

A Decal Application Tip

by John Miller

(From Newsletter #87 October 2005)

When decaling my Australian National locomotive AN 7, I encountered a common problem.

Whilst the MnJ yellow lining sheet I used to decal the hand rails and pilot chevrons ad good opacity, the yellow nose lining and AN insignia on the AN diesel sheet were translucent and blotchy. This meant that the AN green could be seen through the decal and the colour of the stripe and insignia did not match the other yellow painted and decaled areas of the model.

The simple solution to this problem is to apply a second decal directly over the first after it had been applied with decal setting solutions and allowed to dry fully.

Whenever you cut a decal from the sheet it is generally recommended that you cut right up to the printed area in order to minimise the appearance of the decal film edge. When applying a second decal over the first cut the second decal slightly larger leaving some decal film outside the printed area. This will avoid having two decal edges directly on top of each other and help in "feathering" the double decal application onto the painted surface of the model.



I always use the Microscale decal setting solutions Mocroset and Microsol. By carefully following the Microscale instructions I have always had success in getting the decal film edge to settle onto the painted surface and becoming practically invisible when sealed with a clear finish. The one qualification being that the painted surface is glossy and not flat. (One of the many reasons I use Badger Modelflex paints is because they dry decal-ready and don't need an additional gloss coat.)

The Microscale system has worked with all brands of decals I have used and really earns its keep when applying a large Westrail decal to the side of a locomotive. The correct application of the solutions make the large decal settle over the hinges and latches on the engine room doors very nicely. The system works very well on rib sided containers too.