture. Use about 600-800grit.
2. Thoroughly clean the surface with a non-abrasive liquid cleaner and wipe off with a damp clean towel.
3. Wipe the surface with alcohol (methylated spirits) – then do not touch any further.

APPLICATION

Thoroughly stir the paint until all the pigment that has settled on the bottom has mixed back in. Shaking the bottle may cause bubbles. Allow these to disappear before using.

First, spot paint the chipped areas using a very small brush to fill the holes to the level of the original paint. Build the level up using thin coats and allow to dry between coats. When dry, paint the whole surface or just blend in using the 'stippling' method (as described below).

Use a **soft** bristle brush ($\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch, depending on the job) and apply two **thin** coats. Apply more coats if required. Do not apply heavy coats or the paint may sag and run. Allow 2 hours between coats.

Do not apply if the temperature is below 10°C (52°F). Use a blow dryer (eg hair dryer) to reduce drying times.

Some streaking may occur using the brush but can be rectified by 'stippling' - dabbing gently with a small pad of toweling or sponge with not too much paint. Ensure the cloth is lint free. This gives a slight texture and emulates a sprayed finish.

2-3 light coats will produce a perfect finish when blending into existing paint.

PAINTING A WHOLE PANEL.

Use a microfiber cloth or toweling to wipe on (watch the lint). Alternatively, use a soft bristle paint brush. It is easiest to apply TautFlex using this technique if painting the whole panel or whole dash and console. This will take about 90 mins to prepare, mask and paint. When wiping paint on, it is important to allow adequate drying time before applying the next coat (minimum 2 hours), otherwise the first coat may rub off. Use a blow dryer to reduce drying times.

Whilst paint dries after a few minutes, allow 24 hrs for full shrinkage and cure. The entire job should take no more than 45 mins for a reasonable touch up and 90 mins for 1 fresh coat over everything except the speedo panel (this takes a little longer to remove but is well worth it). A fresh coat over the padded vinyl lid will revitalize the finish and give a perfect match.

TautFlex can be recoated with itself at any time. Just ensure the surface is clean.

STORAGE -Paint has a shelf life of about 3 yrs+ if stored in an airtight bottle with minimum air space and temperature extremes are eliminated. Do not allow the product to freeze.