



Model Airliner Decals From Around The World!

V1 DECALS

Decal Application Instructions

All of our decals are laser-printed onto waterslide decal paper with a continuous carrier film so each section must be carefully cut out with very sharp scissors or a knife before being applied. For best results, we recommend storing decals flat in a dark and dry location and (assuming proper handling and storage) the printer toner should not be damaged by water during application. Therefore, our decals do not require any clearcoating before use either as long as they are used within a few years. For best results we recommend handling decals with nitrile gloves, very clean hands, or brushes and other non-abrasive instruments to avoid scratching them or leaving oily fingerprints behind.

- For best results, we recommend removing any pre-existing raised, recessed, or printed window and door details etc. so that any discrepancy between them and our decal sets will not be noticeable.
- Once construction and painting of the model is complete, ensure the model surface is clean with a glossy finish (apply a gloss clearcoat if necessary to avoid “silvering” caused by air beneath the decal).
- Briefly immerse the section of decal in warm water, taking care not to allow it to curl on itself. Allow larger decals to soak in the water for up to one minute. For very small decals, sometimes wetting with a brush may be sufficient.
- Allow decal to sit for a moment while the adhesive layer loosens.
- Wet the area on the model with water and/or decal setting solutions such as Microset™.
- Carefully slide the decal onto the prepared model surface and ensure there is a sufficient layer of liquid underneath the decal film to allow for easy sliding into position.
- Once decal is in position, gently brush and smooth out any wrinkles, air bubbles, or excess liquid.
- Apply decal solutions such as Microsol™ if required to help the decal settle over or under details on the model.
- Allow decal to dry completely (24hrs recommended) before applying a protective clearcoat.
- We recommend clearcoating your model with “gentler” acrylic-based products such as Future/Pledge Floor Care Finish™ but many “harsher” spray lacquers like Tamiya TS-79™ may still be used very carefully in multiple light coats.

Reference Photos

Airliner modelling is a fantastic hobby. In addition to all of the more obvious reasons, we are also lucky to have an incredibly extensive selection of reference photos available to us online. By simply entering the aircraft’s registration (eg. N2331U) or more broadly, the airline and aircraft (eg. United 777) into the search engines of our favourite resources below, we have very rarely been underwhelmed by reference photos.

Airliners.net

JetPhotos.net

Flickr.com

Google.com/images

PlaneSpotters.net

AirTeamImages.com

Airplane-Pictures.net

ABPic.co.uk

Painting

Once upon a time, we attempted to create “paint match” recommendations for a few of our decal sets and failed laughably amidst the differing variety, international availability, and even discontinuation of paint product lines. Feeling even more baffled managing CMYK/RGB conversions, scale effect, lighting, monitor color balance and even slight printing variations, we realized the many hours devoted to this helplessly inaccurate courtesy are more appreciated spent creating new decals. Having said that, we do have a few general approaches we like to recommend. After searching the links above for reference photos with the most neutral lighting, we recommend starting by comparing your chosen manufacturer’s paint swatch publications for the one that looks closest. For airbrush users, we recommend picking the closest colour (or two) along with a series of other primary colours to mix a good match to your liking. A quick youtube.com search of “paint matching” will bring up some great instructional videos. Where finding a match to the same colour as one of our decals is beneficial, we have tried to add an additional matching colour swatch to the decal sheet itself.

A note about laser-printed decals: All of our decals have a certain element of transparency to them by default and will tend to show any underlying details or colour unless they have a layer of white printed underneath them if noted on the previous page. While painting the aircraft, ensure that any transparent decals are only applied over white paint (or very pale colours) for best results and carefully trim away any areas that overlap each other or other other paint colours with a sharp knife. If attempting to match paint colours to our decals, we recommend applying the colour or swatch to be matched over its eventual paint colour first since its appearance will be more accurate than with the pale blue backing of the decal paper showing through.