

Refinishing a Foamy – Painting, Markings & Weathering

1. *Flightline 1200mm Spitfire Mk 9*



This model was refurbished and painted to represent a Spitfire Mk 8 in SEAC colours. I made a replacement pointed rudder from sheet balsa to replace the older style rounded rudder which comes with the model.

Once stripped of previously applied decals, any dings and dents were filled with lightweight filler and sanded; a coat of grey acrylic automotive primer was then applied from a spray can.

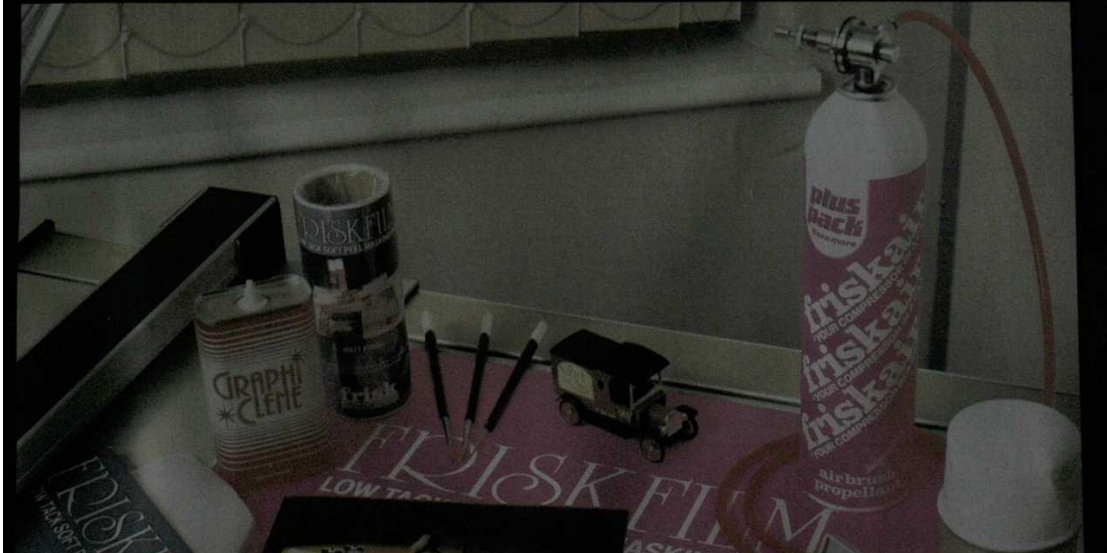
The surface was then smoothed down lightly with a soft sanding block, re sprayed where necessary and the camouflage colours applied freehand using acrylic modelling paints applied with an airbrush.

Once completed and allowed to dry for a few days the markings were applied using cut out masks and masking tape.

For a less robust surface I would use low tack masking material.

FRISK FILM

low tack soft peel masking film





When making the masks I drew lines on the mask material, matching panel lines on the model to aid alignment of the mask on the model. The letter masks and roundel were cut separately, and the masks reused in other positions.

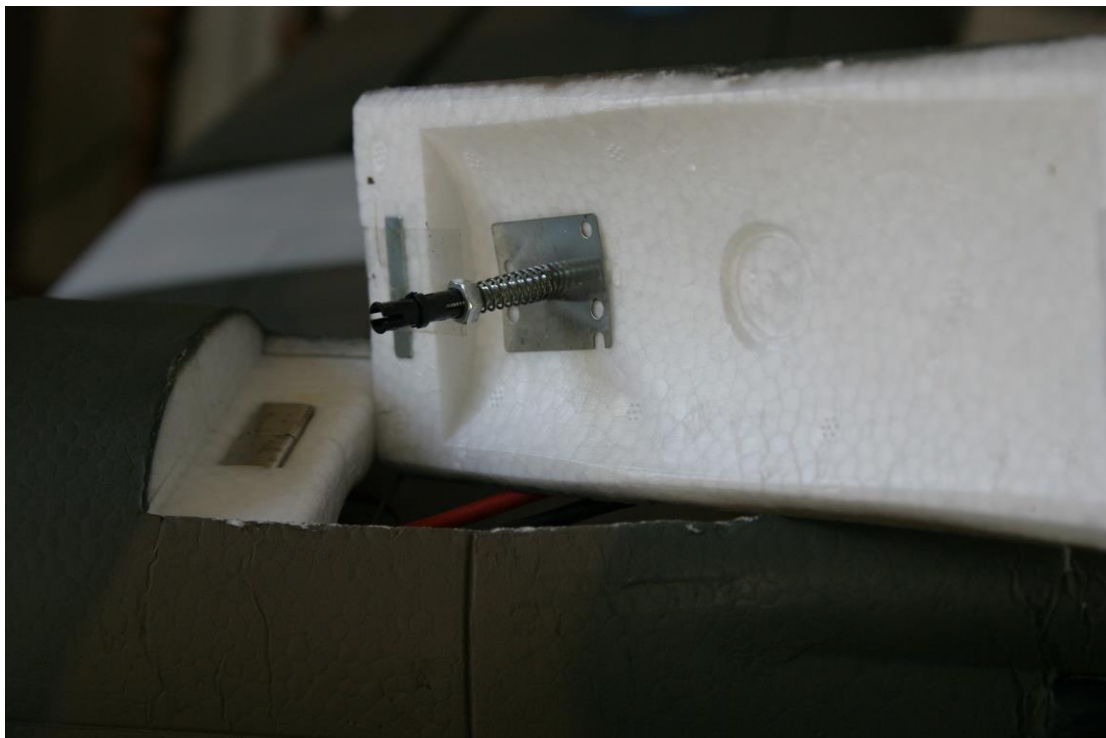
I draw the more complex masks first on paper first, then transferred onto the masking material. The vertical tape is part of the mask, the horizontal tape holds the inner parts of the mask in place when removed from the backing and placed onto the model.



When all markings were complete, the model was sprayed overall with a couple of coats of satin varnish to give an even tonal finish.

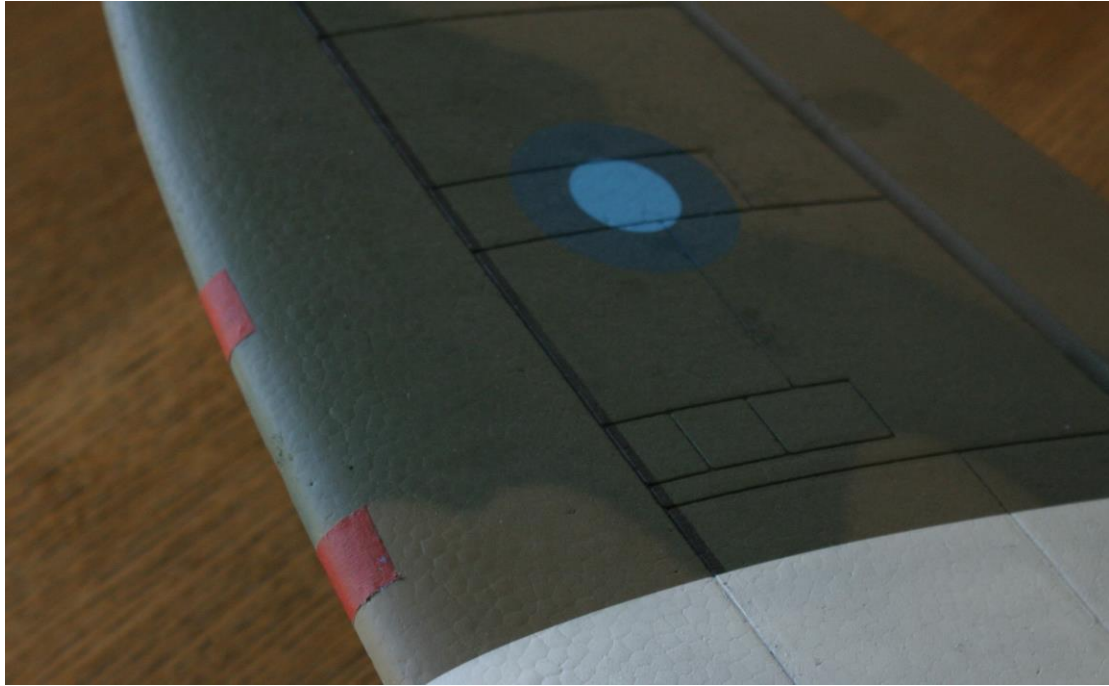


The battery hatch was modified using a bolt ,nut, spring and washers to replace the transparent tape hand pull which usually sits above the hatch. Lifting the bolt up gives a grip to remove the hatch. This idea I found on the Hobbysquawk forums ([Motion RC Europe | Radio Control Airplanes, Boats, Cars, Helis, Trucks | Motion RC Europe](#)).



The bolt is positioned roughly where the fuel tank cap would be on the real thing, I used the same arrangement on the Corsair which also has the fuel cap in the battery hatch.

Gun patches are painted thick masking tape.



2. Flightline 1600mm F4U-1 Corsair

The **Corsair** was not repainted completely, only in sections, and then weathered based on photos of F4U1's in the Pacific around 1943, and on references found in Hobbysquawk ([Motion RC Europe | Radio Control Airplanes, Boats, Cars, Helis, Trucks | Motion RC Europe](#)) and Britmodeller ([Forums - Britmodeller.com](#)) forums.



Painting the star and black wing walk lines on the Corsair wing. I was able to reuse the mask on each of 4 wing positions. All markings are spray painted.



Weathering on the wing root done with aluminium paint then oversprayed with faded shades of top colour



Weathering on the cowling done with pastels and thin yellow and dirt paints, sealed with a matt varnish. The red screw lifts up and is the battery access point.





Canopy frames were doubled on the sliding portion where required using thick tape. This was all single frames initially, as though it were all one piece.

I have installed a sound card, made an inline EC5 to JST connector to power it – I could not find one commercially available except from US. Speakers with heat sinks are mounted either side to the front.



Specific areas of the wing, as well as other areas, were painted a lighter shade of the top colour.



Wires were added to the engine, and photos of cylinders used to fill in the blank spaces between the moulded cylinders.



(Full resolution versions of the photographs can be found in the Gallery 2021 section of the WHMFC website).

Eric Cromack – November 2021