

Working with blank Sidekick shells

We recommend that you use only blank Sidekick shells for Do It Yourself (DIY) projects. Finished shells are treated with a UV coating that will not give the best results.

To order blank shells, go to http://sidekickshells.skinit.com/blank_shells.php. Then just fill in the quantities you want for each of the colors available (black, white, pink), and complete the checkout process.

Here are some tips and application methods for working with blank, non-uv coated shells.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN: Shells should be removed from the device before you modify them. Keep your device in a safe place away from your project.

These guidelines are for SHELLS ONLY. Painting or modification of your Sidekick in any way other than shells will void your warranty.

Caution:

Modifying the shell by cutting, drilling, or otherwise changing the physical structure could compromise the integrity of your Sidekick and may not adequately protect your device.

For Best Results:

1. Use only blank, non-uv coated shells ordered from http://sidekickshells.skinit.com/blank_shells.php
2. Lightly “sand” the shell with a slightly damp Scotch-Brite pad to prepare the surface for treatment. We do not recommend that you use sandpaper (of any grit level), as it will leave deep gashes in the plastic.
3. Ensure that the shell is completely dry before starting any DIY project.
4. Read and comply with all safety precautions listed on materials being used.
5. Use Rust-Oleum Crystal Clear Enamel as both a base and top coat.
6. If painting, ensure that previous coat has dried before applying top coat.
7. Ensure that the camera portal and microphone hole are clear and unobstructed before installing shells on your Sidekick.
8. If hot glue is required, use only Hi-Temp (this is recommended for spot attachment and not for large surfaces). Super glue is preferred.

Recommended for DIY projects (available at craft/hobby stores):

1. Model paint: Testors Enamel Model Paints
2. Automotive touch-up paint and paint pens
3. Sharpie markers
4. Spray Paint:
 - a. Krylon “Fusion Spray Paint for Plastic” make a great base coat.
 - b. Textured spray paints (i.e. hammered metal, “make it stone”).
 - c. Specialty spray paints (i.e. chalkboard paint).
5. Decoupage
 - a. Use acrylic-based “US Art Quest Perfect Paper Adhesive” on top of a coat of Rust-Oleum Crystal Clear Enamel to “paper” your shell with your favorite Sunday cartoons or magazine images.
 - b. Take special care to ensure that paper does not wrinkle on the curves (see attached

- template for help in sizing your design).
- c. Use Crystal Clear top coat once the adhesive has dried, to seal your design.
6. “Wrapping”
- a. Cut your favorite fabric to size using the enclosed template.
 - b. Use a 2” sponge brush to apply a coat of 2-part epoxy (the syringe type available at hardware stores).
 - c. Carefully line up and place the fabric onto the shell, hold tightly in place for 60 seconds until set.
 - d. Use super glue to attach any edges that may not have fully adhered.

Not recommended for DIY projects:

1. Water-based media.
2. Anything metallic, as it will interfere with the RF performance for your Sidekick.
3. Hot Glue- if necessary, a small amount of High-Temp hot glue may be used (but superglue will hold better).
4. Non-coated finished goods. You should always “seal” your device with 1-2 coats of Rust-Oleum Crystal Clear Enamel. This will ensure the long-term durability of your unique design.