

# DIY Steampunk Nerf Gun

One very common Steampunk accessory is a futuristic looking gun. There are many tutorials online on how to paint/modify toy guns to look Steampunk. Here's ours.

## Materials Needed:

- Toy gun (anything from a fancy NERF to super cheap water gun)
- Small screwdriver (if you have a fancier one that can be taken apart to make painting the parts easier)
- Spray paints in a variety of metallic colors
- Clear spray sealant
- Painters tape
- Steampunk decorations (gears, copper wire, fuses, etc.)

## Step 1: Get a gun

Choose whatever gun you want. It can be a futuristic looking raygun or a plainer more contemporary one (that you can add to, making it Steampunk). You can order a brand new one to get just the right one, or pick one up at a toy store or from a thrift store to save a little money. I chose the NERF Zombie Strike Hammershot because it had a kind of Western look with the rotating cylinder and cocking hammer.



## Step 2: Planning

Now that you have your gun, think about what you want it to look like. Take a “before” picture and use it to take notes about what color you want different parts to be. Think about anything you may want to glue to the outside to make it more Steampunky (gears, copper coils, gauges, vacuum tubes, etc.).

## Step 3: Disassembly

Some of the fancier NERF gun can be disassembled to make it easier to paint. Since the inner workings of some of these can be somewhat complex, take plenty of pictures of the disassembly process, especially the inner workings, so that it will be easier to reassemble correctly. Better yet, find a video online of someone showing how to disassemble/reassemble

the particular model you have (when I opened this gun and a random spring flew out, I would never have known where to put it back without a video).



As you disassemble, make sure to keep all the screws and small parts together in a ziploc bag or small jar. Some of the parts and/or mechanisms are purely internal and not visible when assembled. Set these aside as well.

#### **Step 4: Primer**

Since most of these, kinds of guns are brightly colored, it is recommended to use some kind of primer paint as a base coat. A black primer is best. If the outer paint gets scratched it will only reveal the black primer.

Find a space outside and lay down some newspaper or cardboard and lay out the parts to be painted. Some parts you may not want to paint at all. On this gun I liked how the handle looked already and on the mechanism I was only painting the hammer and trigger and I didn't want to get paint inside the mechanism so I taped up these parts with painter's tape and paper. Spray lightly with several passes to avoid drips and pooling. Allow all pieces to dry thoroughly.



#### **Step 5: Paint**

Here's where you can get creative. It's easy to find metallic spray paints, some even have a "distressed" or "hammered" finish. Think about what parts would be made of different types of metal. Painting the individual pieces can be very basic with each piece a different color. I

elected to use the painter's tape to isolate certain areas on each piece to be different colors. This took several rounds of taping, painting, drying and re-taping.

Once you are satisfied with your painting add a layer of spray sealant. This will protect the paint job.



### Step 6: Reassembly

Once all of the painted pieces have thoroughly dried, it's time to reassemble. Lay out all the parts and screws. Review your pictures (or a video if you use one). Carefully reassemble the parts. You may find that thick coats of paint may interfere with reassembly. You may need to sand away some paint in a few areas to get the pieces to fit back together. Once it is reassembled test it out to make sure the mechanisms all work (unless of course it's just for show and you don't care if it works or not).



### Step 7: Decoration

To complete the Steampunk-ification of your gun, you may choose to add on extra pieces. I chose to glue on gears and a copper coil to make it a little more whimsical.

