

NON-BLEEDING MASKING TAPE, MORE

By George White

Last month, I printed an article about Roger Willis's discovery of a product called "Frog Tape" which should be available at any of the big box stores selling paint. I went on-line to learn more about it and learned that there are two versions. One version, which comes in a green package, is for normal use, and Roger found it to work beautifully on doped tissue. I then learned that the other version of the stuff is designed for delicate surfaces, including wallpaper and faux finishes.

When I asked the folk at my friendly Lowe's about that version, I got the thousand yard stare, so I proceeded to Walmart and, sure enough, there it was, pictured below.

The reason I was interested in the "delicate surface" version is that I use Design Master Floral Spray instead of dope whenever I can find the correct color. I've found that an equivalent coat of DMFS is more waterproof than dope and just as light. However, I've had less than wonderful experience with the most delicate tape I could find when used over any metallic Floral Spray, particularly the platinum color, which I use to simulate aluminum. With some trepidation I used the delicate surface tape on my new Long La-1 Goodyear racer, which was first sprayed with platinum Floral Spray. The Floral Spray finish was not glossy smooth as would be a clear dope finish. To minimize the amount of tape surface on the fuselage, I cut the tape into 1/4" strips, and then used regular masking tape to attach paper masking to the Frog Tape so as to cover the areas not to be sprayed. Since Floral Spray dries in minutes, I removed the Frog Tape, being careful to pull it back over itself instead of at a high angle to the surface. Even this tape pulled a very small amount of the platinum finish off, but not enough to create a problem — actually less than any tape I've found do date, including that sold by Tamiya. There was zero run-under. I'm sure that if this tape were used over any color other than metallic, there would be no pull off. The caveat for that statement is that I'm assuming that you spray the Floral Spray onto raw tissue. If you put Floral Spray over a doped surface, I've found it not only creates useless weight, but that the Floral Spray will not adhere as well.

