

Instructions for Single Layer Stencils

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As with any type of finishing product, you will need to do a little experimenting with the finishing materials you have chosen to achieve the best results. We have used Nelson Hobby water based polyurethane, Sig dope, automotive PPG, Model Master, and even generic spray can paints with great success. Since most all stencils will be custom cut for a particular job, we will cover some of the basics for applying them here in this direction sheet.

PLEASE READ ALL DIRECTIONS PRIOR TO USING THE STENCIL.

Your stencil will come with an application tape applied over the white vinyl stencil. Do not remove this application tape until the stencil is in place (step 9).

Do not remove the backing from the stencil until step 6.

- 1) Make sure your surface is clean and free of oils and residue. It's not a good idea to be eating a bag of potato chips while preparing your plane for a finish. The oils on your fingers can ruin it all. A mild soap and water solution works very well, I use dish detergent or baby shampoo, then clean rinse and dry the surface.
- 2) Measure and mark both vertical and horizontal center lines on the stencil.
- 3) Place the center marked stencil from step 2 on the location where you want the final stencil to be, and transfer the center marks from the stencil to the surface you are applying the stencil to. Take your time here to get the location marks and the stencil in the correct location.
- 4) Now take the stencil and apply a piece of masking tape, just below the horizontal line, that will overhang both left-hand and right-hand edges by several inches.
- 5) Now, once again, position the stencil using the center lines marked in step 3. Attach the stencil to the surface with the masking tape that was applied in step 4. The idea here is to hold the stencil in place without removing the backing.
- 6) With the stencil held in place by the masking tape, fold back the top edge and peel the backing away from the stencil. Try to peel as much of the backing away as possible, and then carefully cut that portion of the backing off.
- 7) Now with the stencil still held in place with masking tape and most of the top half of the backing removed from the stencil, carefully lay the top half of the stencil down on the surface. Now you will have the top half of the stencil in place.

8) Remove the masking tape that was applied in step 4. Carefully lift up stencil and remove the remaining backing from the stencil and carefully lay the lower portion of the stencil into position. Press and rub the stencil down onto the surface making sure the stencil has good adhesion.

9) Now is the time to gently remove the application tape. Be careful not to stretch the vinyl stencil, usually best to pull the application tape back over itself. Be extremely careful when removing the application tape if your stencil has lettering that has "center" parts of lettering or graphics, like the center section of "O".

10) Now your stencil is in place. I highly recommend that you burnish down all the edges. I use a finger nail to burnish all the edges. An old prop works well too.

11) To help reduce any chance of bleed through, you may want to apply a very light coat of clear around the stencils edges. This will help seal the stencil and help prevent a possible bleed through.

12) Now is the time to apply your color coat. Use at least three very, very, very light coats to get good coverage. I cannot emphasize enough the importance to use extremely light coats. For example: a white background with a black stencil, you should still be able to see some of the white after your second light coat of black. The first two coats should be put on light enough that you could classify them as "translucent". Allow sufficient time between these light coats to give the paint time to get tacky. Please, please, please resist the urge to put too much paint on at one time. Three very light coats of color will produce a better stencil. Once again, put on three "translucent" coats of color, with sufficient drying times between coats to allow paint to get tacky.

13) Once the color coats have had time to dry or cure to the point that you don't leave a finger print, it is time to carefully remove stencil.

14) Now a nice clear over your model will help protect the stencils and give your model a nice uniform sheen.