

NON-BLEEDING MASKING TAPE

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*Published in the March/April 2012 Issue of Windy Sock, Joe Joseph
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There is a new masking product on the market that will significantly reduce your Malox bill when you spray or trim paint your new masterpiece. It's called FROGTAPE. Believe me, I've tried (often unsuccessfully) all the tricks for getting two sprayed colors not to "bleed" and getting various product tapes not to lift off my base color or other trim. Isn't it wonderful when that happens?... you actually invent new swear words.

I first found out about this stuff by watching TV. Of course I didn't believe the commercial for a second, but then I got to thinking (a very dangerous activity for a model builder), and I thought I would buy some and test it. I went to my friendly Home Depot and asked the "expert" in the paint department about the advertising claims. After the blank stare, I checked for breath and a pulse, then went to find it on my own. Yep... there it was. It was not wrapped like the usual tapes. It was in a closed container. Hmmm!

I brought it home and stared at it for awhile. Then I selected one of my models (the Boulton Paul Defiant) flipped over the wing and decided to test the FROGTAPE by spraying a small red stripe about 1/2" wide on the underside of the wing at the tip. I figured the scale judges would just think it was a "squadron symbol".

I tried two different methods: First, I put a piece of the tape on a metal ruler and using a metal straightedge, I cut 1/4" strips from it I then put 1/8" of one 1/4" strip on a paper mask and the remaining 1/8" on the wing tissue, thereby defining one edge of the stripe. For the other side of the stripe, I put the full 1/4 piece of Frog tape down on the wing and then taped the paper mask on top of about 1/8" of the Frog Tape. I wanted to see if it would bleed or lift the base color when I took it off. Grabbing my trusty airbrush, I mixed some red nitrate and sprayed away. Now came the test..I waited about 10 minutes and then slowly removed both taped sides. WOW...!! It really works...! Take a look at the pictures below and you can see the results. Why does it work so well?? Well, it's because the tape ejects a small jell substance when it gets wet. You cannot see the stuff when you're done. Its amazzzzzing. It works with latex, enamel, lacquer ... everything even water. Give the new FROG TAPE a try. It will make those lines sharp and straight with no bleeding at all.

