

## **Panel lines, hatches, etc.....**

*An article by Vance Gilbert printed in the "Tailspin" newsletter, Mike Nassise editor, ripped off from the November 2004 issue of the San Antonio "Windy Sock," Joe Joseph, editor*

For drawing panel lines and other details on models with fine-point pens I make up what I term "phaux rulers and templates." For example here's what I do when I want to draw lines around cowls, nacelles, etc. First, I lay up a few long, thin strips of blue masking tape (the low tack stuff from your local hardware store) on top of each other so that the edges are even and the tape stack is about 1/32" to 1/16 high. Next, I apply the tape so that the edge runs around the oval model section right where I want to draw the line, then I draw a line against the edge. After the ink has dried, I carefully remove the tape and there is my nice, clean ink line just where I wanted it.

Access panels that are square with edges rounded off, or other odd shapes are done by making a template from the same blue masking tape, cutting the shape out with a sharp knife, applying it to the model, and then drawing away as described earlier. It's a very simple technique, but one that produces excellent results.

*Editor's note: The so-called low-tack blue hardware store masking tape can be a bit more tacky than you might expect and can damage the tissue. See the July/August 2004 issue of this exciting rag for information on masking tape which does the job but is less likely to do damage to your finish. If I were to do this, I would use Tamyta masking tape for the bottom layer, then use the cheap blue stuff for the upper layers.*