

INSTRUCTIONS FOR #80806 PARAFILM M™

Parafilm M is a modern masking material especially suited for use in the hobby of precision scale modeling.

The advantages of Parafilm M is that it is thin and thereby minimizes the paint thickness “bridge,” or “dam,” that sometimes occurs between adjacent colors. Parafilm M is semi-transparent when first put into place. This allows you to see edges and places where you might wish to trim your masking. It is “low-tac” and will not pull up paint layers that have been properly applied. And, amazingly, Parafilm M is flexible and stretchable, allowing it to conform smoothly to compound curves.

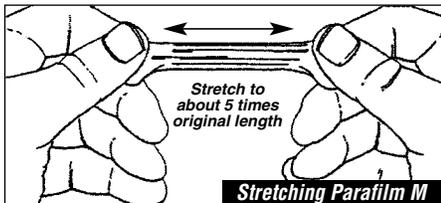
All this does not mean Parafilm M is a “magic” masking material or something capable of automatically producing miracles. It is a material better than most but it is also a material requiring some instruction and practice before you begin work on a key project. We do not recommend the use of Parafilm M as a mask when using fast-drying lacquer paints.

Once you’ve gone through this explanatory sheet and have used Parafilm M on some test parts we are sure you will be impressed with the material.

HOW TO USE PARAFILM M

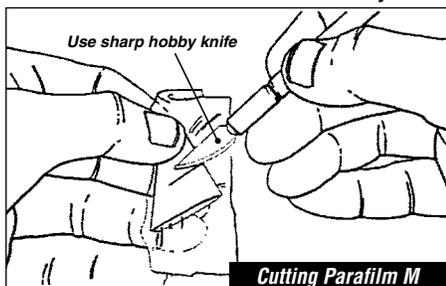
Cut a length of Parafilm M about 4 inches long. Remove the paper backing. Hold the material at each end and stretch it slowly — do not snap it — to 4 or 5 times its length. Now place the stretched film down on a clean area of your work table.

This is done to relax it to a natural length. (See illustration.) This stretching thins the film and also



activates the wax surface so it becomes “tacky.” After it has relaxed for one minute lay it onto your practice plastic or painted surface. Gently press it down with your finger. Do not press it down with a burnishing tool. That is not necessary on large open areas and will only cause problems by excessively stretching the film.

Finger pressure is fine and the warmth of your finger will help the Parafilm M adhere to the surface. Be sure your hands are free of skin oil or consider wearing a finger sheath on your pressure finger.



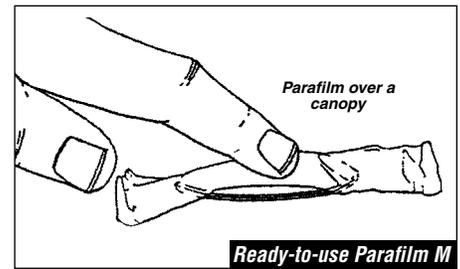
You can now trim the Parafilm M to produce a pattern as required. Lightly

cut with a sharp Hobby Knife. A new blade is best and light pressure is recommended so as not to score the plastic and/or underlying paint. Practice this a few times and you will develop the proper “touch.” Finally “finger press” the edge once again.

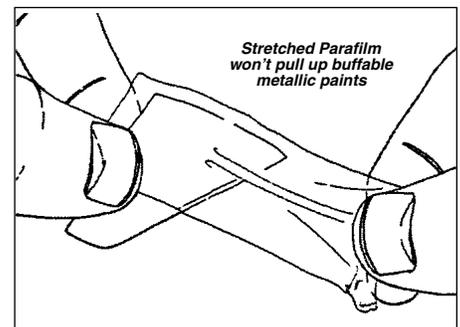
Now spray the area you wish to cover. It is always good airbrushing practice to spray vertically to the masked surface or at a slight angle away from the masked edge. This is true for any masking material. Allow the paint to dry before slowly lifting the Parafilm M mask. No masking residue will be left and you will have a thin and sharp paint edge.

Masking from a wing, over a fillet, and up a fuselage wall on a model aircraft, for example, requires a special technique. You never want to “bridge” Parafilm M across a gap and then push it down — relying on its stretch — to fill a large radius. You must work the Parafilm from one surface, into the fillet and then up the intersecting wall.

You might want to try it both ways on your practice model and you’ll soon discover the truth of what we say. Do not push Parafilm M into tight places with metal tools either. Make some custom wood shapes from scraps or cuticle pushers. Moisten the wood when pushing the Parafilm M into place, and do not press hard. Pressing hard will distort the masked edges.



You will find Parafilm M is superb when working with small parts such as landing gear, munitions and canopies. You can cut it into fine strips as needed, and it conforms over and around compound curves with ease. It sticks well to itself and small pieces of Parafilm M can be placed atop each other to produce the perfect mask on small and curving parts.



Parafilm M is different. Work with it. Get to know it. Only a few practice sessions will have you up and running and producing beautifully crafted paint work. Parafilm M is a material which will help you make truly masterful models.

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