

MILITARY MARKINGS

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Prior to WW II American Military Airplanes had olive drab and later blue fuselages with yellow wings and tail assemblies. Also, squadron, flight leader, number and so on painted on them.

A beautiful sight to behold but an easy target in time of conflict. The beginning of the war necessitated toning down all identity markings. As of this day most, if not all, markings have been greatly subdued or eliminated.

For those of us who still love to build models of these old timers, there is nothing as pretty as a prewar model decked out in all of its bright colors.

Duplicating these markings is at times difficult. Making your own red, white and blue stars for the wings is bad enough, but dividing the rudder colors into 13 equal width stripes is a real pain.

Following is one way to get the stripes the right width and spaced every time: Lets say you want to stripe a rudder which is 3 3/4 inches tall. On a sheet of paper draw a 6 1/2 inch vertical line on the LEFT side and divide it into 1/2 inch spaces. Now on the far RIGHT side about 10 inches (from the vertical line on the left), place a pin point at 90° to the vertical line (3 1/2 inches). Next draw lines from this point to each of the 14 dots on the vertical line.

Now take a full size drawing (in this case 4 inches tall) of the rudder and place it on lines you made before but parallel with the vertical line. Slide it either to the left or right until the top and bottom align with the top and bottom lines of the template.

Next, mark the rudder drawing with a dot at each point where it intersects a line on the template. You should now have 13 equal spaces.

- A. Cover the rudder with white tissue.
- B. Cut a strip of blue tissue a little wider than the space between two dots on the rudder. Glue this on both sides of the rudder next to the fin.
- C. Cut enough strips of red tissue, the width of a space between two dots, to stripe both sides of the rudder.
- D. Starting at the top, glue on the red tissue stripes.

If done correctly, all of the horizontal stripes will be spaced equally and total 13 stripes.

(Ed. Note: At Mr. Baecke's recommendation, I've added dotted lines to show the location of the stripes on the example rudder. It would appear that if you have a rudder larger than 6 1/2" (that would be a substantial size airplane!) you would merely extent the lines further to the left.)

