

## DAVID'S HINTS & TIPS FOR MODELING

1. As a beginner you need to have glue, a knife, sandpaper and tweezers to assemble your model. If you are more advanced your list of items could be almost endless (just ask my wife). A good rule is to have two of almost everything (except wives!!). Ever run out of glue or thinners just when you need it?
2. When cutting parts from the sprue, never cut close to the part or if you do use a sharp cutter. Instead, cut away from the part then trim after the part has been removed. This will keep the part from breaking, splintering or leaving a hole or depression. Always, always use a sharp blade!
3. Separate the parts into pre-assembly areas for each sequence or sub-assembly. Keep these parts far enough away from where you will be gluing, this will reduce the chance for accidents. Ever spill your glue and have it run or splatter and get onto your other parts?
4. Liquid glue is the best (initially) solvent for sticking the parts together. Many times after assembly and sanding, small but visible seam lines can still be seen. You can do one of two things: one, you can fill in with putty/superglue (recommended) then sand after one half hour or refill with liquid glue/Tenax-7R and add pressure onto the two parts till the plastic melts enough to fill the seem.
5. When sanding any part always use sandpaper in varying grits. When accomplishing this always (to save time) remember that if you can't see it after assembly you don't need to sand or paint this area.
6. Give all parts and sub-assemblies a thorough cleaning with water, dish soap and an old soft toothbrush. This will clean the packing grease, fingerprints and dust from the parts. Dry with a blow dryer and keep in a dust free environment.
7. **Painting with a paint brush:** If at all possible I wouldn't recommend this approach. But, if you have to be sure and thin the paint before applying it to the part. Especially if you're using Testers ¼ Fl. Oz. bottles! Place enough on the brush so that when you begin to apply the paint you cover it with one coat. This will prevent streaking the paint. If you have to apply a second coat follow the same process. Do not go over it again, the paint will be thick enough to permanently leave streaks than you have to remove the paint and start all over. When using multiple colors use a different brush for each color. When done with each color, clean with a solvent and wipe off any excess on a shop towel. Shop towels are indispensable. They are tough enough to clean or soak up spills, brush cleaning, dry brush cleaning or anything else, and that's just one towel!

8. **Painting with an Airbrush:** Always make sure your airbrush is clean and clear of any leftover paint or coatings. I don't believe that there is a paint on the market that can be poured straight from the bottle into your airbrush without adding thinner. I mostly use acrylics with a 60/40 mix of thinner and paint, respectively. Water colors are a judgment call when figuring out what amount to mix. It's mostly a 70/30 mix with 70 being your preferred thinner (distilled [boiled] water or my favorite Tamiya's X-20 thinner). Try doing a test by spraying onto a spare piece of bare plastic. I keep a cheap 72<sup>nd</sup> scale kit to test mine on. When it coats the plastic without running or puddling and cover in two coats, your set to begin.

**Dull and Clear Coating** – These coatings are used to seal up individually assembled areas or when finishing up your model. Armor should be coated with a dull coat and aircraft a gloss or semi-gloss coating.

Mixing: Dull Effect - Testers Dullcote mixed with alcohol 50/50.

Gloss Effect - Testers Metalizer Sealer (no mixing agent needed) or

Future Floor wax mixed with rubbing alcohol 50/50.

When working on armor I apply a gloss coat first. This seals the area so I can apply a wash of oils mixed with lighter fluid. When this has set and dried for 24 hours I give it a final coating of Dullcote. When working on aircraft I seal with a gloss coat than apply a wash. When the wash has dried I apply the decals. After this has set for 24hrs apply another gloss coat.

9. Working with canopies can be very frustrating. The best I came up with was dipping the canopy in future wax. After drying paint Micro Mask over the glass portion leaving the frame uncovered. Paint, then with a sharp knife cut around the frame and removed the Micro Mask.

Another technique I use is to cover the entire canopy with scotch tape, cut out the frame, spray seal with a gloss coat of future wax (to seal the area preventing seepage), cut out frames and remove tape.

No matter what technique I use, some paint is always pulled off the frame. A good way to cover this up is to paint aluminum in the area and make it look like chipped paint. If you have trouble removing the tape or you have paint on the glass area, use a sharp toothpick to peel this off with. The toothpick prevents scratches.

Never paint the canopy separately from the model. Always attach it to the aircraft than paint the entire aircraft. Painting it separately will create a color difference from the aircraft and will be hard to match back up.