

# ROUNDELS FOR WORLD WAR I AIRCRAFT

by Mike Nassise

*As published in the November 2007 Issue of WHAM Newsletter*

Everyone has their favorite way of doing things, especially when it comes to producing markings for model aircraft. Recently I built a Dime Scale SE-5 from a plan that Dave Stott had given me several years ago, and so I found myself confronted with the task of making up a set of British roundels for six positions on the airplane. Here's how I went about it. The results were better than expected.

Basically, I made up the roundels in layers which I assembled and attached to the model with 3M spray cement, a product used by graphic artists for layout work. The dark blue and red circles for the roundels were cut from tissue. The white circle was cut from very thin "airmail" type of writing paper which was first given a mist coat of flat white Krylon. When the three circles were put together the resulting roundels looked really nice. They were reasonably light, the blue color did not show through the white, and they lay flat on the model's surfaces when cemented in place.

As a matter of fact, they looked so good that I decided to do a set of German crosses in the same way for the Junkers J-10 "Tin Donkey" that I'm also currently building. This type of national Insignia should be even easier to do than the roundels. I plan to cut out the crosses from black tissue. cement them to a sheet of airmail paper prepared as above, and then use a hobby knife and a metal ruler to cut around each cross leaving a very narrow white outline around its outer edges.

The hardest part of the technique involves hand-cutting the tissue with an X-Acto knife, but it can be done if you take your time and use a new blade. The 3M spray cement was great to work with. It take a minute or two to set up. giving you the opportunity to move things around if they don't line up well to begin with. Obviously, this technique for producing roundels can be applied to other types of markings such as American stars and bars on a blue background, Japanese "meatballs" with a white outline, etc. Give It a try. I than you'll be pleasantly surprised at how well It works.