

MAKING TISSUE MARKINGS

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This method works great for most national insignia and for larger solid pieces (N numbers, light colored stripes on a dark model, etc.). For markings you first need to create a text document in what ever system your computer uses. Then find the marking or markings you wish to reproduce and cut and paste it or them into your text document. Next, use your photo editor for documents to size the markings to the correct proportion.

Once you have it/them in a document at the correct size, cut out a piece of white Japanese tissue (use the good stuff here, not domestic) large enough to cover the area to be printed. Spray a light coat of removable tack cement - available at art supply stores - on the dull side of your tissue piece, and stick it down (shiny side up) in the area that will be printed on a sheet of 8.5"x11" bond paper. Run the assembly through your printer, and remove the tissue piece immediately from the bond paper base and let the ink dry. Once dry, dust on a couple of coats of Testors Dull Coat to seal the ink.

After all the top surfaces are dry, use powdered white pastel chalk and a cotton ball to rub the chalk into the back side of the tissue piece. It will require 2. to 3 applications, each followed by a light spray dusting of fixative, to make the tissue opaque enough so that the white areas appear really white when applied to the model. Once dry, apply a glue stick to the back side of the markings and let every thing dry at least over night. You are now ready to cut the markings out and apply them.

To apply, cut out the marking, place it exactly where you want it on the model, and touch with a soft paint brush wet down with denatured alcohol. The alcohol will remoisten the glue from the glue stick and set the marking into place. If the marking is a bit out of proper alignment, remoisten it lightly with alcohol and shift it into position. Repeat the application procedure for each marking you have created. Very little moisture is used in this method of applying markings so your tissue stays drier and is less prone to wrinkle. Once everything has setup, dust on another coat of clear Krylon to seal the edges.