

# BLACK BRANT IV 24MM FINISHING/PAINTING INSTRUCTIONS

**This is a more detailed list of steps for finishing and painting your 24mm Black Brant IV model than is given in the regular instruction sheet included in the kit.**

The following will be needed to finish and paint your model:

Sandpapers (Medium - 180 or 220, Fine 320 or 400, & [optionally] Extra-Fine - 500 or 600); Sanding Sealer (or other balsa filler coat); Thinner (appropriate for the type of sanding sealer used); Small Paint Brush (to apply sealer); Spray Paint (such as Rust-Oleum, Krylon, or Testors is recommended. Be sure **not** to mix different types or brands of paint without testing.) - primer (optional), white, black, red, silver & clear (optional); dowel or newspaper (see below).

Recommended, but not required: Tack Cloth.

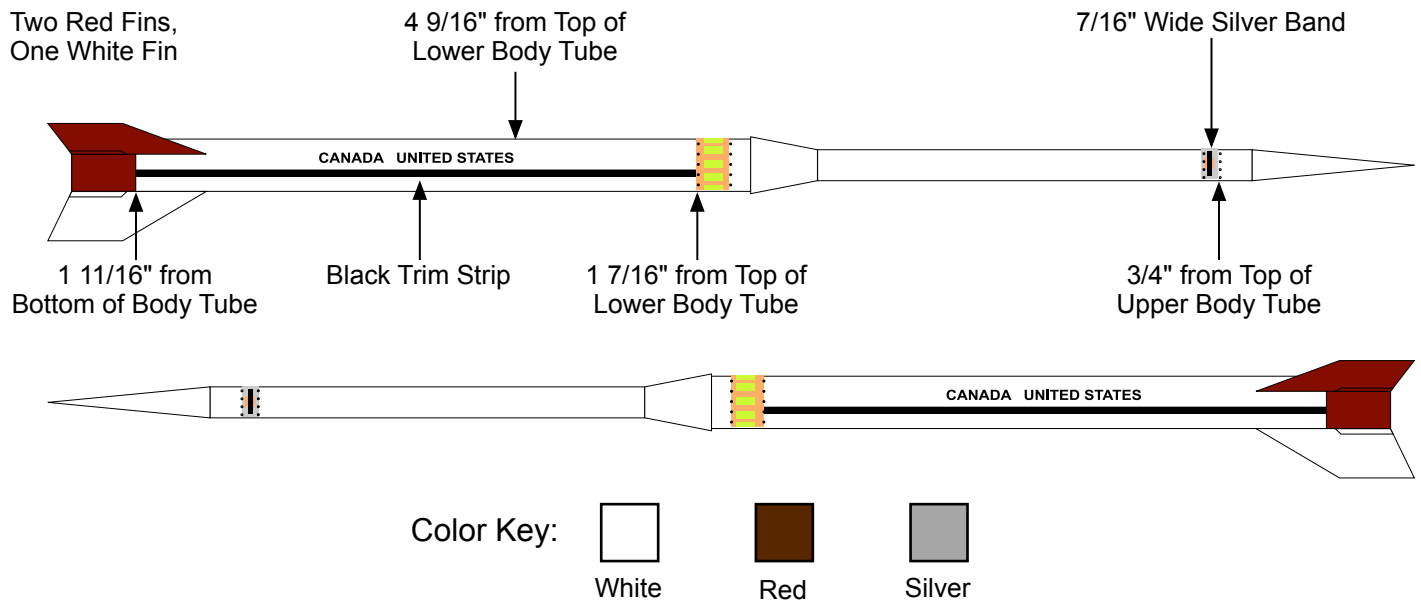
Optional: Material to fill body tube seams and/or any imperfections in wood parts, such as Elmer's Carpenters Wood Filler, Interior Spackling Paste, etc.

Look to see if there are any dents or dings in any of the wood parts, and apply one of the optional filler materials to these areas as needed. If you wish to fill the spiral seam in the body tube, you may do so now by applying a small amount of the filler along the seam. After all the filler is dry, sand the material with medium or fine sandpaper. Sand until the paste is flush with the surface. If needed, reapply the filler and sand again.

Be sure to read any instructions on the brand of sanding sealer you are using. Follow the manufacturers directions if they vary from those below. Be sure to use the thinner recommended by the manufacturer to clean your brush. Using fine sandpaper (then extra fine, if desired) go over all the wood parts to ensure they are smooth. Wrap a layer of cellophane or masking tape around the shoulder of the coupler (the part that goes into the main body tube) to prevent getting paint on the coupler. Insert the nose cone shoulder into the top of the short body tube (tape if needed for a snug fit). Next apply a coat of sanding sealer to all wood parts (it is not necessary to seal the nose cone shoulder). Allow the sealer to dry then apply a second coat. After the second coat is dry, sand with medium or fine sandpaper until the surfaces are smooth. Continue with single coats of sealer, sanding in between each coat, until the wood grain is completely filled and the surface is smooth.

You will need to use something such as a dowel or a section of newspaper rolled into a tight cone inserted into the base of your model to hold it while painting. If desired, lightly go over the model with a tack cloth to remove any excess dust or other particles which could mar the finish. It is a good idea to do this before applying each coat of primer and paint. Be sure to read the instructions on the brand of paint you are using and follow the manufacturers directions carefully. Be sure **not** to mix different types or brands of paint without testing. It is recommended (but not absolutely necessary) that you apply one or more coats of primer before the color coats of paint. This will give a much smoother surface to your model and allow the paint to adhere better. If using primer, sand with fine and/or extra fine sandpaper after each coat is completely dry. Use as many coats as needed to get a smooth finish before proceeding to the color coats.

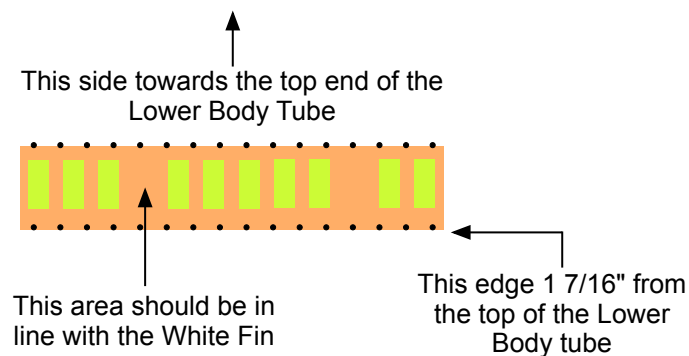
Refer to the diagram below as needed for painting scheme. First give a base coat of white to the entire model. Several light coats are preferable to one or two heavy coats (this will be true for *all* the colors you will be using). Apply as many coats as needed to get a nice even color. Allow to dry thoroughly.



Mask off the entire model except for the two fins and area at the rear that are to be painted red. The remainder of the body and one of the fins should be totally covered. Paint the area fin red and let dry.

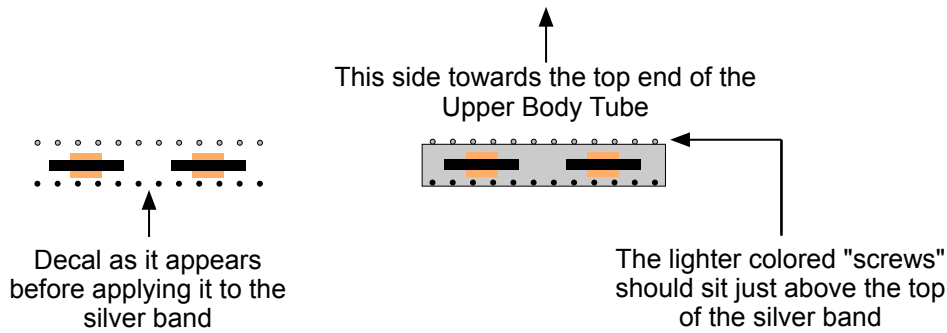
Mask off the entire model except for the area at the top that is to be painted silver. Paint the silver band and let dry.

Remove all of the masking when all the paint is dry.

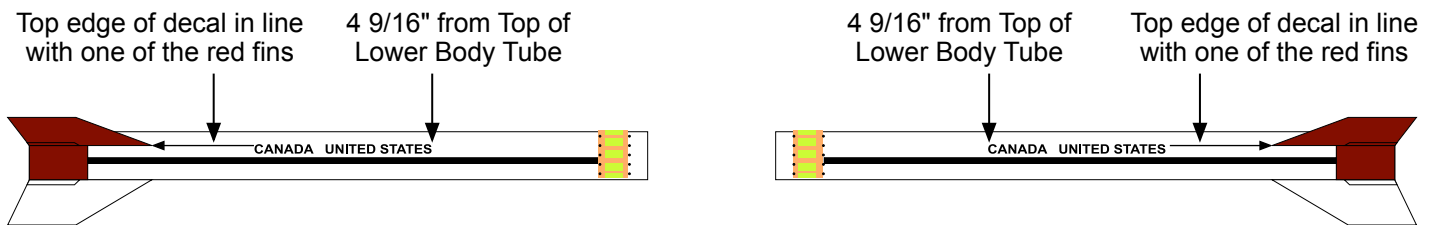


Locate the larger decal with the yellow rectangles (simulating drag flaps on the real rocket) and the two sets of black "screws" and cut out leaving as little clear area around it as possible. Refer to the figure above for proper positioning of this decal. Soak in a shallow bowl of room temperature water until the decal loosens from the backing (30 - 45 seconds or so) and apply to the model. If necessary, dab away any excess water with a paper towel. If desired you may use a decal setting or solvent solution. Allow to dry completely.

Locate the decal with the two different colored sets of "screws" (see next figure on page 3 for how it appears on the sheet of decals) and cut out leaving as little clear area around it as possible. The decal is to be applied over the silver band you painted on the upper body section. See figure above for proper positioning of this decal. Soak in water and apply as you did the first decal and let dry.



Locate the two black lettering decals and cut out leaving as little clear area around them as possible. You may want to use a straightedge or small metal metal angle held along the body to help keep the decals straight when you apply them to the tube. Take one and soak as you did the others and apply to the body with the top edge of the decal in line with one of the red fins. The "S" in United States should be 4 9/16" from the top of the lower body tube, see figure on the left below. The other lettering decal is to be placed on the opposite side of the tube with the top in line with the other red fin. On this one the "C" should be 4 9/16" from the top of the tube, see figure to the right below.



After all the decals are dry, locate the self-adhesive black trim material. You may want to use a straightedge or small metal metal angle held along the body to help in keeping the stripe straight when you apply it to the tube. Remove the backing from one of the strips and apply as shown above. The stripe should begin at the bottom edge of the first decal you applied and end at the top of the red section, trim to length as needed. Repeat with the stripe on the opposite side. Press down firmly on the material to be sure it's well attached.

If desired, apply one or more coats of clear paint to protect the finish and decals and allow to dry.

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