

## Modelling tips from various sources

### Rear view mirrors

Glue kitchen foil to .25 or .5mm plasticard, shiny side out. (Glue not specified, but possibly UHU or Bostik type.) Allow to set. Use a leather punch for circular mirrors and a craft knife for rectangular style. Glue to mirror arm, then paint back plate black or body colour.

Roland Cornes.

### Solid colour decal sheets

Available in a variety of colours. Suitable for applying colour patches as opposed to masking and painting. i.e. red rectangle for 1970's Esso livery. Available from Hannants, Harbour Road, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft, Suffolk. NR32 3LZ. [www.hannants.co.uk](http://www.hannants.co.uk)

Peter Nolan.

### Wheel painting

This is a good option to **Sheet 4 Vehicle Assembly para.3.**

Having glued one wheel to each axle, dry fit the second to achieve a rolling chassis and ensure all wheels touch the ground. **Now remove all wheels from the chassis for painting.**

Select your wheel colour and black/grey mix for the tyres. One wheel is still attached to each axle, so now press cocktail sticks tightly into each opposing wheel.

Apply wheel colour and Klear between coats until colour depth is achieved. Apply a further coat of Klear over both wheel centre and tyre face to reduce surface drag (\*see below). Slowly rotate the axle/cocktail stick in one hand whilst allowing the brush loaded with tyre colour to follow the rim/tyre line. Paint tyre treads, inner surfaces and all wheel arches before refitting wheels/axle assemblies to the chassis.

Alan Johnson.

\*When wheel colour/Klear is complete, use a fine (1mm point or less) black permanent marker around the wheel rim to give a perfect definition of wheel rim and tyre, before applying tyre colour.

John Newton.

### Mail order supplies

An article by Gordon Braithwaite in the April 2009 edition of Model Bus Journal made reference to Squires of Bognor Regis with their huge free modellers catalogue and excellent mail order service. I found the address and they sent me a 446 page free catalogue with an Aladdin's cave of useful products for all aspects of modelling. I have had my first order from them and can confirm the range and quality of the products that I selected are excellent. The address is: Squires Model & Craft Tools, 100 London Road, Bognor Regis, West Sussex, PO21 1DD. Telephone: 01243 842424. Fax: 01243 842525. Email: [sales@squirestools.com](mailto:sales@squirestools.com). Website: [www.squirestools.com](http://www.squirestools.com).

### Glues and adhesives

#### **Cyanoacrylate Super Glues**

For all model vehicle construction, I prefer to use Zap-A-Gap (green label) and Slo-Zap (yellow label), purchased from Eileen's Emporium at railway exhibitions and model shows. The green label is of medium consistency, suitable for most jobs. The yellow label is slower to set and is better for positioning cabs and bodies on to chassis' where time for final adjustment and positioning is can be useful.

A useful tip with superglue is to squeeze a small amount on to a strip seal plastic bag (such as used for packing RTI components), then using a cocktail stick to apply to the part required. The glue will remain liquid for a much longer period if squeezed on to plastic rather than any other surface.

### **Epoxy Resin Adhesives**

Some modellers prefer a two pack adhesive such as Devcon 5 Minute Epoxy, which is mixed from the two tubes as required, sets in 5 minutes, can be handled in 15 and reaches full strength in 1 hour.

### **Uhu All Purpose Adhesive**

This is my preferred adhesive when constructing the various brands of cardboard buildings used for diorama settings.

### **Berol Marvin Medium**

Useful for glazing small windows such as quarter lights and rear windows in cabs but also useful for filling small gaps between body fixings, i.e. gap between mudguard and wheel arch on bodywork, etc. Apply with a cocktail stick. This product can be difficult to obtain. For availability, contact customer services on 08444 121 150. Their website is [www.berol.co.uk](http://www.berol.co.uk).

### **Roping Material**

Refer to sheet number 7, para 2 titled "Ropes".

An ideal material can be purchased from Squires of Bognor Regis, page 360 – Amati Nat Hemp R/Cord 0.10mm or 0.25mm - £1.55-£1.65 per 20 metres. This is an ideal colour, texture and thickness for roping purposes.

### **Fine link chain**

A fine brass chain, available in 1-metre lengths from 26 links to 7 links per inch, suitable for a variety of purposes. Also available from Squires at £3.50 to £5.50 per length.

### **Cab glazing**

Reference: Sheet 1, page 2, para 7. An alternative for using tweezers to place windscreens in position is to use a cocktail stick with a small ball of blue-tack glued to one end. This is very effective for dabbing it lightly on to the screen and then placing in position on to the Marvin Medium or PVA gasket surround. A second one can be used at the edge of the screen when positioned, to remove the first one without dislodging the screen. I have found the blue-tack sticks work particularly well for inserting side window glazing into the interior of the cab. Far better than my previous method using tweezers.

John Taylor.

### **Preventing straight-edge slip**

A frequent occurrence when using a steel rule and craft knife to cut plasticard, is the ruler slipping out of alignment as the craft knife is pressed against it.

Two methods of preventing this are:

Glue two or three short strips of sand/emery paper to the reverse side of the ruler or apply two or three strips of double-sided adhesive tape. Once the tape is attached to the ruler, rub your finger several times over each strip to reduce the adhesive effect on the exposed side.

Using a very light cutting motion for the first two or three strokes with the craft knife will also assist the rule from slipping.

John Taylor.

### **Making complex mirror arms**

Two alternatives to using three-phase electric cable strands for mirror arms are lightweight garden wire from Wilkinson hardware stores at £1.29 for 50m or soft wire purchased from the handicrafts section in garden centres for flower arrangements, etc. All of this material is quite applicable for shaping some of the complex mirror arms that some vehicles had fitted post-1970.