

Applying Tissue Trim

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I have a method of applying tissue trim on wings and stabs that you scale builders might want to try. First, lay out the letters, numbers, or trim design on a sheet of 8 1/2 x 11 inch ruled notebook paper. The lines are only to aid you to keep everything straight (graph paper is even better). After the layout is complete, photocopy the original so that it can be used again if required. Now, thin out some clear nitrate dope real well and cover the back side of one of the copies with the trim tissue. Just use enough tissue to cover the letters. Don't cover the whole sheet.

After the dope is thoroughly dry, take a sharp pair of scissors and cut the letters and numbers out. Do not use a razor blade and a straight edge. Scissors insure a sharp clean edge in a single pass. An exception to this rule is when cutting out the inside part of letters and numbers. A sharp pointed blade and a steady hand can achieve this quite nicely.

Next, position the cut out (tissue side down) over the area on the surface where it belongs. Touch the upper side with a brush dampened with dope thinner or MEK. Acetone will also work but the fast evaporation rate of acetone cools things too quickly and moisture from the air will condense on the surface causing those white streaks commonly referred to as "blushing". The thinner will soak through and suck under the cut out and form a perfect bond because the letter was coated with dope earlier. The stiff photo copy carrier will easily peel off and, if the letter needs repositioning, it can easily be done with the same brush dampened with a little more thinner. Try my method and you will be rewarded with neat, crisp letters or numbers with only a small weight penalty.