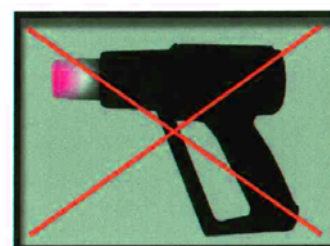
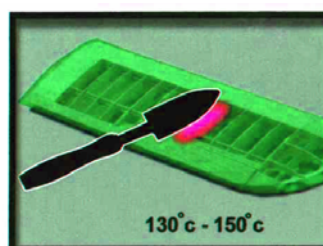
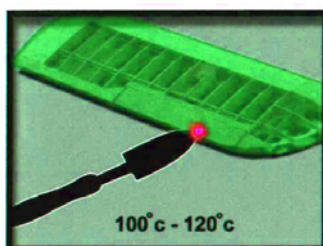


CAMOUFLAGE FABRIC COVERING PROCEDURE

Preparation:

Sand and paint all wood surfaces with *white or light grey primer*. Remove the protective backing on the adhesive side of the fabric and paint with a light coat of primer (on top of the adhesive). This hides the visibility of the wood grain through the thin fabric and increases the opacity of the material to give is a more realistic finish. *Don't worry about covering the adhesive it will liquify and penetrate the primer when you apply the heat.*

1. Brush a thin coat of BALSALOC (or BALSARITE) with a soft brush on balsa, let it dry and sand it with 220 paper.
2. Brush a second thin coat of BALSALOC and let it dry. Do not sand.
3. Cover the bottom of the wings, fuselage...etc. first with an un-socked, well-temperature-controlled iron at 100-120 C (21st century iron is recommended). Clean the bottom of the iron often with acetone to remove residual primer.
4. Refer to your scale documentation for the proper orientation of the fabric pattern. Any overlapping fabric is about ¼" join, and BALSALOC has to be brushed on the overlapping section of the fabric and let dry before applying iron. The iron temperature is still as shown below.
5. If wing undercamber is too much, one has to glue the fabric to the lower wing rib by tiny drops of thin CA. Otherwise, fabric may delaminate from the rib during shrinking stage.
6. Once the entire aircraft is covered, the preferred method is still the iron unless the part to be shrunk is highly unreachable. In case of iron, an iron sock has to be used and the temperature should be kept as shown or slightly higher if the sock is wet. This fabric shrinks very fast after a certain threshold temperature. Therefore, once one sees the material starts shrinking he has to move to the adjacent areas and let the first area cool before going over for a second time to shrink the fabric further. Keeping the iron on the same area too long will cause fabric to pull off from balsa or worse, lozenge colors may start running uncontrollably.
7. The seams on the wing should be covered with either pink, light purple or light blue 21st century fabric or Arizona Models Rib Tape.
8. Markings are painted on using Sig's butyrate color dope or Krylon paint.
9. A light MIST of Sig's butyrate clear dope is sprayed over the entire aircraft for protection against glow fuel and also to prevent material to sag (it shrinks the fabric further when the dope dries). Too much dope will cause the fabric colors to start running so extra care is needed here.
10. To weather the fabric small amounts of graphite powder (this material is used for lubricating keyholes...etc. and readily available in hardware stores) is rubbed against fabric. When desired amount of grime and dirt is achieved brush off the excess powder. One needs to spray a second MIST of dope to keep the graphite powder on fabric, and to further protect fabric against hot glow fuel.



Important Note:

The colors used in the printing are soluble with acetone and MEK. If you are going to use a fuel proofing or other finish check for color fastness first. If the solution you are going to use reacts with the finish try a different brand not based with acetone or MEK. If you need to use this type of finish it can be applied with an air brush applied with several light dusting. Do not use a heavy spray the colors will run. We strongly suggest that you test the procedure on a scrap piece first. When your work is finished clean your iron on an old piece of wool carpeting. Don't panic if there seem to be too many large creases in the material as it's going on. Remember, the fabric is not like any other material you've used before just work the iron slowly across the creases using a light but firm pressure and like magic they will disappear.

Short Cut Tips:

- * Check the direction of the pattern with your scale documentation and pre plan the fabric layout.*
- * When using the fabric sock on the iron you can increase the temperature if you keep the sock very wet. This allows a more efficient heat transfer to the fabric with out damaging the printing. * We use only PolyTex fabrics for the camouflage base.*

Fabric Opacity:

Poly Tex fabric we have found is superior to Super Coverite and other types of covering especially in the aggressiveness of the adhesive. It is also extremely light weight however because of the thinness of the material it does allow strong light to pass through the weave of the material. This typically is not a problem on small scale models but does require additional preparation steps for larger scales and large open areas. This is solved by first priming all covered wood surfaces with a coat of white or grey primer to hide the wood grain. For wings apply the underside fabric first, for fuselages apply the top and sides first. This will block the light from passing through the model and hide the internal structure. The primer we use is comonly found at ACE, Home Depot or Lowes Hardware stores.

