

REAL RLM 02 AND 66 COLORS

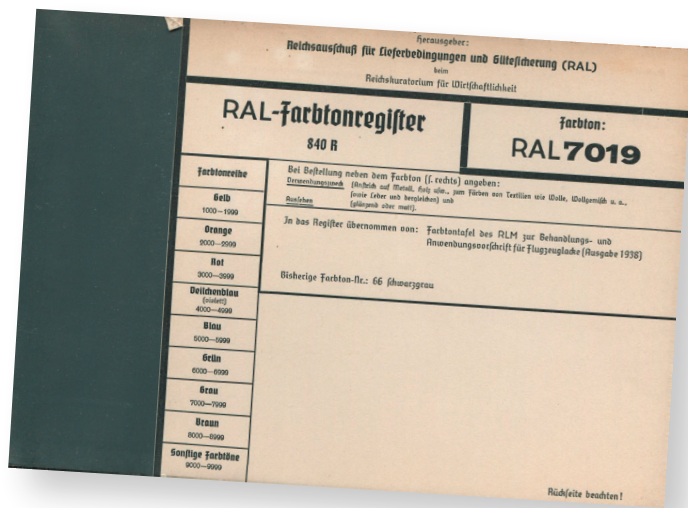


Fernando Vallejo, the Director of AK Interactive, thankfully made us aware of some recent discussions regarding the colours RLM 02 and 66. As not all modellers have the chance to read the recent book Real Colors of WWII Aircraft, please let us take this opportunity to explain where the information for the colours is coming from.

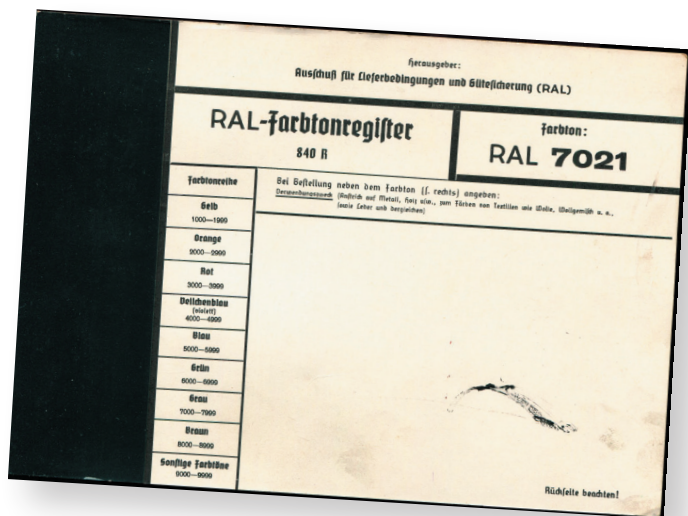


All colours are coming from original sources and actual paint samples. The most important source of actual information are original issues of the "Farbton tafeln" (colour charts) that were issued with the L.Dv. 521/1 of 1938 and November 1941. The L.Dv. 521/1 Behandlungs- und Anwendungsvorschrift für Flugzeuglacke (Luftwaffe Service Regulation 521/1 - Treatment and application instructions for aircraft lacquer) was the internal regulation of the Luftwaffe and explained in detail how and with which lacquers Luftwaffe aircraft were painted.

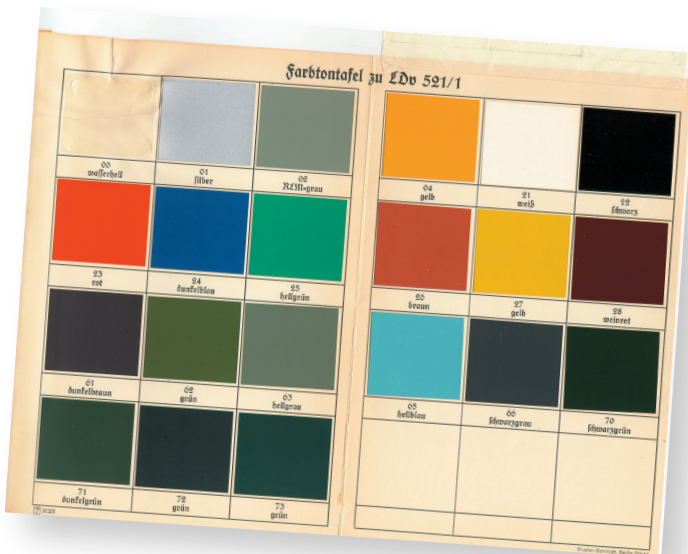
Since the publication of the well known books (and colour charts) Luftwaffe Camouflage and Markings 1933-1945 written by Kenneth Merrick together with Jürgen Kiroff, research has continued and showed that there was a marked change in some important colours between the 1938 edition of the L.Dv. and the 1941 edition. Readers of Real Colors of WWII Aircraft are invited to compare the pictures of the colour charts on p. 16 and on p. 46 of the book. Even on these printed versions the changes of the colours are immediately evident.



The RLM 66 equivalent in RAL 840 B 2 system was initially colour 7019.



In 1941, the RLM 66 equivalent in RAL 840 B 2 system was changed to colour 7021.



The original colour card included in the 1938 edition of L.Dv. 521/1

Among the colours changed between the 1938 and 1941 are RLM 66 and RLM 02. RLM 66 is essentially a dark grey colour and when seen close up shows a marked difference to a plain black. The original 1938 version of RLM 66 had a slight blueish touch which changed to a slight olive green touch in the 1941 edition of the L.Dv. 521/1. Why this change happened is not stated in any source known to the authors but it might well be associated with the use of RLM 66 as a cockpit colour. With RLM 02 the change from the 1938 version to the 1941 version is very much marked: The colour got much more intense (for the expert: it has more chroma) and it got darker. For the human eye it means that the later version of RLM 02 will be seen as an olive grey colour. When exactly the change from the pre-war version of RLM 02 to the war version of RLM 02 happened is currently unclear but we assume that it happened before 1941, probably together with the changes of the camouflage schemes in late 1939 or in the early summer of 1940.

All these changes of the colours were documented and analysed with a spectral analysis of the original colour samples. This covers the whole visible spectrum of a colour and makes also subtle differences between colours apparent. This scientific method was used in the analysis of the original colours and the RLM colours as produced right now by AK Interactive. The authors are strong advocates of accurate representations of the colours and each and every master sample of the colours produced by AK Interactive was carefully checked by spectral analysis and corrected accordingly when necessary. On top of that all the colours were checked visually against the original colour chart in a daylight chamber under standardised conditions. You can be sure that these colours are true representations of the original colours as used on Luftwaffe aircraft in WWII.

We are well aware that some of the changes in the colours look unusual at first sight but they explain a lot of pictures which were difficult to analyse up to now. Take for instance the very nice colour photographs of the Erla-built Bf 109 G-6 on pp. 50 and 51 of Real Colors of WWII Aircraft. Erla used comparatively well defined blotches of RLM 74, 75 and 02 at that time. RLM 02 stands out much more clearly in this case compared to the softer mottles used on many other Luftwaffe aircraft.

As a final note care should be taken to apply the modelling colours in a solid coat. If applied thinly over a light coloured background the colours will get lighter and their appearance will change considerably - you walk away from the historically correct colour. An example for the correct application can be seen on the attached photograph. A soft mottle over RLM 76 on fuselage sides is different of course and this is also what you can see on a number of period photographs of original aircraft.

I hope that the above comments will help to understand the background of AK Interactive's new Luftwaffe colours. A lot of effort has gone into the production of these historically correct colours for you to use straight from the paint jar.

Jürgen Kiroff and Gerald Högl, 14 Feb. 2019



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RCS061 Luftwaffe WW2 Interior Colors

RC265 RLM 02 RLM-Grau (1938)

RC266 RLM 02 RLM-Grau (1941)

RC273 RLM 66 (1941)

RC339 RLM 66 (1938)

On customer demand, we add the original RLM 66 (1938) variant to the Real Color range. Available in March 2019, as a part of „Luftwaffe WW2 Interior Colors“ set

