

USING FUTURE FLOOR FINISH ON MODELS

by Ed Pelatowski

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This article deals with the use of Future (TM) acrylic floor finish on tissue covered models. Most of the info that that I'm going to pass along has come from articles published in various club newsletters such as *Max Fax*, and from experiments that I've conducted myself. I hope you will find the discussion helpful.

First off, Future is 100% clear acrylic. I think I paid about \$7.00 for a quart size bottle at a local grocery store. You can use it as is, or thin it with alcohol or water. Supposedly, it can be removed with ammonia solution, but I've never had the need to do this, so I can't vouch for its efficacy. I've only used an airbrush to apply it and it does the job quite well. The resulting finish comes out semi to highly glossy depending on how porous the surface is to which is applied. Flattening agents can be mixed with it resulting in very low sheen.

From my experience, Future sticks well in tissue to tissue application. I've put letters and numbers on models with it with no problems. I always preshrink my tissue and seal it on both sides with Krylon before cutting out the markings I need and applying them to the model. They don't curl up as readily when this is done, making them a little easier to apply. The best method of fixing the numbers and letters down in their proper position is to locate them where they are supposed to be, then "wet" them with Future directly much as you would when using dope. I found it hard to apply Future to the back of the markings, and then try to place them in position. There is little ability to move them once set down, because the Future tends to set up rapidly. I've also mixed talcum powder with Future and applied the mixture to balsa as a filler to smooth the grain. It works out pretty well. The best feature of this process is the fact that there is little to no odor.

Some articles state that Future can be brushed on, but I have found the results to be mixed to poor. Air brushing is the only way to go. I used to swear at my air brush more often than not because it always clogged up. Since switching to water based acrylics those troubles have gone away. In my opinion, spraying Future is like spraying water. Another plus is that on models where I've used Future I've found no continued shrinking of the tissue with age or exposure to the hot sun. Give the stuff a try, you may get to like it as much as I have.