

Flag Help Sheet

These tips should help you get the best out of either your Freezywater or Vexillia flags. Some are common sense, some are standard techniques but hopefully a few will be new:

Varnish the flag first

- This can really help prevent the printed flag cracking and is important if you intend to fold your flag so that it looks draped.
- Humbrol Matt Cote (spirit based) and Windsor & Newton Matt Acrylic Varnish (aqueous) all work well. Please test other varnishes on a small section.

Cutting the flags out

- Use a steel rule and a new sharp blade. Old blades will tear the paper and leave a jagged edge. The 15 mm flags are too small to use scissors.

Lining the halves up

- Using fast setting glue put a 2-3 mm “stripe” of glue on the unprinted side of the shortest edge. Uhu general purpose adhesive is ideal for this.
- Gently marry the two halves of the flag together lining up if necessary. Do not crease the middle of the flag at this stage or attempt to stick the majority of the flag together.
- Once dry you can tidy the new glued edge with scissors if they didn't line up exactly.

Folding the flag round the pole

- Using PVA (white glue) place some glue “inside” the half glued flag and gently form the flag round the flag pole. The water in the glue will soften the paper and minimise any cracking during the shaping. Twist the flag to prevent the flag sticking to the flag pole.
- If you want a flat flag, draw the flag off the pole and leave the flag to dry. If you want a “draped” flag this is the point at which you can gently fold the flag. Do not attempt to put a sharp crease in the flag: the print will crack. Aim for one or two smooth folds. Again the water in the PVA will soften the paper and minimise cracking.

Painting the edges, touching up and highlights

- Unless your flag has a white edge you will need to paint the edges and do any touching up required. This is the fiddly bit and is best done with well thinned acrylic paint. It is also the best time to add any highlights if you want to add additional detail.

Attach the flag to your model

- Finally add thin layer of super glue to the flag pole and insert into your flag. You need to work quickly as you will only have a few seconds to position the flag. The use of super glue will ensure your flag survives heavy wargaming use,