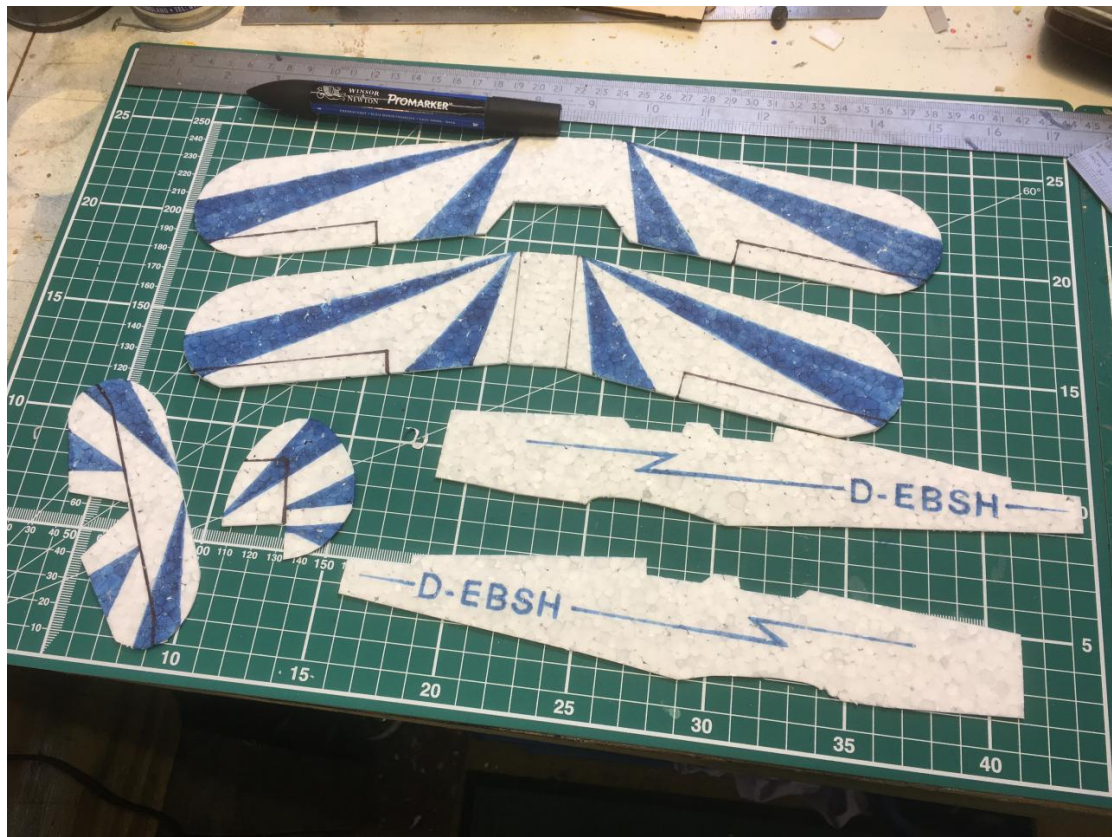


Adding Markings Using Permanent Markers and Paper Stencils

Following on from Bob's excellent series of articles on simple construction techniques I thought I would add some ideas about how to add some markings to your foamie model.

The key point would be, to add the markings before putting the model together then you can work on the panel on a flat surface without fear of damaging or distorting the structure. Simple designs like sunbursts or fuselage stripes can be easily drawn on this way

I can recommend the Windsor & Newton Promarker range of permanent markers that come in a very comprehensive array of colours that should suit most needs and have a fine tip one end and a broad flat tip the other, ideal for marking out and colouring in, also they also don't damage the foam.

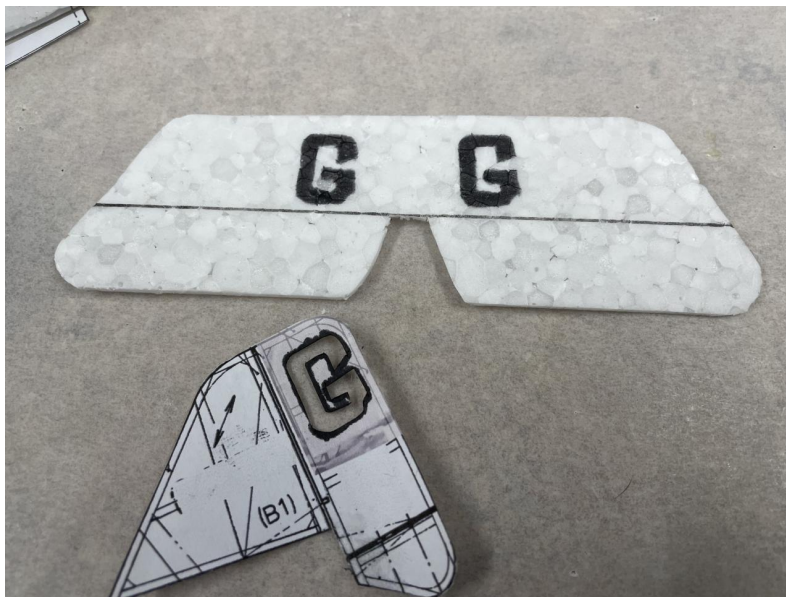


For my own model I needed some registration letters and an easy way to produce these is to make a paper stencil.

These can be simply done using a program like Word , typing the letters in and then sizing to fit the model. Alternatively they can directly taken from a photo if you are able to find a good one When you have the letters the right size print onto ordinary paper and carefully cutout the shape with a **sharp** (ie new blade) scalpel . For foam models I like to make a paper template of each part anyway as this makes cutting out the foam much easier so making the template the stencil as well saves some effort.

To hold the stencil onto the foam I gave it light spray with Photomount , just enough to get it to stick and the gently go round the stencil with permanent marker . I do the edge with fine tip and fill in with the broad tip if the marking is big enough.

I found the stencils could be reused several times so here I'm using the fin 'G' to mark the tailplane



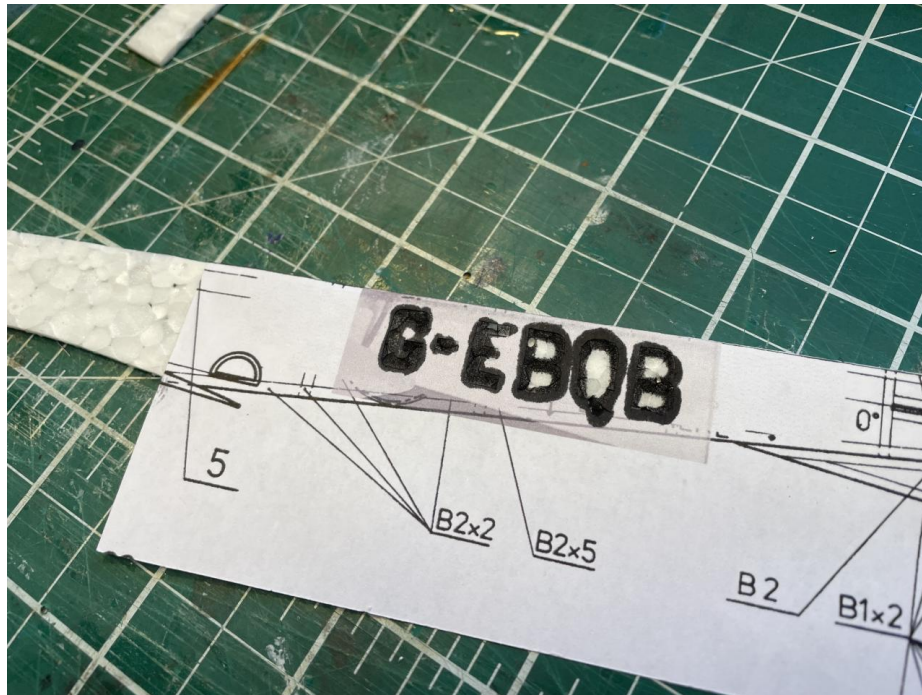
For letters that need an internal stencil like Q or B, I cut out the entire letter from the paper printout and used that as the internal stencil. Once I had marked the internal lines of the letter I could then fill them in to the external stencil

Some bleed through of the markers is possible but the overall effect works well I think and suits these foamies well



For very small letters such as those on the fuselage sides I found the best method is just cut the stencil to the outer external shape and then use the fine tip to follow the outer shape, paying closer attention to the inside line the pen is making allowing the stencil to

take care of the outer lines. In reality I had go back after I removed the stencil on these small letters and gently touch up with the fine tip .



I've probably made it sound more complicated than it is in an attempt to describe it. Hopefully the pictures will tell a simpler story. It's never going to be a crisp image due to the nature of the foam sheet , which is essentially lots of balls joined together with gaps inbetween but quite like the look and the do fly well

