

Insignia from SOLARTRIM

Insignia for scale models are always a problem because there are snags to all methods that have been used.

Traditional waterslide transfers are seldom the size required and they are not fuelproof. If a fuelproof is applied on top of them it makes them wrinkle up. Modern 'stick-on' insignia are only available in a few sizes and types. They are printed on a vinyl base which is quite thick so that when they are in place they have a 'stuck-on' look. The experts prefer painted insignia but this requires skill, is time consuming, with no margin for error. Humbrol enamel is used because mistakes can be wiped off with white spirit without affecting the paint beneath. Humbrol is attacked by glo-fuel and so needs an extra fuelproof coating. If you have the skill and time it is better to use fuelproof paint such as Solarlac. The Mixing Chart for Military and Camouflage colours has recipes for mixing authentic colours for insignia. Adding Flattening agent provides a matt finish. Insignia from Solartrim can be made the EXACT size needed. It is quick and easy and they can be made with a matt finish very easily. The stages in making insignia are:-

1. Fix the proportions of the insignia i.e. the **relative** sizes of the areas of the different colours that make up the insignia. The diagrams show the proportions of common types of insignia.
2. Draw a scaling diagram for the type of insignia you want, the example is for an RAF type C roundel. Decide the size of insignia you want, for a roundel this is the outside diameter, and using the scaling to obtain the **dimensions** of the piece of Solartrim that will be used to make the insignia e.g. the U.S. 'star and bar', it is worthwhile drawing the insignia full size on paper to check the sizes of the various pieces needed. The shapes can be cut from paper and used as patterns that are drawn round to transfer the shape on to the back of the Solartrim. This is useful if several insignia of the same size are needed. Otherwise draw the shapes direct on to the back of the Solartrim.

3. Cut out the Solartrim shapes. Circles are best cut using a circle cutter on the face of the Solartrim.
4. Assemble the insignia. Leave the largest piece on its backing but peel the surplus Solartrim from around it. This is the base on which the other pieces are added in turn. Add a few drops of detergent (washing up liquid) to a bowl of water and peel the pieces of trim off their backing under the water. Place the wet pieces of trim on the base in sequence, sliding them around into the correct position. As each piece is added, squeegee the surplus water out with a pad of dry tissue. Leave the completed insignia in a warm place for 24 hours to dry out. Gently rub the dry insignia with abrasive cleaner (Ajax) on a damp cloth to matt the surface.
5. Peel the complete insignia off the backing under water and apply to the model. Squeegee and leave to dry out

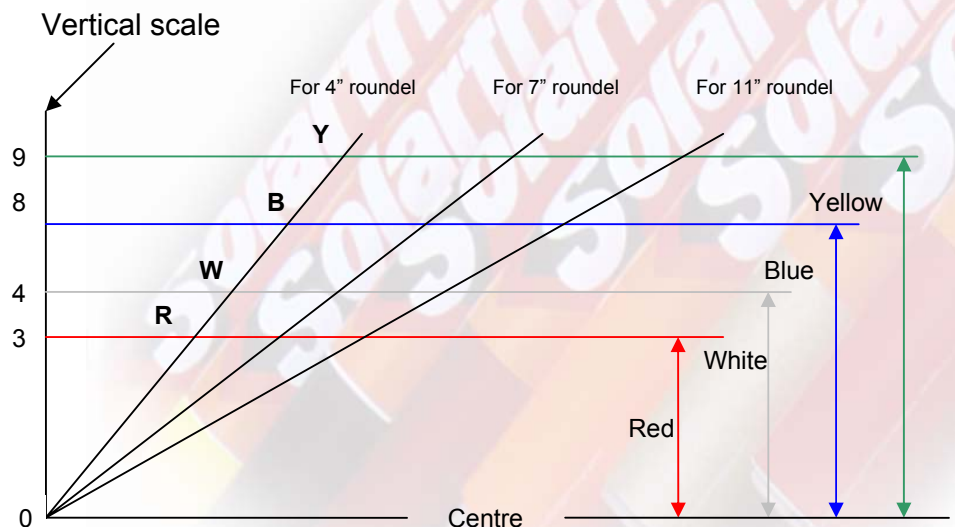
USEFUL TIPS FOR HANDLING SOLARTRIM

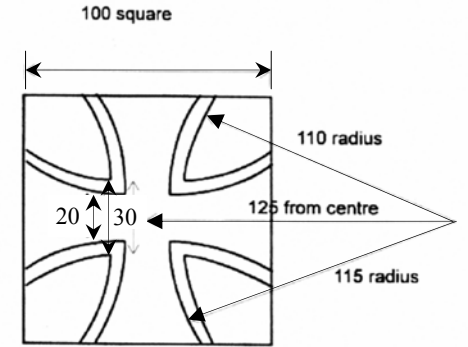
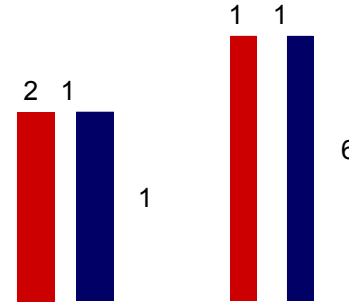
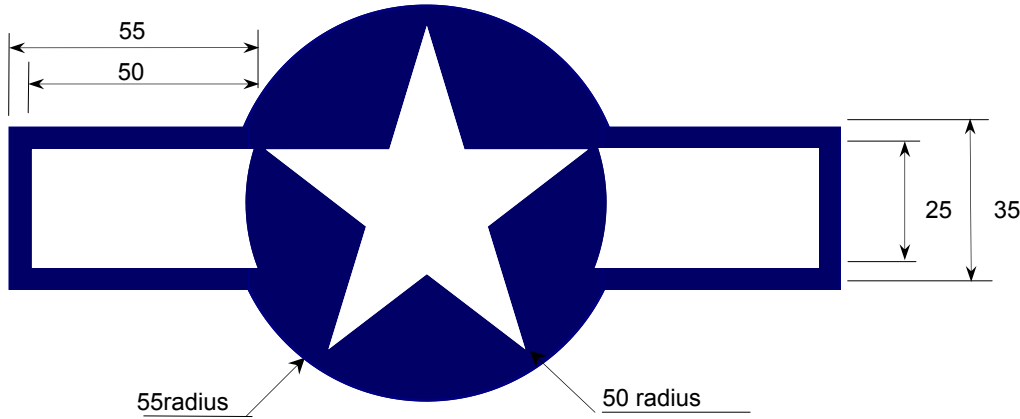
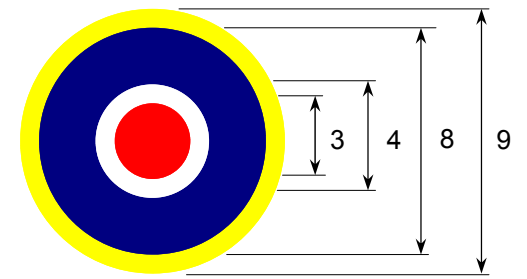
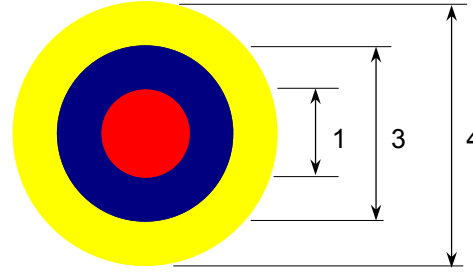
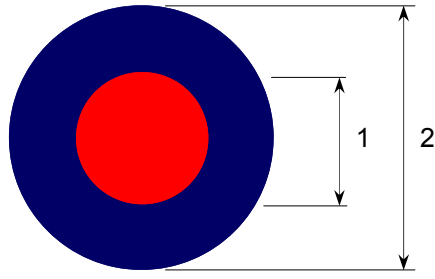
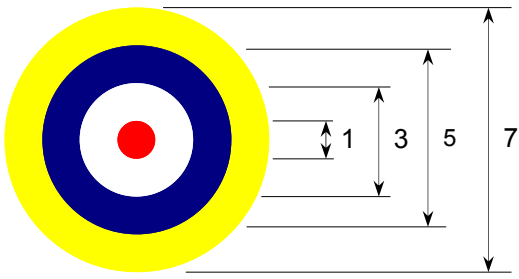
1. If you have difficulty drawing on the back of Solartrim it is caused by traces of the release agent on the paper. This can be removed by wiping the paper backing with a cloth dampened with thinners (Solarlac) Also use a good quality ballpoint e.g. Papermate – cheap ballpoints may not work.
2. When unrolled, Solartrim tends to roll back up. Flattening it by re-rolling the opposite way may form raised wrinkles across the sheet, which interferes with cutting out. To remove these wrinkles and get the trim to lie completely flat, the Solartrim has to be lifted off the backing and re-laid without the wrinkles. To do this open the trim out on a flat surface, coloured face upwards, and tape it down each side at the midpoint of the long edges. Stick a piece of masking at each corner on the backing so the tape projects out past the corner. Apply a second piece at each corner on to the first pieces – adhesive sides together so that the Solartrim is held down securely on the surface at each corner (a piece of double sided tape could be used under each corner instead). At one end of the Solartrim, peel it back off the backing for about two inches, and apply a strip of balsa or dowel on the sticky side. Hold the backing down with one hand and peel the trim up off the backing by slowly lifting the balsa strip. Support the trim with the balsa and use the empty paper tube from the trim to smooth the back down onto the backing – slowly lowering the balsa as the trim is re-laid. Repeat from the other end of the sheet of Solartrim.
3. When a narrow coloured border is required e.g. a red star surrounded by a narrow white border, cut out the red star first and apply it to a piece of White Solartrim. Then cut round the red star to leave a narrow white border. This is easier than trying to position a red star on a white star.
4. Circle cutters from drawing office suppliers are expensive. A simple cutter is shown that can be made easily from materials that most modellers have. When using the cutter, tape a small scrap of ply at the centre of the Solartrim and apply the spike to the ply to avoid puncturing the centre of the Solartrim. Grasp the cutter in one hand and pull the Solartrim round under the cutter, rather than moving the cutter round on the trim.

5. Store Solartrim flat between two pieces of thick cardboard.

Scaling diagram for RAF Type C roundel shown below

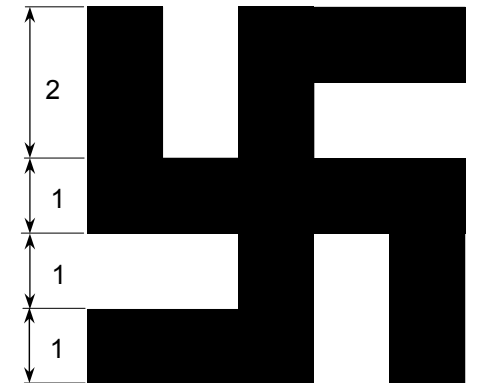
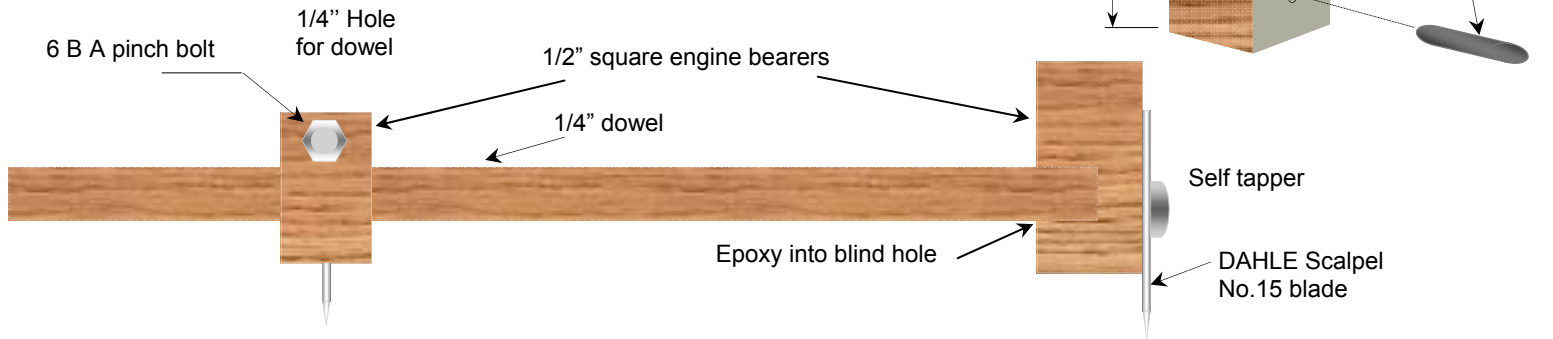
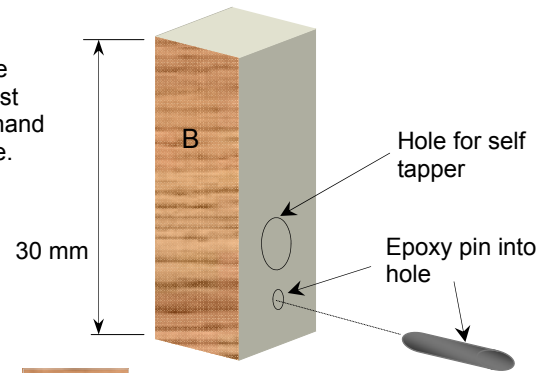
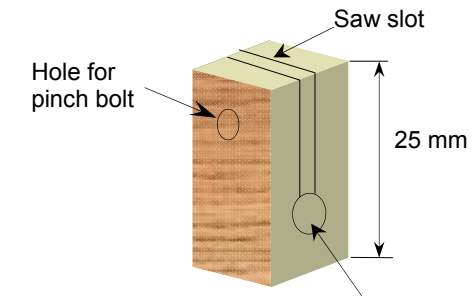
Mark off on the vertical scale the proportions to a convenient scale. Then draw horizontals from the marks. From O draw a sloping line so that the distance from O to the top line is the radius of the outside of the roundel required. Then measure off the disc radius for yellow = OY, for Blue = OB, for White = OW, and Red = OR



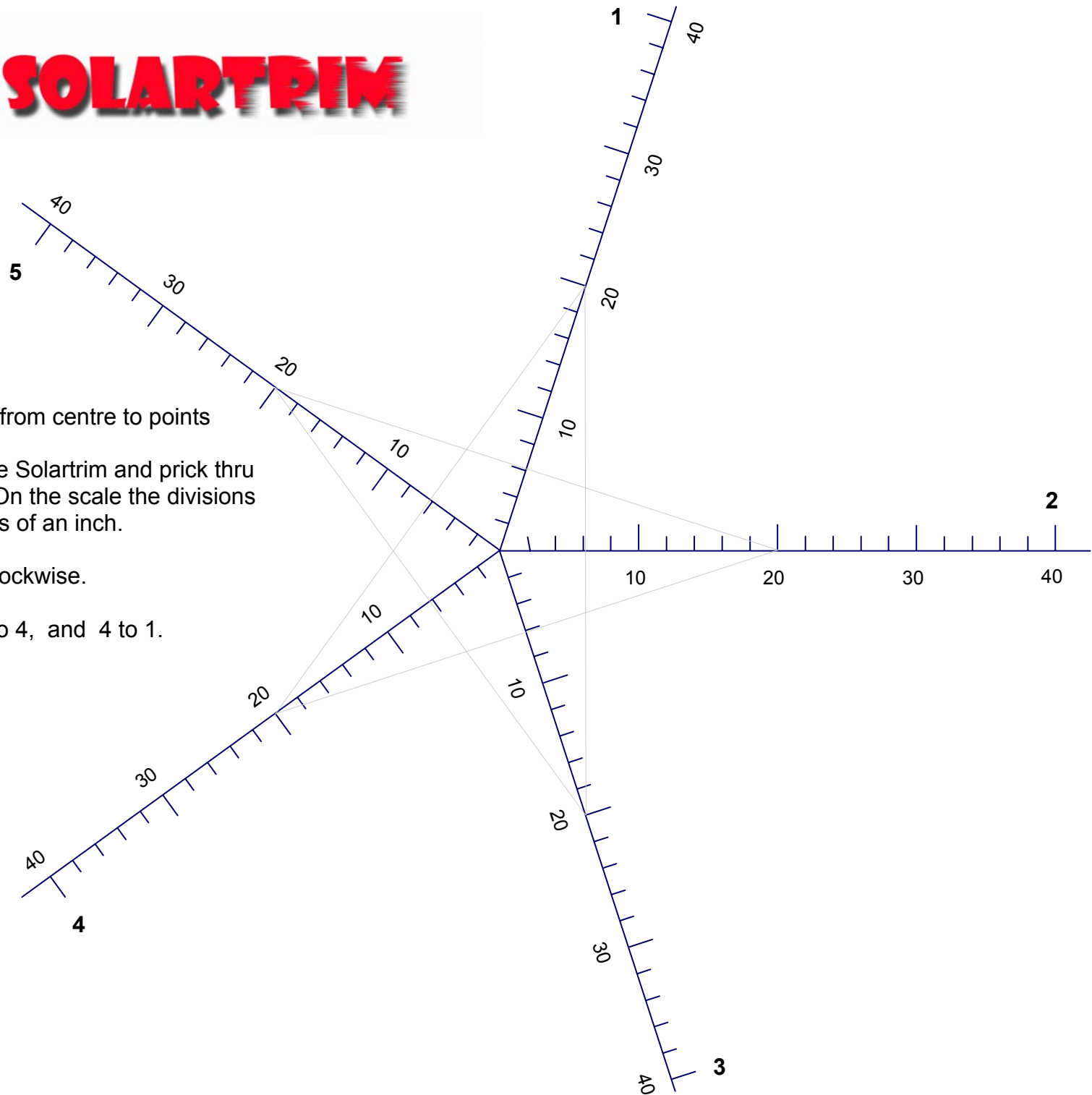


CIRCLE CUTTER

Hold cutter in left hand and place spike at centre of a square of Solartrim. Do not move cutter - just **pull** the Solartrim round under cutter with right hand until a complete circle has been cut by the blade.



STARS FROM SOLARTRIM



STAR MARKING DIAGRAM

1. Decide size of star i.e. distance from centre to points
2. Place diagram on the back of the Solartrim and prick thru the five arms at that distance. On the scale the divisions are 0.2 inch, numbers are tenths of an inch.
3. Number the pick marks 1 to 5 clockwise.
4. Join up 1 to 3 3 to 5 5 to 2 2 to 4, and 4 to 1.