

# GUIDELINES FOR USE WITH CITADELSIX CUSTOM DESIGN CLEAR WATER-SLIDE DECALS

**WARNING:** Do **NOT** use a solvent-based brush-on or any spray-on type finishing product to over-coat the decals. The solvent will damage the decal's surface and the medium used to print them. An **ACRYLIC** type finishing product, such as Windsor & Newton *Galeria* matt, satin or gloss varnish, is highly recommended.

The sheet of water-slide decals that accompanies these instructions has been laser-printed by CitadelSix Custom Design onto high-quality **CLEAR** decal carrier film.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Because these water-slide decals are NOT the same as those that come with plastic model kits, they will need to be cut out from the sheet, and should only be applied to either a WHITE-painted or natural metal surface. Also, to obtain the best results, it is highly recommended that you read through **all** the instructions provided on this sheet **first**, especially the **Technical tips & notes** section overleaf then follow the steps exactly as described.

## Tools & Materials you will need

- Craft knife or scalpel, fitted with new, razor-sharp blade.
- Cutting mat.
- Needle-nose tweezers.
- Steel ruler or straight edge.
- Medium width, flat, soft-haired paint brush.
- Small, pointed, soft-haired paint brush.
- Acrylic varnish (see **WARNING** above) – gloss, satin and matt.
- Micro-Set and Micro-Sol decal finishing products.
- Decal-set.

## METHOD

1. Paint surfaces, on which the decals are to be applied, with either a gloss WHITE paint or, if you wish to leave a natural metal finish, a CLEAR gloss varnish or lacquer. The gloss surface will help reduce air bubbles being trapped beneath the decals. Make sure the gloss finish is thoroughly dry before you apply any decals to the surface.
2. Lay decal sheet flat on the cutting mat and cut around the decals with the razor-sharp scalpel or craft-knife, leaving a border of a millimetre or two around the outside of the decals. This border will provide a convenient edge with which the backing paper can be held with tweezers while the decal itself is slid into place on the miniature.
3. Fill a saucer or shallow dish with warm water and place the decal in the water (the decal may curl slightly and then flatten out, depending on the warmth of the water). After about 30 seconds lift the decal out and place it onto some absorbent paper, such as kitchen roll, to soak up most of the surplus water.
4. If you are using Micro-Set Decal Solvent (see **Technical tips & notes**), apply a coat of this over the surface on which the decal is to be applied and, using a small, moistened paint brush, slide the decal off its backing paper onto the Micro-Set Decal Solvent while it is still wet. Apply a coat of Micro-Sol Decal Solvent (see **Technical tips & notes**) to the decal at this point to help it conform to any raised surface details.
5. Dab the decal **very** lightly and carefully with a tissue, or some other absorbent paper, to soak up any surplus moisture and to remove any small air bubbles that may have been trapped under the decal, then leave the decal to set. **Don't** be tempted to reposition or touch the

decal once you've applied it to the surface and it's settled into its final position, as you may damage the decal while it is still softened by the Micro-Set and Micro-Sol decal finishing products.

6. Once the decal is thoroughly dry and before applying a final protective coat of gloss or matt varnish to the decal, 'touch-in' the edges of the decal with a matching colour to help blend its edges into the surrounding surface area's colour. See the **Paint & Decal Colour Matching** page on the website at <http://www.citadelsix.co.uk/>
7. Finally, it is recommended that you give the decal a coat of clear gloss, satin or matt acrylic varnish applied with a medium width, flat soft-haired paint brush, to help protect the printed image and produce the final finish you want to obtain. **ONLY** use ACRYLIC varnish, such as such as Windsor & Newton *Galeria* varnish, to avoid damaging the printed surface of the decals (see **WARNING** above).

## Technical tips & notes

**Technical tip:** Very tiny decals, such as Livery Badges for the front left sides of livery jacks and coats, will tend to be quite stiff and resistant to conforming to surface shapes. This is simply because the decals are so small in area which makes it more difficult for the decal film to flex (bend). Also, if the surface on which you're applying the decal is very sharply curved or uneven, the decal will only mould itself to as much as it will naturally stretch before it starts to 'tent', i.e. leave gaps between the underside of the decal film and the peaks and troughs of sculpted details moulded on the surface of the miniature.

The problem can be reduced by brushing a coat of Microscale's Micro-Sol™ (product MI-2) or Micro-Set™ (product MI-1) Decal Solvent onto the surface, on which the decal is to be applied, as well applying some to the decal itself then leaving the decal to soften and settle onto the model's surface. The solvent also helps form a stronger bond between the decal adhesive and the surface area.

Quite often, especially when using Micro-Set or Micro-Sol, the decal may wrinkle when the liquid is first applied to its surface. *Don't panic* and be tempted to try to smooth the wrinkles out, because they will gradually disappear as the decal and Micro-Set or Micro-Sol dries

**Note 1:** Do NOT use scissors, as they can create a roughened edge which will spoil the finished product. Only cut the decal film with a razor-sharp scalpel or craft-knife.

**Note 2:** For very small decals that have predominantly regular shapes and straight borders, such as Livery Badges, it is easier to cut an entire row of the decals from the sheet at a time.

**Note 3:** Some decals may need cutting into smaller sections or have a section / shape cut out and removed, so that they can be fitted around any raised details modelled onto the surface of the miniature, such as sword belts, chainmail collars / pixanes, aventails / camails, horse reins, saddles and harness, or shields with a raised central boss, such as Norman Kite shields or Anglo-Saxon / Viking circular shields.

**Note 4:** The decals work best on flat or gently undulating / curved surfaces.

If you have any comments or suggestions you'd like to make about improving these guidelines or concerning CitadelSix Custom Design decals, then please send an e-mail to: [citadelsix@btinternet.com](mailto:citadelsix@btinternet.com).

Thank you for your custom  
Geoff Buss