

N Scale Vehicle Association

“For the modeler and collector of 1:160 scale vehicles and equipment”

Easy ‘N’ Inexpensive ways to enhance
the Kato Toyotas

Steps for enhancing Kato 1978 Toyota Crown sets

Remove the body from the chassis

Highlight some of the details with Sharpies (fine or ultrafine tip)

- Silver for bumpers, hubcaps and grille

- Red for taillights (stop light red or clear red paint works well also)

- Orange for front turn signals

- Black may be used for tires instead of paint

Silver paint pen, paint or Sharpie for headlights (A silver Sharpie appears more aluminum while silver paint pens or paints are more reflective.)

Decal license plates (optional)

Dust with powdered Tempera paints using a dry paint brush (can also tone down the overall shine of the finish)

- Black for brake pad (or shoe) dust and tire weathering

- Brown for dirt and dust

Kato Toyota Crown (1978)



I remove the tabs

Disassembled

Kato Toyota Crown (1978)



Before



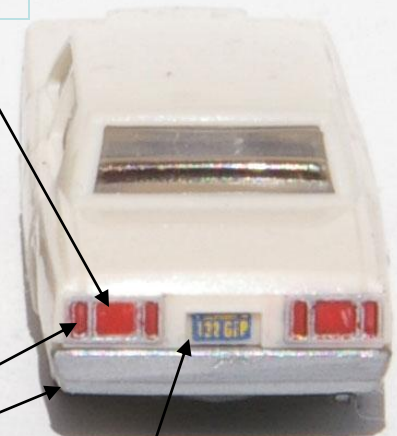
After

Silver paint pen or paint

Orange Sharpie or paint



Before



After

Red Sharpie or paint

Silver Sharpie or paint

Microscale license plates



Before



After

Black Sharpie or paint (preferred) for tires and wheel wells

Powdered Tempra for "dirty" tires

Kato Toyota Crown (1978)



Microscale Kristal
Klear windows



Painted interior

This option allows you to have the side windows rolled down



Steps for enhancing Kato 1990s Toyota sets

Remove the body from the chassis only if repainting

Highlight some of the details with Sharpies (fine or ultrafine tip)

- Silver for wheels (silver paint can be used for “chrome” wheels

- Red for taillights (stop light red or clear red paint works well also)

Silver paint pen, paint or Sharpie for headlights (A silver Sharpie appears more aluminum while silver paint pens or paints are more reflective.)

Flat black paint for grilles

Decal license plates (optional)

Dust with powdered Tempera paints using a dry paint brush (can also tone down the overall shine of the finish)

- Black for brake pad (or shoe) dust and tire weathering

- Brown for dirt and dust

Kato 90s Toyota Set



Toyota Noah

Toyota Vitz

Toyota Harrier
(Lexus RX 300)

Toyota Altezza
(Lexus IS 300)

Toyota Estima
(Previa)

Toyota Crown

Detailing includes silver paint for headlights and wheel covers, black paint for grills. The Lexus RX 300 and the Previa have painted bumpers and rocker panels. The Crown was repainted. Tires and wheels dusted with powdered Temptra for the dirty look. Not shown is red paint for taillights.



Kato Toyota Crown



1988 Toyota Crown

The Crown might be a 1988 model, which makes it close to a Lexus LS 400, but not quite.

Challenges

Toyota Crown (1978)

Separation of the black of the tires and silver of the wheels (no raised “dam” to prevent paint from flowing where you do not want it)

All 1990s

Removal of the axles from the chassis and chassis from the body must be done very carefully to avoid breakage, and is only necessary if repainting the whole body