



FLIGHTLINE GRAPHICS

Paint Masks - Stencils - Dry Rub Decals - Waterslides

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RAF Style Fin Flash Painting.

The Fin Flash on RAF aircraft is has several variants and can be particularly difficult to apply because of the position of the marking in relation to the rudder and the vertical stabiliser. As a result a slightly different procedure is used to apply the masks which does not rely on any alignment markers.

This is a supplemental guide for the application of this type of insignia. Please follow all the good practices described in the general instructions for applying, painting and removing masks for other insignia!

In this example we will apply the 3 colours of a standard 11" x 2" x 11" fin flash design. For this arrangement 2 masks are provided for each side of the fin.

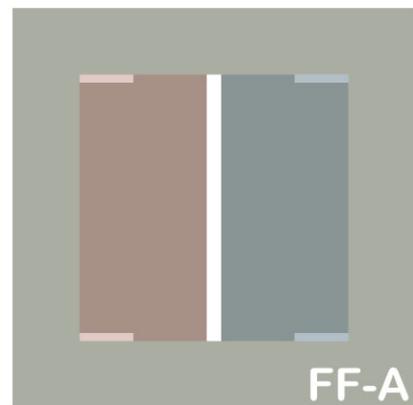
The "A" Mask is used to apply the centre white bar. When the paint has dried that mask is removed and the "B" mask is applied. This is used for painting the insignia blue (rear colour) and insignia red (front colour).

Fin flash masks are typically supplied on a clear application film to make visual alignment easier.



Mask "A" has some additional rectangles cut into the mask which indicate the outer corners of the leading red and trailing blue colours in relation to the white bar.

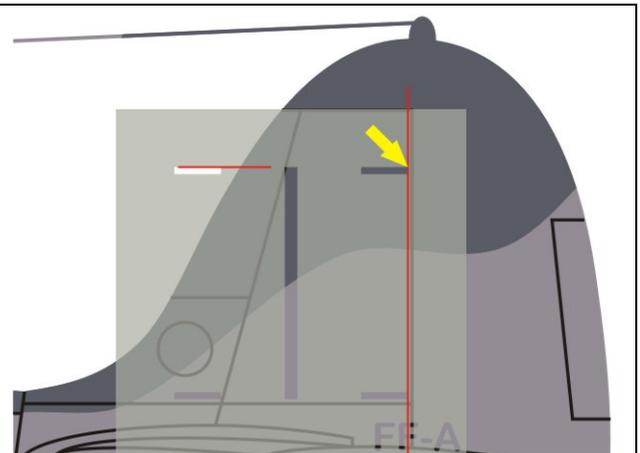
You can see in the illustration opposite where the finished insignia has been superimposed over the mask showing how the corners are positioned in relation the cut outs. These markers will help when aligning to the vertical of the rudder post, and where required, bringing both masks to the front of the fin where the red colours meet and overlap the leading edge of the fin.



While fitting the "A" mask it may help to draw guide lines on the application film to assist with alignment. A ball point pen is recommended.

Before painting, make sure the corner guides and the stencilling are suitably masked off to protect from overspray!

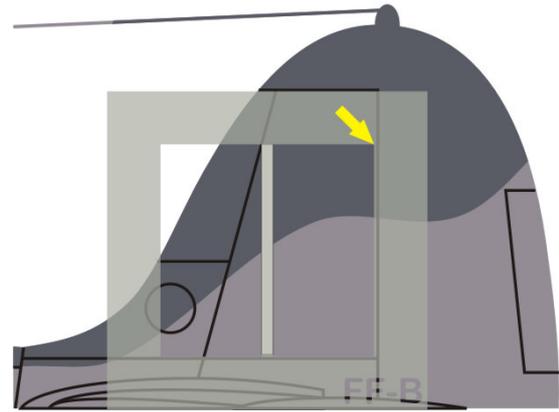
Allow to dry before removing the mask. You may find it useful to include a small mark in the extreme corner of one of the guides to help with alignment of the next mask (see yellow arrow opposite).





Carefully position mask “B” into position in a well illuminated room. Overlay the centre bar of the mask directly over the white bar and lay it out. Don't rub down until you are satisfied you have good alignment.

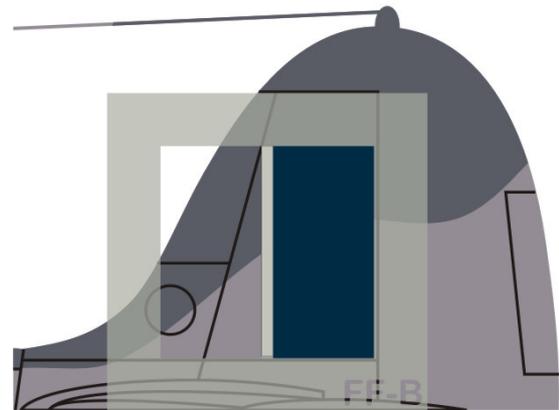
This is where adding the small mark in one of the corner guides will assist with alignment. Fit the mask on the other side carefully to achieve good alignment, particularly important if the masks need to meet at the front! Trim the masks over the front of the leading edge so the red area migrates smoothly.



Using low tack masking tape protect the front most rectangle and mask the rest of the model.

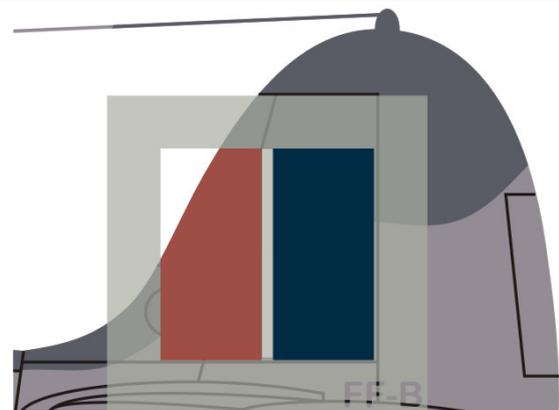
Spray the insignia blue into the rear area as shown opposite. Remove all the excess masking but leave the paint mask in position.

Take care when pulling the low tack masking tape in the area where the paint mask is located as you do not want to lift the mask from the model, this is why using low tack masking materials will make this easier to manage.



When the blue paint has dried sufficiently, in a similar procedure mask off the rear most blue area and protect the rest of the model while you spray the red colour to the front most sections of the insignia.

Remove the mask when the paint has dried and clean the paint edges up if necessary.



If you have any questions on how to use these masks after reading these instructions please do not hesitate to get in touch before you start using the product.

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