

Product guide

Step by Step



Tutorial

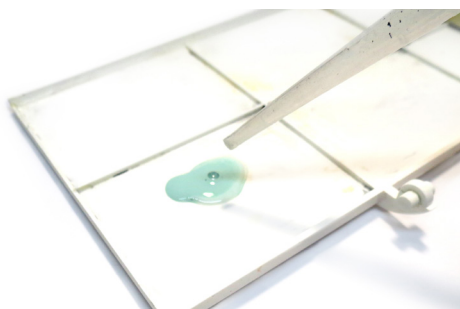
Chipped paint effects on aircraft with Liquid Mask

Paint chipping is a very important part of making realistic aircraft models. Some airframes wear quickly in certain conditions and paint quickly flakes off metallic surfaces, sometimes very easily. In this tutorial we will learn how to achieve these effects using Vallejo Liquid Mask 70.523.

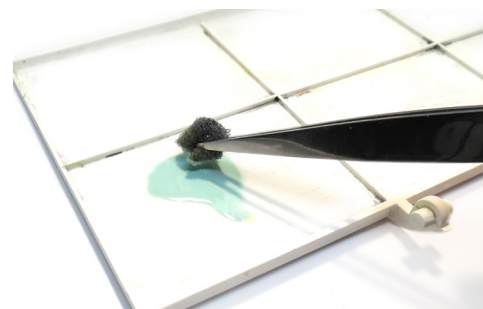
By Pablo Alborno



- 1** We begin by placing some Liquid Mask on a plastic palette. Two or three drops will suffice, as the product dries relatively quickly in its pure state.



- 2** We add a few drops of water, mixing it with the Liquid Mask in equal parts. This will increase the drying time and result in smaller paint chips.



- 3** We load the mixture onto a piece of sponge. The amount of Chipping Fluid mixture we use will depend on the final effect that we wish to obtain. If we want 'harder' or wider chipped paint effects, it is best to apply pure Liquid Mask after applying this first, diluted mixture.



- 4** We apply the Liquid Mask using a sponge in the places where the chipped paint would occur. It's important to choose these areas logically and, as far as possible, to be guided by photographic references. Usually, the paint on jet planes flakes off (depending on the type) the leading edges of their wings and where the pilots and ground crew walk. On propeller-driven aircraft, the paint chips where the pilots walk, and where the various panels and the cockpit opens and closes.



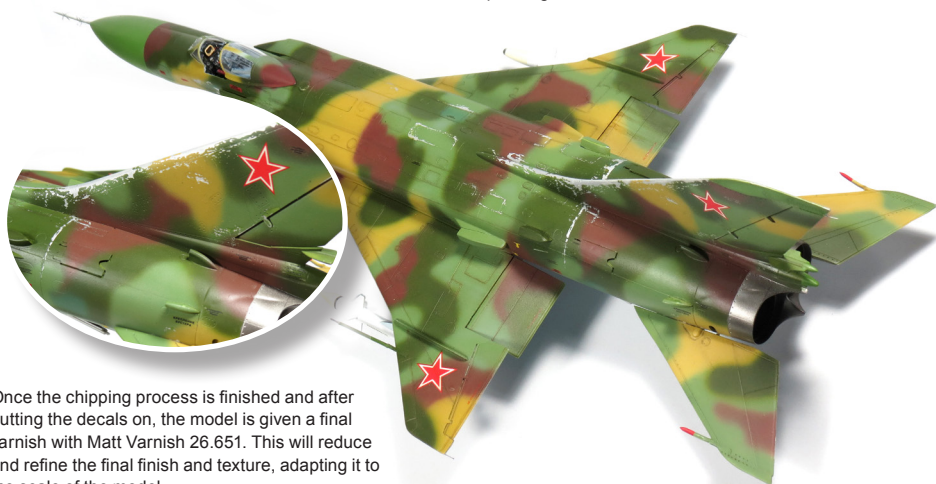
- 5** After applying the Liquid Mask, we can paint the model as normal. As soon as it dries, the Liquid Mask will only be visible where there is a heavier application.



- 6** With a thin wooden stick or toothpick, we begin to scratch the areas where the Liquid Mask is visible. It is important to do this before the topcoat of paint cures completely, usually after 20 or 24 hours depending on the humidity and climatic conditions. Ideally, the Liquid Mask should be removed 15 or 20 minutes after painting.



- 7** With very fine sandpaper, or a polishing sponge, we gently pass over the chipped paint effects already evident. This will soften the texture on the model and lift any remaining paint that still has Liquid Mask underneath.



- 8** Once the chipping process is finished and after putting the decals on, the model is given a final varnish with Matt Varnish 26.651. This will reduce and refine the final finish and texture, adapting it to the scale of the model.