

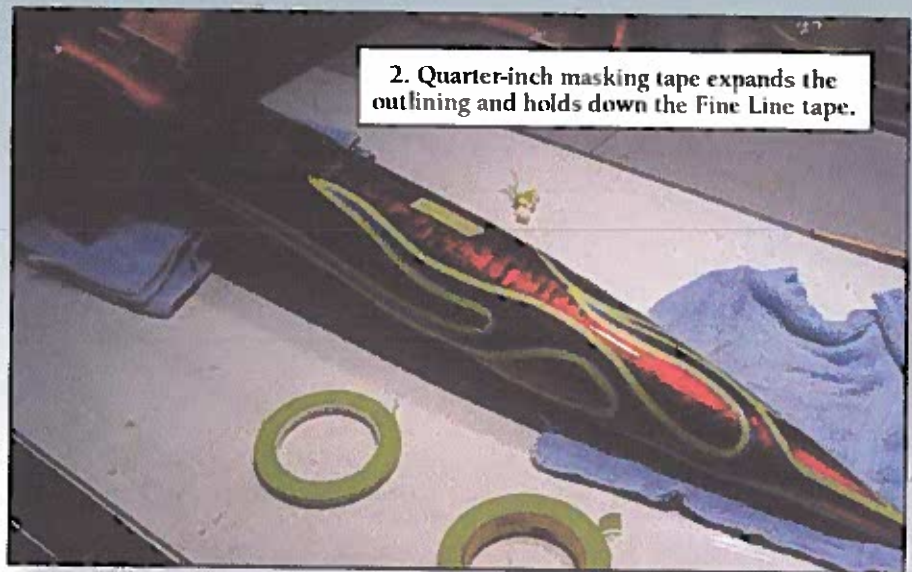


Custom Shop: MARBLIZER PAINT — PART 2

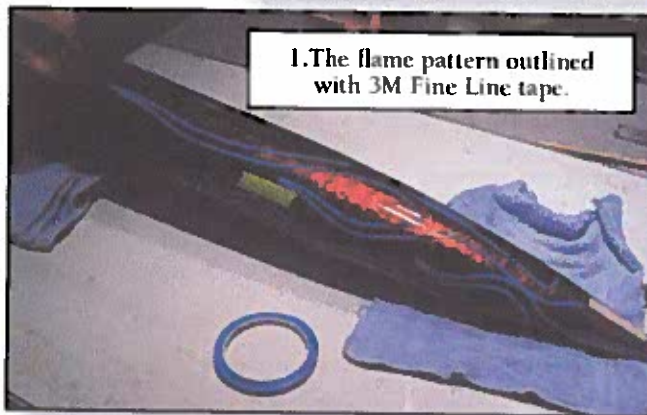
by Ed Miller NAR 45776 TRA 637

Welcome back. In part 1 of this article, which appeared in the July/August issue, I showed you how I applied the basecoats, marblizer, and candy coats to the Public Enemy Rockets Fat Boy model. This time we will apply the pearl flames and clear coat to the rocket. There are many styles of flames to choose from. If you need ideas, refer to a book called "How to Paint Flames" by Bruce Caldwell, available from MotorBooks (www.motorbooks.com).

I placed the rocket on soft towels to avoid scratching the paint job from part 1. First I outlined the flame design with 1/8 inch 3M Fine Line tape. See photo 1. You should always try to make the curves smooth to get the best looking flames. If you are not pleased with the design, just peel off the tape a try again. Looking carefully at photo 1 you will notice that I used pieces of masking tape to divide the tip of the nose cone into three equal segments. These pieces of tape were there as guides



2. Quarter-inch masking tape expands the outlining and holds down the Fine Line tape.



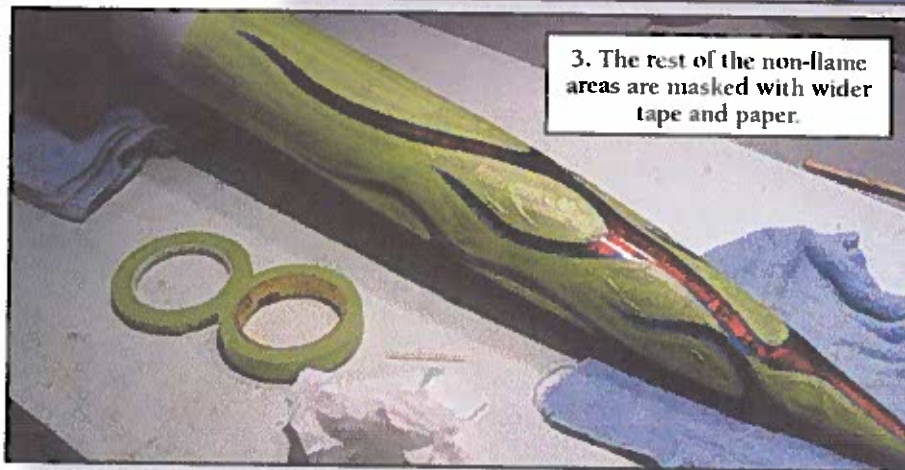
1. The flame pattern outlined with 3M Fine Line tape.

while I was laying out the flame pattern, and were removed when the outlining was done. My design plan was to have the flames gently fade away as they reach the tip of the nose cone.

Next, I outlined the Fine Line tape with quarter-inch masking tape to lock the Fine Line tape in place. See photo 2. Then I filed in the balance of the exposed area with 2-inch masking tape and paper to complete the masking job as shown in photo 3. The edges of the tape were carefully burnished (rubbed down tightly to the surface) to make a leak-proof seal.

Warning: The use of automotive paint is potentially dangerous. Read, understand and follow the manufacturer's safety precautions on the container labels. Wear a spray mask with the appropriate filters. Do not spray indoors unless you have a spray booth with explosion proof exhaust fan and lighting.

The materials used for the flames are shown in photo 4. Small amounts of each color were mixed with RU-310 reducer following the manufacturer's instructions on the container labels, and put into small bottles. See photo 5. The flame areas were wiped down with a tack cloth to remove any dust. I began by spraying a thin coat



3. The rest of the non-flame areas are masked with wider tape and paper.



4. Materials for painting the flames.



5. The paint for the flame colors, mixed with reducer.



7. Spraying on the first flame color. Notice that the white base coat fades out before reaching the tip of the nose.



6. Spraying on the white base coat of the flames.

of BC-26 white base coat over the flame area as shown in photo 6. This white base makes the pearl colors brighter. I faded the white coat away to nothing about 3 inches from the tip of the nose cone (remember, I wanted my flames to fade as they approach the tip of the nose). The white basecoat was allowed to dry for about 15 minutes, and then the PBC-32 Tangelo Pearl was sprayed on as shown in photo 7. I sprayed on enough coats at half hour intervals until full coverage was achieved (except where the paint was faded to nothing before the nose cone tip). See photo 8.

After letting the Tangelo Pearl dry for

half an hour, I shaded in with the second color, PBC-64 Ultra Orange, as shown in photo 9. Then I shaded in with the third color PBC-35 Pink Pearl (see photo 10), and then shaded in the last color, PBC-65 Passion Pearl (see photo 11). I let the flames dry for half an hour, then sprayed on two coats of SG-100 Intercoat Clear mixed with RU-310 reducer over the area. The model was then allowed to dry overnight.

The next day, after the paint had dried, it was time to remove the tape and see the results of my handiwork. The masking was removed in the reverse order that it was applied. First the wide tape and paper were removed; then the quarter-inch masking tape was carefully removed; and finally the Fine Line tape was very carefully removed by pulling it back over itself. Never pull masking tape straight up away from the finish.

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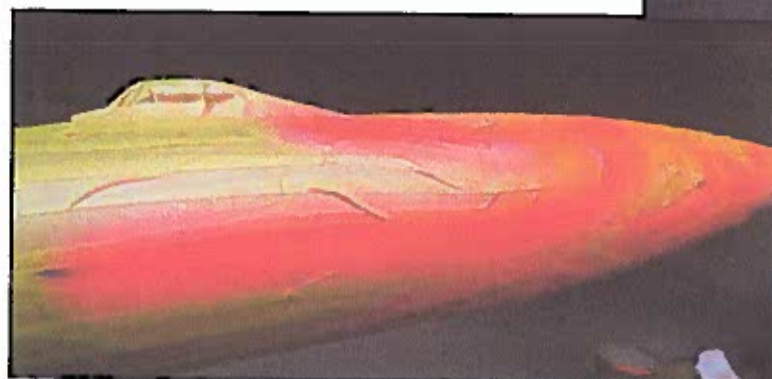
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8. The first flame color, Tangelo Pearl, is finished.

This Fat Boy, donated by Public Enemy Rockets, was won by Carl Hamilton in September 2005 in the TRA Legal Fund Raffle (see photo 16). Are you going to fly it, Carl?

The entire flame area was wet sanded with 1200 grit sandpaper and plenty of water until it appeared mostly dull. The rocket was then dried and wiped down with a tack cloth. I spray on two coats of SG-100 Intercoat Clear (with RU-310 Reducer) a half hour apart. The rocket then looked as shown in photo 12, and it was left to dry overnight.



(above) 9. Shading with the second flame color, Ultra Orange.

(left) 10. Shading with the third flame color, Pink Pearl.

(below) 11. Final flame shading with Passion Pink.

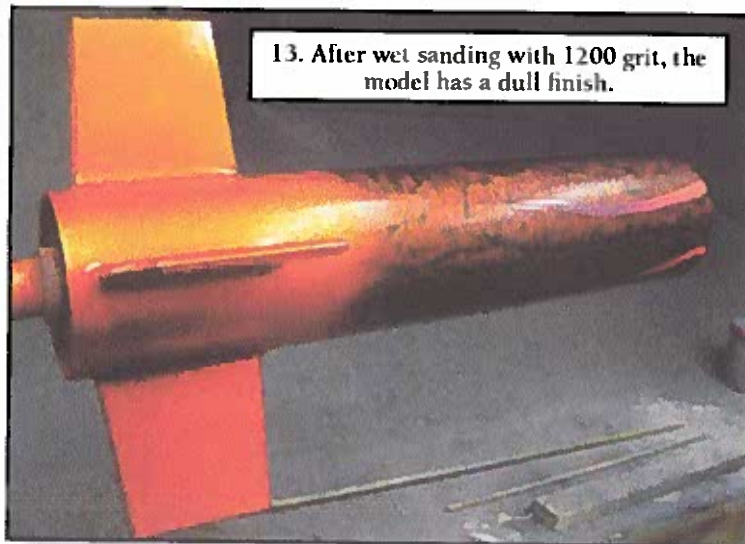


12. After carefully removing the tape, we see the finished flames!



13. After wet sanding with 1200 grit, the model has a dull finish.

In preparation for applying the clear coat, the entire rocket was wet sanded with 1200 grit sandpaper and water, then dried and wiped with a tack cloth. At this point the finish has the dull look seen in photo 13, and it is ready for the final clear. I mixed some House of Kolor UFC-35 Ultra Flo Klear with Ku-150 catalyst and RU-310 reducer, following the manufacturer's directions on the container label. Two coats were sprayed on 15 minutes apart. I allowed the rocket to dry undisturbed for 48 hours before handling it. See photo 14. Wow, look at those reflections. The complete finished rocket is shown in photo 15.





14. After two clear coats, the beautiful shine!



15. The finished Fat Boy: Marblized, candied, flaming, and clear coated.



16. Carl Hamilton, proud winner of the Fat Boy.

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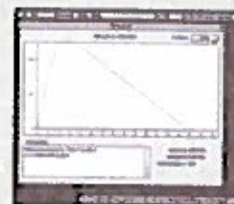
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