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The lid is magnesium alloy which means that you can rub it down with some wet and dry sand paper to get the initial silver paint off it. It is important that you use a fine grade sand paper from the start otherwise you will scratch the magnesium alloy lid. You don't need to remove every last spot of silver paint, but make sure any scratches, scores or dinks are properly rubbed down. There was quite a few scratches on the lid so I needed to give it a good rub and made sure that it was smooth.

You can go to the trouble of removing the lid and thus remove the likelihood of accidentally painting the body of the laptop. This entails removing screws and prying the bezel (grey frame around the LCD) from the front of the screen but this is pretty scary to do. You see the bezel is fitted with four little screws, each of which are under little covers. Easy enough to remove, but the trouble comes after you have removed them. The bezel is also fixed with little clips (snap clips) so its a little tricky to prize them off.

I was convinced that I would break the plastic bezel so I opted to mask off all the bits I didn't want the paint to see. There is a nice seam between the metal lid and the plastic body of the LCD so you can use a Stanley knife to trim along this line and get a nice crisp finish.

When you actually start to paint the lid you need to choose your paint carefully. I went for metallic car paint. Wicked Red to be precise. I also decided that I wanted to lacquer it. Painting the lid was easily. You have to give it a few coats and each time you do that rub the paint back to matt, making sure that you clear it entirely off the logo. Once you have rubbed back your final coat you need to let the paint properly dry. Then wash it down to clear off any little hairs or dust. Dry it properly. Now you can lacquer over the top of the paint. Lacquer works best on matt finishes.

When you apply the lacquer it is best to be generous. Spray it on until it looks like it might start to run. Then leave it to dry. This is the long drawn out part of it. You need to leave it for a few hours. After that you can put on one more coat. Then you need to leave it for about a day before you start handling. It really needs a good month to cure, so don't go sticking it in your laptop bag until then. My advice is wait until it stops smelling, once the solvents have all evaporated. Oh and if you are worried about the lacquered finish getting all fingerprints just remember that you can use car polish to clean it.