

Getting an Opaque Finish On Scale Models

By Graham Knight

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Graham Knight is a model maker by profession for the film studios in England. He frequently writes or comments on modeling subjects. Since we've got some budding FAC flyers in the club, these two recent posts are useful for them as they build those FAC models. Here's Graham on Mylar and Tissue:

Tissue over silver Mylar is the best way I know to get a lightweight opaque finish of any colour. The silver Mylar is virtually opaque to start with, two layers of it (on top and bottom of the wing) allow almost no light through, a layer of coloured tissue on top of that (colour as close as possible to the finished colour), then a light dusting of your favorite paint gives a really solid colour. This method is much lighter than multiple coats of paint which still don't give an opaque finish, you can even get a really solid white which I used to find one of the hardest to achieve. For an aluminum finish the best colour tissue to use, believe it or not, is black.