

Using The Right Mix, Give Or Take A Micron



Photographs by Tony Centicola/The New York Times



Naum Kazhdan/The New York Times

CONNOISSEURS will argue about the proper size (in microns) of the hand-ground pigment in their custom paints, but most people just pick up the Benjamin Moore. Somewhere in between are the commercial luxury paints, like C2 Paints of Buffalo or **FINE PAINTS OF EUROPE**, which offers formulations from Schreuder, a Dutch company that makes paint for Martha Stewart's premium line. The high-pigment Schreuder enamels (far right) can make a door look "like the fender on a Mercedes," said John Lahey, founder of the company. A kit with materials to paint that door is \$75, including delivery; specialized brushes, center right, cost \$24 to \$80; www.finepaints.com or (800) 332-1556. The brush shaped like a hockey stick (\$19.69) and the five-inch Bison brush, bottom left, (\$26.79) are both from Janovic Plaza, the New York-based chain.

FARROW & BALL has headquarters in Dorset, England, and a new showroom in New York, at 979 Third Avenue. Here are dead-flat oils (\$75 a gallon, plus shipping) in such traditional shades as Arsenic, Pigeon, Mouse's Back (a

gray) and the now famous Dead Salmon, seen in the Farrow & Ball can above; (888) 511-1121 or www.farrow-ball.com.

Agnes Emery, the Belgian architect, stocks modern milk paints (a blend of casein and acrylic), satisfying the discerning traditionalists who congregate at her Paris shop, **EMERY & CIE**. Chips of its 81 subtle colors are available by mail (\$17); 2.2-pound cans of paint (\$16.90) cover 75 square feet; 29 Faubourg St.-Antoine (011) 33-1-44-87-02-02.

Old fences and outbuildings might welcome Simulated Whitewash No. 1600, available from **OLD VILLAGE PAINT** of Fort Washington, Pa., for \$47.95 a gallon; (610) 238-9001.

The American colorist Donald Kaufman sells precisely formulated Color Concentrate pigment (\$30 to \$41), which can be added to a gallon of base paint. Premixed liquid gallons from the **DONALD KAUFMAN COLOR COLLECTION** are \$57.45 to \$81.95, depending on shade and finish,

through the Color Factory in Englewood, N.J.; (201) 568-2226.

Do-it-yourselfers buy raw pigments, above left, at places like **GUERRA PAINT & PIGMENT**, 510 East 13th Street (Avenue A); (212) 529-0628. A four-ounce bottle of liquid pigment — enough to permanently alter a gallon of Benjamin Moore base — costs \$6 to \$22. The store's powdered pigments can tint stucco or cement for an integral finish. Half-pound containers of pigment are \$3.50 to \$30, for cobalt violet blue.

For small projects around the house, there are lush spray paints in 130 high-opacity sophisticated colors favored by graffiti artists, including Black Turquoise, Plum Gray and Lobster. Aerosol cans (400 milliliters) of paint are \$6 from **BELTON MOLOTOW PREMIUM**, a German supplier; www.shopbelton.com. **CRAIG KELLOGG**

TRADE SECRETS

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