

GUIDELINES FOR USE WITH CITADELSIX CUSTOM DESIGN WATER-SLIDE DECALS / TRANSFERS*

* Please note that in the UK, where CitadelSix Custom Design is located, decals are more generally referred to as 'transfers'.

The sheet of water-slide decals that accompanies these instructions has been laser-printed by CitadelSix Custom Design onto high-quality **WHITE** decal carrier film and will need to be cut out from the sheet.

To obtain the best results, it is highly recommended that you read through all the instructions provided on this sheet **first** and then follow the steps exactly as described.

Tools & Materials you will need

- Craft knife or scalpel, fitted with new, razor-sharp blade.
- Cutting mat.
- Paint brush.
- Flat-nose pliers.
- Needle-nose tweezers.
- Steel ruler or straight edge.
- Super glue.
- Acrylic varnish – gloss, satin and matt.
- Micro-Set and Micro-Sol decal solvents.
- Decal-set.
- Brass banner blanks and wire banner staffs, where applicable.

METHOD

1. Paint surfaces, on which the decals are to be applied, with a gloss paint, varnish or lacquer. Make sure the gloss finish is thoroughly dry before you apply any decals to the surface. The gloss surface will help reduce air bubbles being trapped beneath the decals.
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 Solvents.
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 to help protect the printed image and produce the final finish you want to obtain.

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, as shown in the illustrations below.

Note 3: Some decals may need to be cut into smaller separate sections so that they can be fitted around any raised details modelled onto the surface of the miniature, such as sword belts, chainmail pixanes, armour pauldrons, guardbraces and besagews, horse reins, saddles, harness, folded or flapped-back trappers, barding and caparisons, etc.

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

BANNERS & STANDARDS

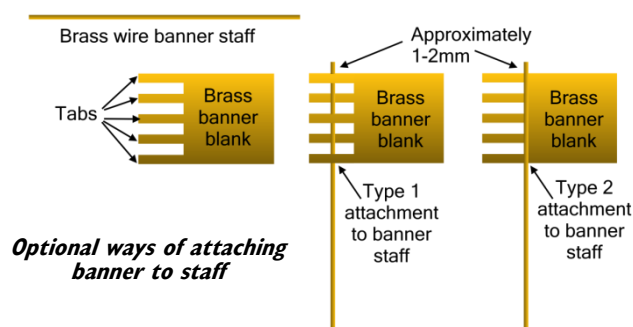
The pre-cut banner and swallow-tailed standard blanks that these guidelines accompany are made from photo-etched brass, and the banner staffs are made from hardened brass wire.

1. Take one of the pre-cut brass banner blanks and position the blank so that its top edge is a millimetre or two from the end of the brass wire, then wrap each of its tabs carefully around a wire banner staff, as shown in the illustrations.
2. Trim off the ends of the tabs so that they end flush with the 'hoist' edge of the banner blank. The 'hoist' is the side of a flag attached to or nearest the banner staff.
3. Now apply a *tiny* drop of super glue to each of the tabs and allow it to dry.
4. Next gently bend the banner blank into a shape that suggests movement of the banner or standard, and then give both sides of the blank a coat of clear GLOSS varnish or lacquer and allow it to dry thoroughly.

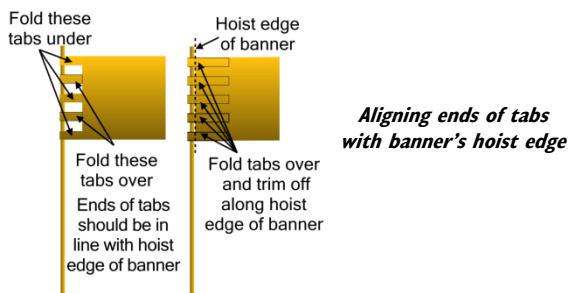
Now is also a good time to paint the banner staff with its appropriate colour finish, e.g. natural wood, or a livery colour.

5. Apply the transfers, one to each side of the brass blank.
6. Touch in the edges of the brass blank with a colour matching the edges of the banner or standard, to conceal any metal that might be visible around the edges.

The illustrations below show the optional ways of attaching the brass banner blank to the wire banner staff.



Type 1 attachment allows the banner to be curved more to indicate motion. It also vertically aligns the banner staff more with the banner, whereas Type 2 attachment tends to align the banner more to the left or right of the banner staff, depending on which way the tabs are folded around the brass wire. Type 1 requires a little more care in making sure that the wire banner staff is located centrally between all the tabs.



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.

Thank you for your custom
Geoff Buss

*** Do NOT use a solvent-based varnish to over-coat the decals. The solvent may soften the medium used to print the decals and spoil or even damage the decal's surface.**