

How to... paint your brake calipers

Basically the whole process is quite easy, provided you know how to change a wheel! It is strictly a styling mod and does not affect the performance of the brakes. The choice of the colour varies with the likes of each person. You can choose a matching colour with the Pug's body or a contrasting colour. Most common colours are red, black and silver.

There are specific paints in the market which are said to tolerate high temperatures, however their price is more than double that of a normal paint.

I have used a normal paint on my calipers and still they look freshly painted. Be sure to buy a water proof paint suitable for metal!

THE LOWDOWN

Tools:

- paint
- thin brush for the paint
- sand paper for metal
- small brush to remove dust
- a newspaper
- tape



BEFORE



AFTER

Firstly you chose a level ground for better support of the Pug. Then you should loosen up the bolts of the wheel to avoid trying hard when the Pug has been lifted up, endangering in this way the balance of the car.

Once you have lifted up the Pug you can start to remove the bolts and the wheel.



Put your newspaper under the caliper to avoid any stains on the ground. With the use of the brush remove any dust from the calipers.

Get the sandpaper and cut it into small pieces so that you can work better on the difficult areas. Then start smoothing the caliper and removing any dust. In this way you will ensure that the paint has a good contact with the metal and therefore it will not peel off in the short run.



Once you are satisfied with the result wipe off any dust from the calipers with the brush and start covering any parts other than the caliper to avoid painting them too! This procedure should be much more detailed if you are going to use a spray instead of a brush. Once the caliper is clean and the parts surrounding it are covered with tape you can start painting.



The paint applied should be thick for better look.

You can put 3-4 layers of paint to achieve the desired look however be patient so that each layer can dry before the next one is applied. If you do not wait you will notice that you will not be able to work your brush properly.

Be sure to have plenty of time in front of you because you are going to do this only once. Once the last layer of the paint has dried you can place back the wheel and the bolts. You can also put the wheel back before the paint dries but there is always the danger of touching the caliper and messing up the result. Offcourse this will depend on the size of the caliper and your wheel.

Note

Once you are finished with the painting process you should give some time to the paint to dry. To quick up the process you can use a hairdryer. Once the wheels are fitted back, the Pug is driveable. However do not touch the paint to check if it has dried completely because this may take even up to two days. For example if you press it you will mess up its smooth look by leaving your fingerprints. The time required for the paint to dry completely will depend on the weather conditions and the thickness of the paint.