

Iconic racing helmets.

Helmets are vital in Formula One™. The regulations require them to be designed to withstand high stresses and temperatures of up to 900°C. But ensuring that they also look great is the job of the driver and their helmet designer. Jens Munser works with the MERCEDES AMG PETRONAS Formula One™ driver Nico Rosberg to design his helmet and uses the Spies Hecker Hi-TEC Performance System.

Helmets offer protection, but also share the limelight with the Formula One™ race drivers. They are one of the most visible parts of Formula One™ drivers when they are in the cockpit of their race cars, and the only area the drivers can personalise with their own designs. Helmet designer Jens Munser has been in this business for 27 years, and today, he and his team are among the most well-respected Formula One™ helmet designers.



Every gram counts

“The paint process is very different from that of cars,” Munser says when describing the challenging job of painting helmets. “We first produce graphic elements on the computer and transfer these to templates. Then, before the actual paint, we also apply a fire-proof primer.”

Munser uses the Spies Hecker Permahyd Hi-TEC Base Coat 480, with special effects achieved thanks to gold leaf, glitter flakes or transfer printing. Munser then uses the fast-drying Permasolid Speed Clear Coat 8800 or the efficient Permasolid Clear Coat 8035. The multiple paint layers, which must not exceed 50 grams in total, are used to create the unique helmet design in a process that takes anywhere between eight and 20 hours of work.

Whether it is in Monte Carlo, Baku or Silverstone, Rosberg races around the tracks during the Formula One™ season at over 300km/h wearing his custom-designed helmet, sporting Munser’s design and Spies Hecker paint.

For further information on Spies Hecker – official team supplier of the MERCEDES AMG PETRONAS Formula One™ team – visit www.spieshecker.com/F1speed or www.facebook.com/spieshecker.

About Spies Hecker

Spies Hecker, one of the global refinish coating brands from Axalta Coating Systems, develops optimum and practical paint system solutions that can make bodyshop work easier and more efficient. With more than 130 years of success behind it, Spies Hecker’s high-quality product systems, customised service and targeted training demonstrate its partnership with the refinish industry. Based in Cologne, Germany, it is one of the world’s leading vehicle refinish brands, and is available in over 76 countries worldwide.

Spies Hecker – simply closer!

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