



## Colored Sunfish Sails

The goal of the Sunfish Fleet is to create fun and enjoyable racing. Towards this goal, we require that people race with colored sails. Colored sails look better and more festive. The colored sail requirement is in the Sailing Instructions. Some new sailors continue to buy boats with white sails, even though we try our best to communicate in advance that colored sails are required. If you own a white sail, you can convert it into color:

Below is a person who has hand painted dacron sails <http://sailset.com/> See their advice below.

You can also get a colored sail direct from Colie Sails in NJ. They usually have sails in stock and the new sails are very fast. Call Clay Johnson who is the owner of Colie and discuss this with him [\(732\) 892-4344](tel:7328924344). Clay could probably make you a custom sail as well but we are not sure what that would cost. He can probably get any color scheme that is made.

**From:** Philip Hubbell <[pdhubbell@gmail.com](mailto:pdhubbell@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, December 20, 2021 4:21 PM

**Subject:** Re: painting a Sunfish sail

If you are going to paint large areas of the sail without color separations, go with spray paint. Spray paint that claims to "bond to plastic" works very well and offers great color choices. Apply VERY, VERY LIGHTLY in multiple applications, starting with just a fine mist for surface adhesion and continue with very light coats only until color coverage is acceptable. Never so much that it could flake off. About overspray: Do not assume gravity or particulate momentum governs. Treat it as a gas that can swirl and invade, even at a surprising distance. Totally encapsulate sail areas not intended for paint.

I use blue painter's tape for color separation or to mask sail numbers and class insignia, but not the "delicate surfaces kind," which does not stick reliably. Burnish the tape edges down firmly, especially at sail cloth seams. Remove blue tape from sail windows immediately. For fine work, such as letters and numbers, use MAGNUM size Sharpies. But avoid red, which leaves pink puddles when wetted.

For very old, rough sails I have brushed on acrylic paint. Brush forcefully to fill the weave, then wipe it off so that it is barely more than a stain. Good luck with your project. Send photos!