

WARNING-PLEASE READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE TRYING TO APPLY THE DECALS TO YOUR MODEL.

Diels Engineering, Inc. has always tried to provide decal sets for our model kits which add that finish touch to the model. Over the course of our history we have used decals from several different manufacturers. Our main concern was that the decal sheets be the most accurate representation of the real thing that we can get coupled with a reasonable price to keep the selling prices of our kits under control. Over the past 24 years we have had less than a dozen complaints about decals. In the last few months we received complaints from a couple customers. One of those customers said that our decals have been a problem in the past with several other modelers in his area. Not having been contacted with this information in the past we have not been aware of any problems until just recently.

Some modelers have found some of the decals supplied in our kits tend to disintegrate as they are being applied. So we have also initiated a testing program to test several sets of decals from our current decal supplier. Based on those initial tests we have we are recommending that the model builder take the following steps listed below to assure that the decals provided can be applied properly to the model. We are also working with the manufacturer to find a solution to the problem and they have made some progress with new inks and clear coatings. **Not all the decals sets have this problem but it since seems to be hit or miss we recommend following the steps listed below before attempting to apply the decals.** The decals are thin and therefore fragile. Most are not separated on the sheet. Please follow the steps below for best results.

RECOMMENDED DECAL APPLICATION STEPS

1. We recommend that you apply a clear coating by spraying or brushing over the entire decal sheet with a clear lacquer such as supplied by Krylon or other suppliers or the Decal coatings sold by Micro-Mark, or one of the Decal Makers coatings listed in various plastic model catalogs such as Squadron.com.
2. We recommend that you make a plain paper color copy of the decal sheet as a backup.
3. When coating the decal sheet make sure you cover the entire sheet. Use of a cheap foam brush is one way to brush it on. When spraying use several light coats. Practice on some leftover old sets first.
4. An alternate coating which is easier to do but not as permanent as the lacquer coatings is to use Pledge Future Floor Finish. I have tested it applying it with a brush and it seems to work ok and has the advantage not smelling up the area if used indoors without a spray booth. It still requires special handling as the decal is still somewhat fragile after coating.
5. After allowing the coated decal sheets to dry thoroughly cut each individual decal as close to the outline as possible before soaking in water to release it from the backing sheet.
6. Soak each piece in water until the transfer will slide off easily. **Be careful they are very thin and fragile.**
7. Apply the decal to the model making certain it is very close to the exact position required. Once the decal is on the model it will be difficult to reposition. If you want to move it before it dries add a couple drops of water around the edges to loosen the decal from the tissue covering. Be careful not to puncture the covering.
8. Once the decal is in position let it dry before doing any other work on the model.
9. If you have use the Future Floor finish coating it may leave a milky finish if too much water has been used when placing the decal. This can be removed by gently rubbing the decal with a damp soft cloth.
10. After the decal has been applied and dried you may wish to give it a light coating of spray lacquer of your choice or use a decal setting solution as use by plastic model or railroad modelers for setting their decals in place. Check on-line sources or your local hobby shops for info.