The lure we are working on is a 170mm Hard Bodied. First I wipe them down with iso-propyl alcohol and dried it off with a hair dryer. This prep has served me well over the years, you may sand with 600 grit, or apply a adhesion promoter such as Createx illustration Colors adhesion promoter or other brands of adhesion promoter.

Using an Iwata Neo TRN2 its now time to apply a few coats of Autoborne Sealer 6002 Black ( undercoat ), this I reduced by approx 20% with Auto-Air Colors High Performance Reducer. Take the time to dry between coats with a hair dryer, now I can work quickly to apply the colours without delay.

Still using my Neo TRN2 loaded with Wicked Colors Pearl Black, reduced with Auto-Air Colors High Performance Reducer x 10% to lay the paint down smooth, I applied two coats, drying between coats. You can see the shimmer from the pearl, for colours suitable after the sealer on your project you can use any of the following: Auto-Air Colors / Wicked Colors or Illustration Colors

After a quick clean using the TRN2 now loaded with Wicked Colors Gold Metallic reduced, psi set to 40 on the Iwata Powerjet Pro. Apply 2-3 coats on the top middle allowing the outside the spray pattern to feather naturally down the sides.

Still using the Iwata Neo TRN2 with the Wicked Gold Metallic, I am using one of the many stencils in the Auto-Air Colors Snax Fishing Lure Stencil set, it’s more like what you can’t do with these. I have taped off the scales section of the stencil so I can paint just the drop down scale pattern. From my experience due to the rounded nature of the lure, once you have put the stencil in place you need to give one coat and use just the air from the airbrush to surface dry then give it a heavier coat and that’s it, before you swap sides to do the opposite gill rakes read the next image post, its important! After the scales are painted with the gold still in the airbrush blend the top of the lure into the top portion of the scales so you eliminate the harsh lines of the stencil, this way the scales blend nicely into the top of the lure.

Snax stencils found www.airbrushmegastore.com / Solvent Proof Stencils / Auto-Air Stencils
Helpful Hint...

When using any of the stencils available on the website to create your custom art, you will notice that the paints being water-based will feel sticky to the touch in cool conditions or humidity after you have applied colour, before you turn the stencil over and have it stick to the other colours and transferring paint from stencil to lure this is the 30 second fix.
As you can see by the image I use a sheet of big wipes found in the spray accessories section on the website, I put a small amount of High Performance Reducer on it and wipe the last paint application off the stencil, takes less that 30 seconds to do and dry. Bonus is obvious, not only are you guaranteed a clean paintjob but now you can also see thru the stencil for accurate placement.
With card stock templates it will simply reduce paint build and assist with keeping the areas of the stencil open in smaller applications.

Same airbrush Iwata Neo TRN2 with the Wicked Gold Metallic, I am using the gills stencil in the Auto-Air Colors Snax Fishing Lure Stencil set.
I have taped off the around the gills section of the stencil so I can paint just the gill rakes pattern. Remember due to the rounded nature of the lure, once you have put the stencil in place you need to give one coat and use just the air from the airbrush to surface dry then give it a heavier coat and that’s it, multiple coats may blur the lines if you have moved the stencil which is easy to do.
Take your time with this part as the outcome of the gills and scales will determine your strike rate, believability is important also even to an ambush predator such as the mighty barramundi or palegics..

Going back to the Wicked Colors Pearl Black, I have now reduced it a bit further to go thru the Iwata Neo TRN.1 Trigger airbrush.
The TRN1 will give me control for more direct application, blending down from the gold scales down to the full bottom to erase the gold overspray, I want the pearl black to be bold against the gold for the classic barra lure similar to the gold bommer but with a twist.
All the paint applications have been painted one after the other as soon as the paint was dried, literally minutes apparr.
If you have small touch ups in awkward areas to get an airbrush in here is a fix.
Grab some KC 20 Post Sanding Cleaner from HOK and a cotton bud.
With the bud just damp your able to lightly erase overspray and that oops that stares you in the face, be warned through too much Cleaner or a heavy hand will see you find your way into another problem that is harder to fix, go slow ..
Clearcoat

For clearcoat I warmed the lure first due to the very low temperature I had to work in, some 6 degrees at night. Being a small application and for personal use I choose to use acrylic lacquer by Dupli-Color from super cheap auto’s. I have used this over Wicked Colors / Auto-Air Colors / AutoBorne Colors & Createx illustration Colors all with success. Being such a low ambient temp means the lure substrate temp is even lower, a recipe for disaster ONLY if the temp is low. A fan heater in the area certainly helps, I warmed the lure with a hair dryer first. Now apply a full light coat and dry with the hair dryer approx for approx 30 seconds. I then applied 3 more coats drying between getting slightly heavier each application. Now the last is your medium wet coat and be quick to dry, word of warning here. If you try for too wetter coats you may very well watch the surface react, happened to me on one lure I did ONLY in cold temps. The fix is to then only spray the effected area with continuos lighter coats until fully blended back in, then a medium coat and yes dry every coat and don’t push your luck any further..

When it comes to clearing your lures you may wish to google on you tube clearcoating fishing lures. There is may different ways depending on home use or for re-production sales. Two pack is popular... Acrylic Lacquer is slightly soft, your choice there are many ways.
PRODUCTS USED

- Autoborne Sealer
- Iwata Airbrushes
- Auto-Air Colors
- Snax Stencil Set

www.airbrushmegastore.com