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Instructions: Applying and Using Paint Masks

## **Instructions**

### **Applying and Using Paint Masks**

Paint masks are self-adhesive sheets cut by a plotter. The adhesive glue itself is not very strong as the glue of other commercially available foils. Furthermore they are slightly transparent. While very flexible, they cannot be stretched as other foils. Thus they are inherently stable. Complete paint masks consist of three different layer. On top you have the so transfer sheet, in the middle the actual masking foil and on the bottom paper which protects the adhesive side of the foil.

When having multi-colored markings several paint masks are used: one for each color. Before painting you have to make yourself clear with which color and which mask to start. If you have doubts, please call us or write us an email. We gladly help.

Generally the paint masks arrive lying flat in the box. If we have to cut bigger paint masks we sometimes have to roll them up for transporting them. This can sometimes cause the transfer sheet come of the underlying layers. If this happened to one of your paint masks, let them rest on a flat surface for a couple of hours. This allows the masks to rest and ease. Important to notice it that the resting place should be dry and clean. Now you can use an old credit or bank card and rub out the air bubbles and re-attach the foils together. Don't work with too much pressure to avoid producing wrinkles. If all bubbles are gone, you can work with more pressure to fortify the bonding.

The area where the paint masks should be applied should be sanded beforehand. Doing so with soft non-woven web suffices. If you only applied a base coat and paint it less than 24 hours ago there is no real need to sand. Before starting now, try the paint masks and attached it with a little bit of adhesive tape to check the positioning. If finished the placing, mark all the edges with some tape. Sometimes only two lines of tape are enough, but do that at least on two sides (i.e. top and left) to finalize the position. In the end those markings help you to put down the paint masks before painting.

Now we start applying the paint mask. Gently pull of the bottom paper. Try not to let the adhesive foils touch each other. Use both your hands and hold the mask around 1cm above the surface. Position the mask now according to the markings of tape you made before. If all fits let the mask gently drop down to the surface. Do not apply pressure yet, because if you see the

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mask not fit yet you can easily pull of the mask again with some force and reposition it. Do not try to gently pull of the mask! Use some force and pull it off fitfully. It sounds dangerous, but it is not. If you did not use masking tape to mark the edges of the mask, you can look through the transparent transfer sheet to check panel lines or rivets for positioning the mask.

Is the mask now in the right position you can start rubbing it down using your fingers until the mask has contact with the surface beneath. We could now remove the transfer sheet, but we wait for that for another 10 minutes as the glue needs that time to fully evolve the full adhesive force. If you try removing the sheet before that time it can happen that you also remove the masking foil, especially the when you have a rough surface.

After having the masking foil rubbed down the surface, you start pulling of the transfer sheet from one corner. Bend and flap the transfer sheet for 180°. Now gently pull of the sheet and rub down the masking foil with your fingers. The color of the foil now darkens a bit which comes from showing the underlying color. Control the cut edge of the masking foil. You can use your nails on the edges to apply some pressure and force to the edges to ensure a good fit. Pay more attention to all the rivets and panel lines. Now use masking paper to cover up the area around the mask. Do not use normal paper or newspapers. Ask your local car painter if he can sell you a coil of the paper he uses. If you have to paint with several colors leave some space between the paper and the mask. This allows you to reuse the masking paper several times.

Now you can start painting. Do not paint the first passes too wet. Some solvents in the colors can attack the masking foil producing wrinkles. We generally paint a clear base coat before the colors filling up all the scratches or other warping. When painting on meshes or cloth this is a requirement. When this base coat is dry we can now start painting the color.

When you have painted all colors and those are dried too it is time to remove the mask. Of course we do this very carefully as well. Again grab one edge and pull it off while pulling away the mask tilted for 180°. If you have to paint more colors you sometimes have to put another mask on top of the previous one. This is the only time where positioning the mask can be difficult. When painting panel lines or rivets are not covered as when using foil. This way a very realistic look can be achieved.