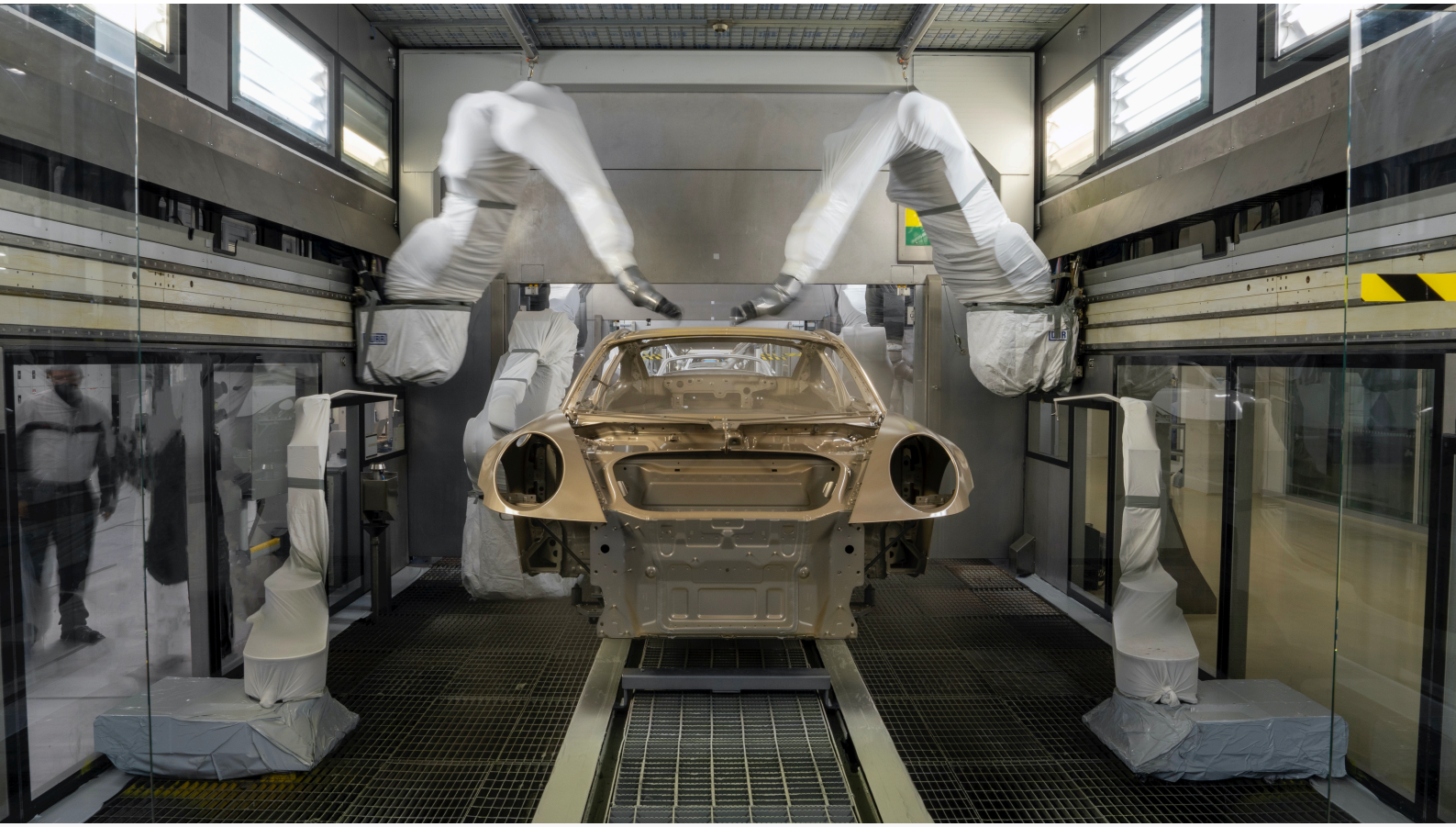


Golden Hour: the creation of a Paint-to-Sample 911 GT3

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25/03/2022 It is no small feat to craft a 911 – 1,500 workers touch each car during its two-day long assembly that starts with a shell and finishes by rolling off a line. Now, for the first time, a time lapse video shows the entire process, focusing on a very special 911 GT3, part of the Paint to Sample program.

With dozens of individual options to choose from, the range of possible combinations means seeing a pair of identical 911s is particularly rare. Color choice plays a large role in the customization. To meet increasing demand and improve ease of access for customers, the popular Paint to Sample program offered through Porsche Exclusive Manufaktur was updated in late 2021 to expand its capacity. The significant long-term investment from Porsche highlights the marque's commitment to building anyone's dream car. Including standard offerings on each model line, more than 160 pre-approved paint options are now available in the current catalog.

In the Zuffenhausen plant where the 911, 718 and Taycan model lines are assembled, an additional color mixing bank added capacity to complete more Paint to Sample configurations without slowing production. “In reaction to demand, we made a big step now and went from five cars a day to 20 cars a day, which means 120 cars per calendar week from Paint to Sample,” said Boris Apenbrink, Head of Vehicles at Porsche Exclusive Manufaktur.

In detail: creating a Paint to Sample Porsche

Prior to its 117-stage assembly, the 911 chassis has spent more than a day going through preparation in the body and paint shop. One of the challenges of painting vehicles and developing paint finishes is working with the material mix of the underlying components. A vehicle body already consists of several different steel and aluminum materials and can also include carbon fiber or polypropylene. Paint batches must suit all exterior features equally and produce the same color.

Before entering the paint shop, the body is degreased, given a phosphate coat and put through an electro-chemical process chiefly used for corrosion protection. During the coating process, the body is dipped into a basin, which is filled with electrophoretic dip paint and deionized water. To achieve optimal coverage of the body, it is rotated around its own axis in the basin.

From here a primer, base coat and clear coat are applied to the body and panels, with a standard color using about 4 liters of liquid application between the three stages. Primers are chosen based on final color; light colors require light primers, dark colors need dark primer. The base coat is the colored layer which delivers the requested hue and is only up to 30 micrometers thick. To put that into comparison, a standard piece of printer paper is around 100 micrometers.

The car's final layer, the clear coat, is its thickest and is sprayed between 30 to 50 micrometers, illustrating just how thin the individual paint coats are. The painted car is then dried at a maximum temperature of 392° Fahrenheit (200°Celcius) for more than two and a half hours. “A lot of customers want to underline their personality with their car and bring their flavor into the car concept,” said Apenbrink. “Nothing underlines personality as well as the car color because this is what tells the story.”

Standard, metallic and special colors are specifically defined in advance for each model line in the series and, in some cases, even for each derivative for each model year. The quantity of colors offered is determined by the number of storage tanks and paint supply lines within the paint shops at the production plants. For this reason, no more than 17 standard exterior colors can be offered from a purely technical standpoint for the 911.

With Paint to Sample, more than 100 additional pre-approved colors beyond the standard offering are available from the factory on a new 911 or 718. The Taycan, Cayenne, Panamera and Macan have more than 50 additional choices available. New hues can be considered as well via the Paint to Sample Plus program if a customer wants to take it a step further, a process that can color match almost any request as long as it passes a rigid feasibility test.

Paint to Sample Plus is currently only available on vehicles produced in Zuffenhausen – 911, 718, Taycan – and color development alone takes at least five months. Paint to Sample Plus offers the option for customers to permanently add another color to the Porsche color range. All customers who request a color for the first time and pay the additional price for the color development can consider themselves the creator of this color. The customer and color are recorded in the Porsche Color Database, and the color is added to the pre-approved options in the Paint to Sample program as quickly as possible so others may also order the newly created paint color. “You are building a bespoke car with individual craftsmanship processes behind it,” says Apenbrink. “You can have your bespoke color.”

The final customer

Leh Keen has done just about everything you can in a Porsche. The professional racer takes part in the Porsche Carrera Cup North America one-make series with the 311RS Motorsport team, broke an indoor land speed world record in a Taycan Turbo S, and has built dozens of off-road spec 911 sports cars for fellow thrill seekers through The Keen Project.

Until last year, however, he had never ordered a new Porsche from the factory for himself. Keen knew for his 2022 911 GT3 he'd be leaning heavily on the Paint to Sample options. “It's one of my favorite things, I'm obsessed with the different colors,” said Keen. “All these amazing colors that Porsche has done over the years. We really dig deep in the history of Porsche. I wanted to have this newest, modern 911 but then coated with a very classic old color,” said Keen of the decision. “I told a few people I was going to go gold. People thought it was risky, and it really reinforced my choice and I wanted to see how it would turn out. I think a lot of people couldn't quite picture the gold in their head,” remembers Keen. “At the dealership when they pulled the cover off of it, I was kind of stunned over how beautiful it was.”

Like Keen, Apenbrink has seen his fair share of Porsche shades come through the paint shop. Even he was enamored with Keen's GT3. “I love the choice of Goldbronzemetallic for this car,” said Apenbrink. “Until today, I can tell you this color had been only ordered 24 times, so it's really rare. Really special. Now it's the first time to have the color on the 992 model type which is very exciting as well.” Goldbronzemetallic is also available on the Macan and Panamera model lines through Paint to Sample, and Apenbrink would also love to see either vehicle take on the color.

About Paint to Sample and Paint to Sample Plus

Customers can specify Paint to Sample through their Porsche dealer. In the future, it will also be possible to visualize the extensive Paint to Sample color palette on the Porsche Car Configurator. Pricing depends on the model and variant. For unique color requests, Porsche Exclusive Manufaktur offers Paint to Sample Plus on all model lines except Cayenne. In these cases, the customer provides a color sample to their dealer that is sent to Porsche Exclusive Manufaktur in Stuttgart-Zuffenahusen and subjected to extensive quality and feasibility testing. The customer car is not finished in the bespoke color until feasibility testing – up to 11 months in certain cases – is complete. If the paint color is not

feasible, Porsche covers the cost of the feasibility study.

About Porsche Exclusive Manufaktur

A sports car as individual as your own fingerprint, as unmistakable as your own lifestyle: in an interplay of craftsmanship and attention to detail, Porsche Exclusive Manufaktur creates extremely personalized vehicles. Highly qualified employees with decades of expertise devote their full attention to every detail and enhance it through hand craftsmanship. The experts can draw on a wide range of visual and technical customization options for the exterior and interior. The highest standards are fulfilled with respect to material and finishing.

Alongside the individual customer vehicles, Porsche Exclusive Manufaktur also produces limited small series and editions. Here, high-quality materials are combined with modern production technologies to create a harmonious overall concept. Porsche dealers provide advice on the range and possibilities offered by Porsche Exclusive Manufaktur as the first point of contact alongside the online Car Configurator. Around 100 Exclusive Manufaktur partners are available to customers all over the world to help fulfill particularly individual wishes. These are Porsche dealers that are specially equipped and trained to provide advice on the Exclusive Manufaktur product range. In addition, advice is available for all models at the heart of the brand in Stuttgart-Zuffenhausen, in cooperation with the Porsche dealer and on the basis of a commission number. The main plant specializes in individual paint finishes: Werk 1 has the largest collection of Porsche color samples and sample vehicles painted in Paint to Sample.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES



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Consumption data

911 GT3 (Predecessor model)

*Further information on the official fuel consumption and the official specific CO_2 emissions of new passenger cars can be found in the "Leitfaden über den Kraftstoffverbrauch, die CO_2-Emissionen und den Stromverbrauch neuer Personenkraftwagen" (Fuel Consumption, CO_2Emissions and Electricity Consumption Guide for New Passenger Cars), which is available free of charge at all sales outlets and from DAT (Deutsche Automobil Treuhand GmbH, Helmuth-Hirth-Str. 1, 73760 Ostfildern-Scharnhausen, www.dat.de).

Video

https://newstv.porsche.com/porschevideos/207169_en_3000000.mp4

Link Collection

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