

Making Canopy Frames From Tissue

By Bhagat Dhillon as published on the Small Flying Arts Webpage

On a tissue covered model it's nice to have a canopy frame made from tissue - it creates a continuous flow of color and texture from model to canopy. The effect certainly adds a lot to scale realism, and with the right materials it's not as painstaking a job as it looks. Here's Chris Parent's simple approach to making a great canopy frame. like the one shown here on his T-6 Texan:



STEP ONE

For best effect you'll want the same finish on the canopy frame as the fuselage has. If possible, apply the finish to all tissue prior to covering the model. This is pretty easy to do if you're chalking or dying the tissue. If you're using paint you might try pre-shrinking the canopy tissue on a frame before spraying or brushing the paint. To create the finish on his T6 Texan Chris used gray chalk and a light coat of Floquil silver paint (sprayed on). This was followed up by spraying Krylon Acrylic #1301.

STEP TWO

Coat one side of the tissue thoroughly with glue stick (UHU is recommended) and let it dry completely. Speed up drying with a hairdryer if desired.

STEP THREE

Cut the tissue into strips of desired size for the canopy frame, striving for uniform widths (unless you need differing widths). Also cut triangles and squares for corners and junctions (again, strive for uniformity in dimension).

STEP FOUR

Moisten the strips with water and apply to canopy, glue side down. While wet they are easily repositioned, so don't be shy about moving things around. Re-wet the tissue if necessary. The glue stick adhesive really is easily workable, and takes the pain out of an otherwise difficult job.

STEP FIVE

Apply moistened triangles & squares at junctions of tissue strips to create window corners (see photo). Use a sharpened toothpick to slide them into position. When you're happy with your layout allow everything to dry.

STEP SIX

Seal the tissue in one of two ways: a) Brush fixative onto tissue, overlapping the edges slightly. Spray a little Krylon into a cup and use a small brush to apply. b) Paint 2 or 3 coats of

Future Floor Finish over the whole canopy. Apply swift, light coats so as not to disturb the tissue.