

# What white should I pick?

There are a large number of whites available from Thompson Enamels, so how do you go about choosing the one that will work for your piece.

The first thing you will notice in looking at a list of the whites is the division between low acid resistance and high acid resistance. **Low acid resistance** means that if you put it in an acid solution it will tend to mat the surface. This might be a good thing for your project. If not, you would need to avoid placing your piece in acid. **High acid resistance** means that the enamel will not be affected by a mild acid or pickle.

## Low Acid Resistant Whites

**1006** this is a low expansion white used as the base coat for the crackle technique when Liquid Form Water Base enamels are used for a second coat.

**1010** This white is called undercoat white and as its name implies it makes an ideal base coat for other enamels especially transparents. It has a high softening point as well as high expansion. It has good opacity, excellent gloss and surface. It can be used as a base coat white where acid resistance is not required. It was sold for years as 621-A.

## High Acid Resistant Whites

**1020** A very opaque titanium white with excellent covering power, gloss and surface. This is the white that is used on the white steel tiles. Since its expansion is on the low side, only thin coats of other colors should be applied over it. If you are not careful, you will get a look of white bubbling up through the color on top, very interesting, but a real problem if it is not what you were looking for. It can also be used as a base for the crackle technique. As a standalone white it is spectacular.

**1030** This white has medium opacity. It is slightly translucent. It can be used as an undercoat and is acid resistant. When finely ground it can be used in the grisaille and camaïeu techniques.

**1040** This white is less opaque than 1030. It is translucent. It can be used as an undercoat and is acid resistant. It can be used over 1010 to obtain a surface with more visual depth. When finely ground it is suitable to be used in the grisaille technique, but will require more applications to build up the white than with 1030.

**1045** This white was developed for the bead making community. Normally used in 6/20 mesh, this white does not reduce or gray in a propane flame.

**1050** This mat white will fire normally. It glosses on the first firing and will grow mat white crystals with longer or more firings. It will texture greatly.

**1055** This white is very opaque and was developed for the badge making industry.

**1060** This white is very opaque and was also developed for the badge making industry.

[Link to Thompson Opaques](#)

## What black should I pick?

**1990** is technically a deep 'transparent' black. If applied thin or over-fired or ground thin and re-fired, it takes on a dark transparent blue look. This black is recommended as a base coat enamel for the grisaille technique.

**1995** is a very opaque black, but does not have the intensity or depth of black as 1990 or 1996.

**1996** is technically a deep 'transparent' black. If applied thin or over-fired or ground thin and re-fired, it takes on a dark transparent blue look.

**1997** is a low expansion opaque black used as a dark undercoat for the crackle technique when Liquid Form-Water Base enamels are used for the second coat. It may have a slight greenish look to the black.

**1998** is a soft black and softens sooner than the above blacks. It is not very acid resistant and may go mat in pickle.

**1980** is a bluish black with normal firing.

[Link to Thompson Opaques](#)