

Building a Mick Reeves 1/4.5 scale Hurricane Instalment 13

Primer, Surface Prep then Intermission

Surface Preparation: -

I start my surface preparation with a couple of heavy coats of primer over the complete air-frame. I don't clean up the fibreglass overlay joins or clean up any of the surfaces at this point. I paint over everything, warts and all.

I use standard auto acrylic grey primer that you can buy from any auto discount store.

The downside of all this painting with primer is that I have to sand 99% of it off..I start wet



sanding with 120 grit then 140 then 400 and finish with 600 grit. The 120 grit removes all the fibreglass overlay, weave and daggy bits. The other grits are for surface prep for undercoat.



I'm after a super smooth surface that I will give a thin coat of brown which will be further sanded with wet and dry to provide a perfect base finish for the addition of panel lines, hatches, canon covers, rivets and all the other surface details required. The brown coat will highlight any remaining surface irregularities, small dings collected along the way and will be a base colour for the panel lines. The undercoat will be a darker brown than the Mid Stone top coat to make the panel lines more visible when the panel line masking tape is removed..



The sanding process is a bit tedious as it will take about 8 hours of continual sanding to arrive at a finish ready for the undercoat.

The wings are now sanded back and are as smooth as the proverbial baby's bum. The 2 oz cloth on the leading edges is now invisibly faired into the wing as is the multiple layers of cloth around the wheel wells. Fuselage is next. The downside of all this sanding is the bloody mess it makes of the workshop.

INTERMISSION

I owe an apology to those misguided souls that are following this build up until now as I now have to store the plane while I move house and make a new workshop. I reckon I'll be off the air for about 4-6 weeks but it will be a pretty flash workshop when I have finished and I am looking forward to decorating this beast.

Back soon
Stan