

USER MANUAL

I Man Army offers an innovating masking solution, making it possible to airbrush markings, squadron numbers and especially small instruction stencils on 1/32 scale aircraft models. The I Man Army airbrush paint masks will allow you to achieve a true 'painted-on' result and a dazzling and unique finish, thus obtaining a higher level of realism. Please read this manual carefully, as it will help you to fully understand the possibilities of this challenging new product. I hope it gives you new insights and sparks your creativity.

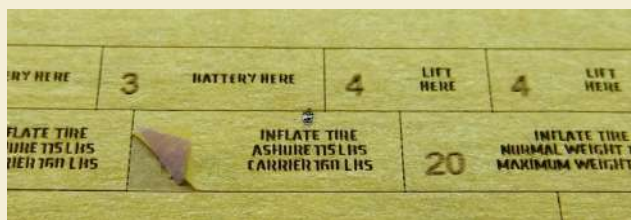
Kind regards and happy modelling

Sven

I Man Army

PREPARING THE MASK

- Before removing the mask from the backing, place a 'marker' above the center of the stencil text. This will allow you to position/visualize the stencil part more easily, when placing it on the model.
- The reference number is always in the left lower corner and allows you to read/orientate the mask.
- Use a sharp tool to peel off the left lower corner and bend over the corner. A triangle of spare mask should be used to 'neutralize' the tacky underside. Use tweezers and slowly remove the mask. This corner will prove its added value once you have to remove the mask from the model, without damaging the paint.
- It may happen that some small parts/dots still have to be removed, after the mask has been detached. In that case gently place the mask on a solid surface without pushing it down. Carefully take away the excess parts using tweezers.



PREPARING THE MODEL AND PLACING THE MASK

- A dry and clean surface is all that matters. No further preparation is needed.
- You can use a small 'spare' masking strip and mark the position on the strip, where the stencil marker has to be placed. This will help you determine position and angle. Multiple masks can be placed all over the model and airbrushed in one pass. Once well aligned with the 'guiding strip', gently push down the rest of the mask, using an intermediary piece of paper.
- Avoid touching the small stencils directly with your fingers. Push down the mask using a piece of paper. This will avoid 'rubbing' and damaging the small stencils. Check if the mask is well pushed down, using a magnifier.
- Once set and pushed down, avoid repositioning the mask, as this may damage the very small stencils.

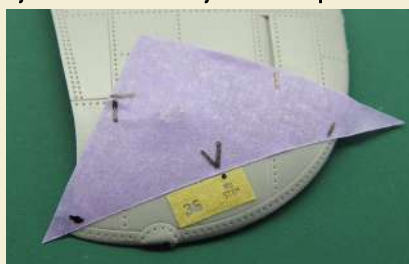


SYMMETRY AND ALIGNMENT

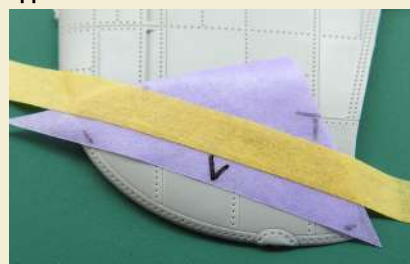
- Place a yellow text mask or any mask on one wing/side. If you want to copy that exact position to the other side, make a random masking tape triangle and align it to the mask. Use panel lines and other parts of the model to place reference markers on the triangle. Turn the triangle upside down and position it on the opposite side, using the same references. Align the markers with the references, and you will see where you have to position the opposite mask.



RIGHT WING



RIGHT WING



LEFT WING

MASK, AIRBRUSH AND READY



USER MANUAL

- **IMPORTANT:** First use the spare masks to gain some experience. Spare masks are marked on the masksheet with **X**.
- Carefully mask off the surrounding area to avoid overspray and check before airbrushing.
- Do not forget to mask off the IManArmy-reference number in the left lower corner of the mask.
- Use low pressure and keep the same distance (8 cm or +/- 3 inch) from the mask. Different soft angles will help to seal all edges.
- **ONE GOLDEN RULE:** Build up the color in very light layers, which will help seal the edges and NEVER flood the mask!
- Important: pushing down the small stencils correctly will determine the sharpness of the paint job.
- Using, in between layers, the airflow of the airbrush or a hairdryer will help. Use a magnifier to check the result
- When the yellow mask has turned entirely black, the result should be fine. If some yellow is still visible, keep adding layers.
- Use dark grey for the small stencils, giving a more natural and weathered 'appearance' than harsh black.

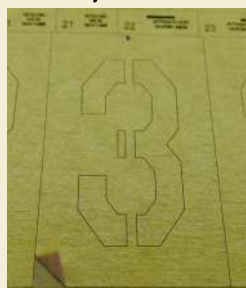
COMPLEX MASKS

- Some stencils, within the same mask, may need different colors. Avoid taping over the text parts. This may harm the stencils.
- Use a small piece of paper to 'un-glue' the small part covering the text part.

THE IMPORTANCE OF TRANSFER TAPE

- For most large masks 'transfer tape' will always be very helpful. Transfer tape will strengthen the mask, keep it in shape and avoid deformation, when placing on the model. Transfer tape can be described as ordinary low tack masking tape which is positioned on the airbrush mask. Any low-tack masking tape will do. Do not use transfer tape on small text stencils, unless you protect/unglue the stencil part.

- 1 Prepare your mask and remove the part that has to be airbrushed.
- 2 Place some 'spare' masking tape (= transfer tape) on the mask you need, covering all the relevant parts. Push down.
- 2 Keep the transfer tape within the dimensions of the mask, you need.
- 3 Place the mask on the model using the guiding strip and marker. Press down softly.
- 5 Slowly remove the transfer tape. Ready.



1



1



2



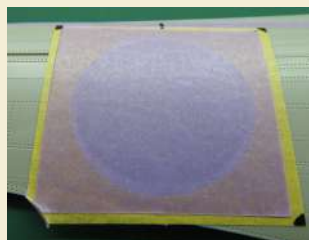
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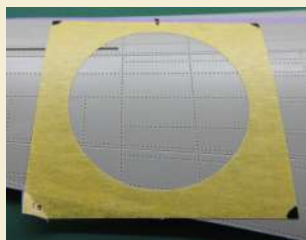
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USING LAYERED MASKS

- In some cases masks may have to be superposed. These masks are marked with **a/b/c/d**.
- Start with the **a**-mask. Leave it on the model the entire process. Darken/color the corners of layer **a**, while still on the backing.
- Check your references and airbrush the corresponding color for mask **a**.
- Allow to dry and place mask **b** on top of **a**. Important that corners match! Use tweezers and take your time! Then airbrush mask **b**.
- If necessary, remove mask **b** and replace by mask **c**, always respecting the exact overlap and so on.
- Here again the 'neutralized' corner will make the positioning and peeling-off afterwards easy.
- Use transfer tape on all layers. Darkening 3 of the corners of layer **a** will clearly show the correct superposition/contrast, when positioning another yellow layer on top.



Layer a with transfer tape



Layer a



Layer a + layer b with transfer tape



Layer a+b

REMOVING THE MASK

- The mask can stay in place, after airbrushing, for up to a couple of days and will peel off easily. No residu will remain.
- Never leave masks on for more than 1 day. Temperature, humidity and UV can affect the adhesive. It is better to remove after painting.
- Always check the paint result with a magnifier before removing the mask.
- Use tweezers and very slowly remove the mask, always using the same 'neutralized' corner.

LAST DETAILS

- Weathering, fading and chipping are now possible. If necessary, you can sand using a very fine grit.

Always check the [FAQ page](#) on the website, as it contains the latest and updated tips and tricks.