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Instruction: Using dry transfer rub-ons

## **Instruction**

### **Using dry transfer rub-on**

Dry transfer rub-ons are the highest grade of decal markings. With this method even the smallest text block can be applied on the model without the use of a transfer sheet. The small letters are like being painted on the model. The production of this type of markings is very laborious and pure handwork – but if you mind the result the high price is just. Basically the rub-ons and vinyl stickers aren't much different. Both are covered by a protective paper sheet on the bottom and another one on top. Also the application is resembling. You pull off the protective paper sheets, put it on the model, rub it a bit and then pull the transfer sheet off. The letters or markings now stay on the models' surface.

The actual application of dry transfer rub-ons is simple, but there are a couple of things to keep in mind. First of all you have to cut them out the sheet. Mind a bit of a margin, especially left and right of the decal. Now, without removing any protective layer, try fitting the marking on the model. If you are happy with its position, lock it in place with a bit of adhesive tape on one side, but sometimes just the glue on the paper sheet can already secure it in place. This is the reason why you should position it correctly on the very first try already, as it sometimes is impossible to get them off again.

If you have positioned the decal correctly you can now gently rub the rub-on with your finger. Rub-ons and waterslide decals share the same characteristic that the smoother the surface the better the adhesive force of the glue. Although the rub-ons can stick on a rough surface, if it is too rough they might have problems staying in place.

To start the rubbing process you need a tool with a rounded point of at least 3mm. The wooden end of old brushes are your best bet.

With this tool you start to gently rub the rub-on without much pressure. Due to the slight deforming of the transfer sheet the printed markings or text letters can already go off. You can observe this when their color is turning slightly milky in the process. Never rub the rub-on until the whole marking has this milky color – this can lead to damaged markings or even a damaged model surface. It could also cause the markings to deform and damage. To start applying the rub-on for good, grab the side not locked with adhesive tape, and bend it slightly up. Now, start using your tool and rub up and down on the rub-on at the exact point where the transfer sheet is bending, while at the same time slightly pulling it off. If you don't do this and pull off the sheet without using your tool you can and will damage the markings. What the tool does now is pushing back the paper and thus putting some force on the markings, pressing them down on the surface, while the paper springs back in its original position releasing the markings. This way you work your way slowly until you reach the other end of the rub-on. If there are parts of the markings which are not going off, put the transfer sheet back down and rub this part again until it releases. If every part of the rub-on came off you can pull off the transfer sheet and the adhesive tape. Basically this whole process is nothing more than a back-and-forth movement of the transfer



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sheet with the help of a tool and usage of the spring tension. With this technique the markings are coming off easily, and you can even use those rub-ons on sandwich-parts and models made out of wood/balsa.

When using the tool the markings may not yet fully stick on the surface. To be sure they do you have to gently rub them with something soft. Best tool for that is our finger. But don't touch the rub-on with it yet as some parts might come off again. Wrap it around a bit of that transfer paper you have just used and rub the marking with some force.

Sometimes there is a bit of glue residue left around the rub-on. To remove it you can use benzene (cleaning solvent), but make sure first the colors of your model are not in danger when using this liquid. Use a soft tissue and wipe it across the marking. All the excess glue should now be removed. Do not work with too much liquid as it may damage the markings. If not all of the leftover glue was removed clean the fuselage a second time, but leave some time in between the passes to let the benzene dissolve. If you have very small markings we recommend not to remove the glue but to paint it over with clear coat as it dissolves the glue and absorbs it. If you cannot do this, especially when working with special surfaces (i.e. aluminum surface), you must carefully clean it with benzene. Best wait for one day and then do 2-3 passes with a bit of a delay of around 10 minutes in between. Use a very soft tissue.

Rub-ons don't need any clear coating as they are resistant against all sorts of fuel and are very scratch-resistant.