Masking Techniques



7-1 The cockpit on this Testor T-33A was detailed only with paint and the decals from the kit.

MASKING CANOPIES AND WINDOWS

It is possible to paint the framework around a canopy by hand or to cover just the framework with black draftsmans lining tape. Usually, however, the model will be more realistic if the canopy is glued in place, at least until the painting is complete, so the canopy can be painted at the same time as the model. You can use pinhead-size dabs of rubber cement or artist's mate medium (a clear liquid latey) to hold the clear canopy in place until the painting is complete.

Use Model Master Masking Tape 450822
Pactra Tim Tape or Model Master Parallin
Masking Material 450841, preseed around
the edge of the canopy frames with a pencil,
to mask canopies Cover the entire canopy
with tape, but try to position the tape so most
of the overlapping edges occur on the dear
portion of the canopy rather than on the
framework. If you must join strips of masking
on the framework, position them tightly

together. Slice around the areas beside the firmes with a hobby fuife and memore the mask from the frame areas. Paint the cockpit interior color on the the canopy first and let it day, then apply the exterior color. Leave the masking material on the canopy (and a py other clear areas) to protect the clear plastic surfaces until the model is completely finished coated with clear firsts and weathered.



7-2 Leave the masking tape or film over the clear areas of the cockpit until the model is completely painted, clear-coated and weathered.



7-3 A Testor Douglas AC-47 painted and decaled to match the box art by Terry Tuytscheavers.



7-4 Cover the entire window area with masking tape, then slice around the window frames.



It is possible to paint the framework around a canopy by hand or to cover just



7-6 The two rear windows on Terry Tuytschaever's Douglas AC-47 are open to be used as gunports.

the framework with black draftsman's lining tape. Usually, however, the model will be more realistic if the canopy is glued in place,



7-5 Peel the excess Masking Tape away to leave the tape covering only the windows.



7-7 Paint the inside walls of the cockpit and finish all the details before cementing the canopy in place.

at least until the painting is complete, so the canopy can be painted at the same time as the model. You can use pinhead-size dabs of rubber cement or artist's matte medium (a clear liquid latex) to hold the clear canopy in place until the painting is complete.

Use Model Master Masking Tape #50622, Pactra Trim Tape or Model Master Parafilm



7-8 When the painting is complete, peel away the masking tape or film to reach the finished landing gear bay.

M Masking Material #50641, pressed around the edge of the canopy frames with a pencil, to mask canopies. Cover the entire canopy with tape, but try to position the tape so most of the overlapping edges occur on the clear portion of the canopy rather than on the framework. If you must join strips of masking on the framework, position them tightly together. Slice around the areas beside the frames with a hobby knife and remove the mask from the frame areas. Paint the cockpit interior color on the the canopy first and let it dry, then apply the exterior color, Leave the masking material on the canopy (and a ny other clear areas) to protect the clear plastic surfaces until the model is completely finished, coated with clear finish and weathered. When the last paint is dry, slice along the edge of the masking tape again to cut the paint layers away from the edges of the tape, then gently remove the masking material from the clear areas

PAINTING INTERIORS BEFORE ASSEMBLY

The interiors of the cockpil, landing gear bays and bomb bays will not be accessible once the model is assembled. If you want a detailed interior in any of these areas, then, finish the detail work and painting before you assemble the model. The canopy itself will mask the cockpil interior while you paint the remainder of the model. Use masking tape to cover the landing gear bays, bomb bays, or other interior openings while you finish painting the exterior of the model.

CLEAN AND CRISP COLOR DEMARCATION LINE CAMOUFLAGE

If the camouflage pattern has a sharp color demarcation line, use the paper photocopies as patterns to cut masking tape masks. Tape the paper patterns beneath a sheet of glass or Plexiglass so you can see the pattern through the glass or plastic. Cover the glass or Plexiglass with Model Master #50622 Masking Tape, overlapping each strip by about 1/16 inch to produce a solid surface of masking tape. Borrow a fluorescent light or use one of the "Light Stick"types of fixture and place it beneath the glass on the side with the photocopied plan. Turn on the light and you should be able to see the photocopy through the glass and the masking tape.If not, use additional fluorescent lights. You can now trace the photocopied patterns right through the tape with a hobby knife. Remove the masking tape that will



7-9 Peel the paint and the underlying rubber cement to reveal the rust-painted undercoat.

be used to protect the lighter color on the model and apply it to the model. The patterns will not be a perfect fit, but minor adjustments can be made by trimming the tape slightly or by adding additional strips of tape and trimming them to fit with the hobby knife. Finish masking the lighter areas, then spray the darker color and, before the paint dries, remove the tape. If the color demarcation line is too jagged, try scraping it to a sharper edge with the tip of hobby knife. Alternately, touch up the area with paint applied with a number 30 paint bush.

BATTLE DAMAGE AND RUST

One of the most striking forms of battle damage on armor is old damage that has begun to rust and left long enough so the



7-10 Use a steel ruler to guide your knife when slicing panel lines that are to be accented with ink.

adjoining paint is peeling. To model those effects, begin before the mode is painted. As always, work from photographs of actual battle damage, even if it did not occur to the exact vehicle you are modeling. First, the battle damage itself is inflicted with drills and files to match the shape and texture of the damage in the photograph. Next, that area can be painted ansst color with Madel Master #1788 Itsul.

Adding a drop or two of black is often close to the color of older and dirtied rust. Paint the area you will want to find peeled paint with a thick coat of rubber cement (available at stationery stores) and let it dry.



7-11 Wipe the ink from the area around the panel lines before it has time to dry.



7-12 The underwing stores of this A-6E Intruder have fine lines that can be easily duplicated with the slice and ink-stain technique.

You can, incidentally, use this same technique for simple rusted and peeled paint without the battle damage. Finish assembling and the final painting of the model. The layer of rubber cement will be visible through the paint as a mound with brush stokes. Pick gently at the center of the rubber cemented area with the point of a hobby knife and the outer costs of paint can be peeled away. Peel only about half of the rubber cement-



7-13 Use the side of number 2 pencil lead to produce a shadow effect to accent individual panels.

coated area to reveal the rust; just loosen the remaining paint and let it rest in a half-



7-14 Use a piece of business card, cut to match the shape of the edges of the panel lines, to mask part of the Aluminum Plate Metalizer while you airbrush adjacent panels with Stainless Steel Metalizer. This is Terry Tuyschaever's Testor Martin B-57B Canberra.

peeled condition.

SIMULATING SEPARATE PAINTED PANELS

Some aircraft and armor, particularly those with light gray colors and separate panels, have very visible differences between the panels You can accent the lines between the panels offeritively by slicing over them gently with a hobby knife, then painting over them slices with black drafting ink. Paint only three or four inches of ink, then immediately wipe off the excess with a clean rag. The ink

will remain only in the sliced line. The trick, here, is to make the slice so gentle that it does not create a farmer's plow-like furrow with sides, but a thin slice.

On some models with raised panel lines, you can achieve the effect of individual panels by simply shading the seams by rubbing a number 2 lead pencil across the panel seams. Hold the pencil so only the side of the lead contacts the seam and, thus, receives the shadow effect.

An alternative method is to simply accent the edges of the panel with a "wash" (nine parts thinner to one part paint) of a color one shade darker or lighter than the original. You can paint the entire panel by masking all adjacent panels. It is easier, however, to adjust the airbrush to produce a pencil-thin line and "mask the adiacent panels with a



7-15 Doug DeCounter used styrene plastic sheet and strip to build the workbench with its open drawers. The hand tools are from the Italeri "Field Tool Shop" kit. The markings are Verlinden dry transfers.