

# BLACK BRANT VB 24MM FINISHING/PAINTING INSTRUCTIONS

**This is a more detailed list of steps for finishing and painting your 24mm Black Brant VB 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, red, brown & clear (optional); dowel or newspaper (see below).

Recommended, but not required: Tack Cloth.

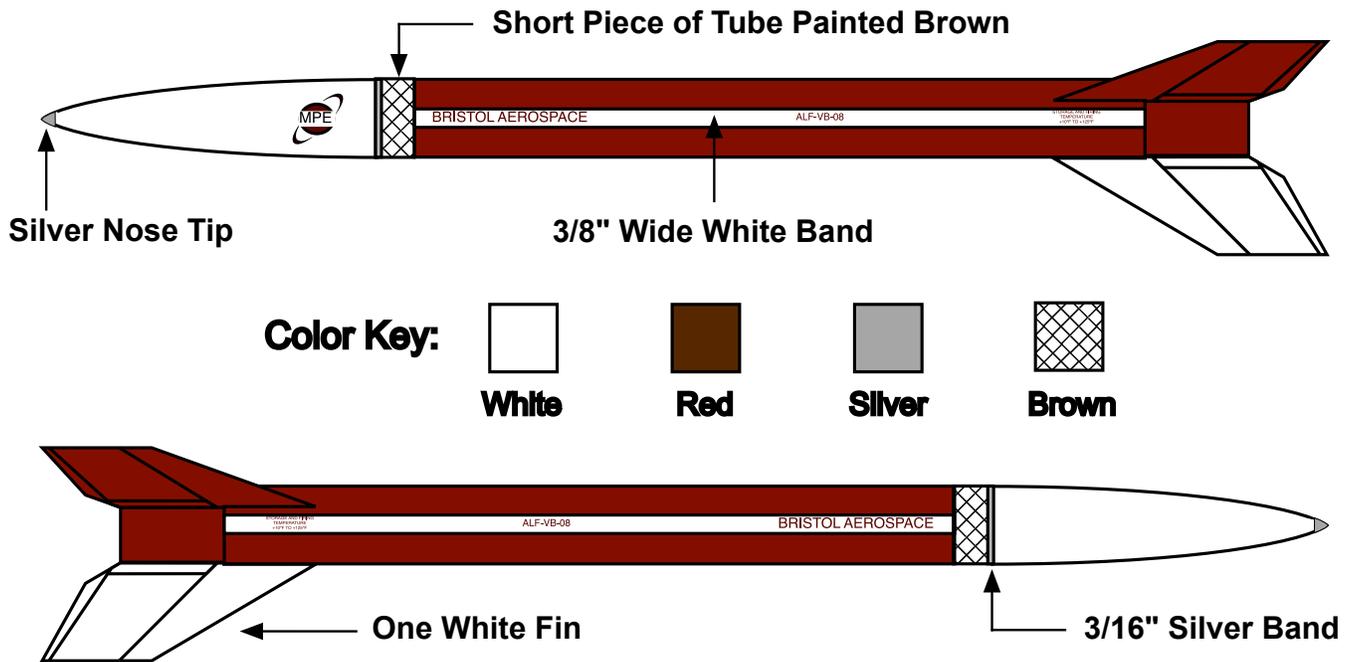
Optional: Material to fill body tube seams and/or any imperfections in wood parts, such as Elmer's Carpenters Wood Filler, Interior Spackling Paste, etc.; decal setting or solvent solution.

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 did not do so earlier, and you wish to fill the spiral seams in the body tubes, 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 coupler that is attached to the nose cone (the part that goes into the main body tube) to prevent getting paint on the coupler. Insert into the top of the body tube. 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 on page 2 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.



Remove the nose cone and coupler and set aside for now.

Mask off the one fin that is to remain white and the two white bands on either side of the model. The white stripe runs the length of the larger diameter tube.

If desired you can cut out the White Stripe Marking Guide from page 4 to help you with aligning the white stripes properly. Wrap the guide around the upper body tube and use the tick-marks on the sides to align the guide. Use tape to hold the guide together. Rotate the guide to match up the arrows with the ends of the fins and the launch lug and tape in place so the guide doesn't move (See Figure A).

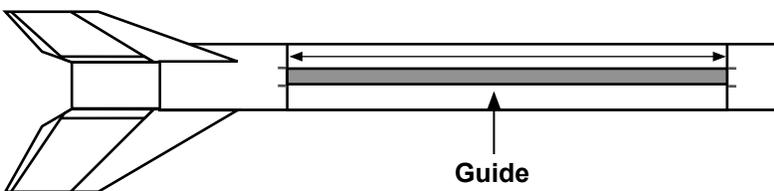


Figure A

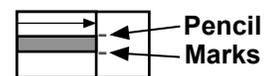


Figure B

The two shaded bands on the guide represent the location of the two white bands. With a sharp pencil make two light marks at each end of the shaded bands (see Figure B) to note the location and then remove the marking guide.

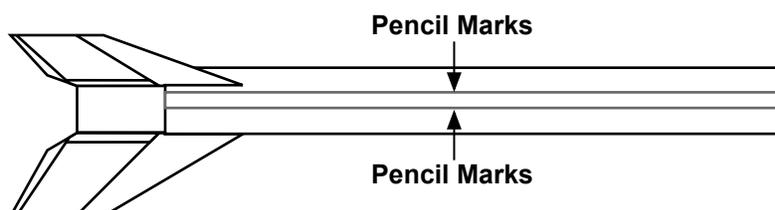


Figure C

You can use a small metal angle held against the body to align the marks and then extend the marks for the length of the tube as shown in Figure C.

Apply masking tape *just inside* the pencil marks. After the masking is in place you can spray the model with another *light* coat of white if desired, this will help to seal the edges of the masking to prevent the red paint from seeping under the edges of the masking. Allow to dry thoroughly before proceeding with the next color coat.

Paint the exposed areas red and let dry.

Now take the nose cone and coupler and remove the nose cone (if you did not glue it into the coupler) and set it aside. Mask off the part of the coupler that fits into the body tube and paint short piece of body tube brown. If you did glue the nose cone in place, also mask it off before painting the brown section.

Carefully remove the masking when all of the paint is dry.

Paint the very tip of the nose cone (1/8" or so of the tip) silver. This may most easily be done with a small amount of paint on a brush or by dipping the tip of the nose cone into a small amount of paint.

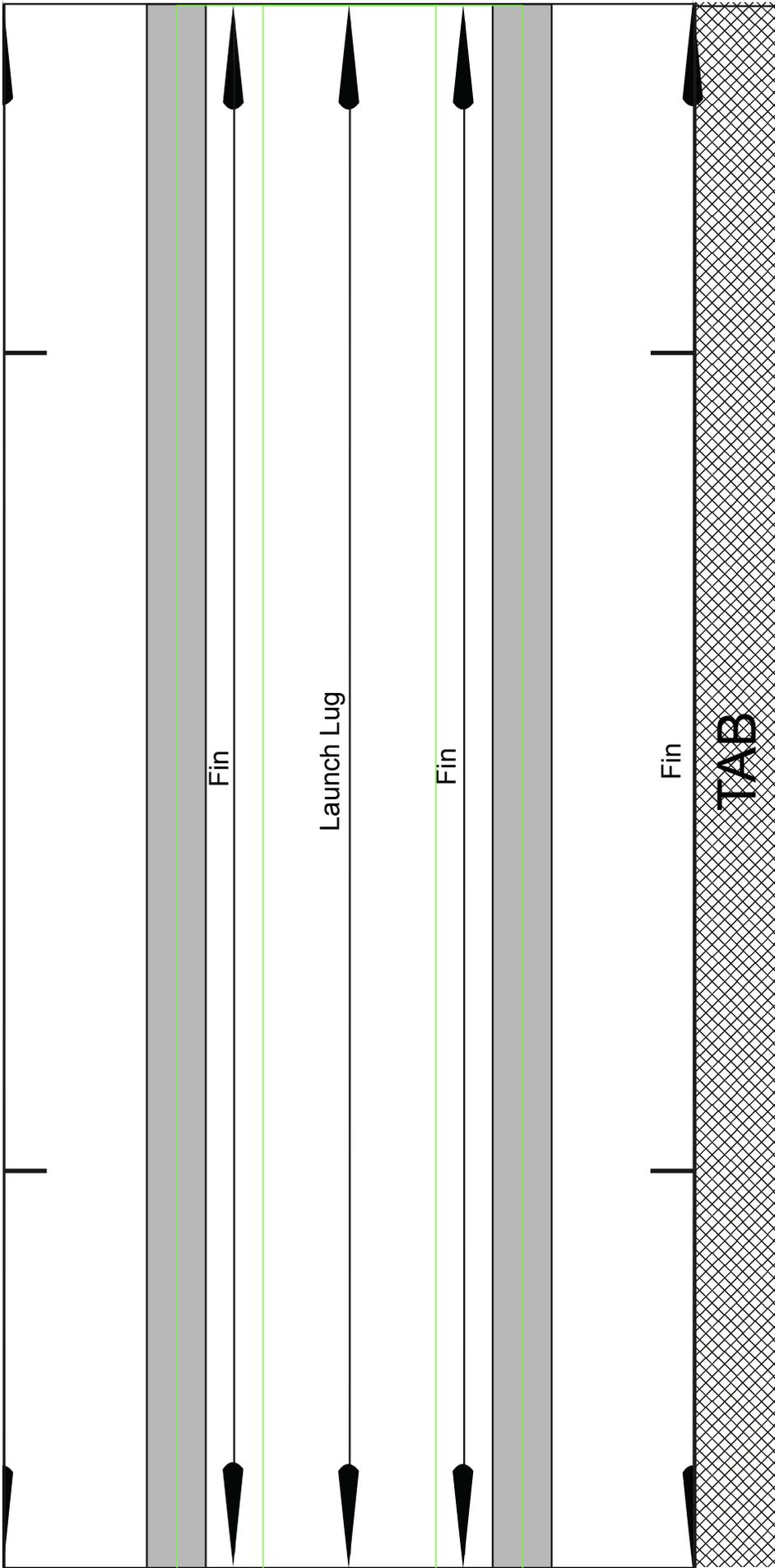
Locate the decal sheet and cut out all the decals leaving as little clear area around them as possible. Refer to the figure above for proper positioning of the decals. The edge of the "STORAGE AND FIRING..." decals should be even with the front edge of the fins, The "BRISTOL AEROSPACE" decals should be about 1/4" from the top of the body tube, and the "ALF-VB-08" decals centered between the two other decals on the white bands.

The "MFE" decal is only on one side of the nose cone with the far right edge about 3/8" from the bottom of the cone.

One at a time, soak the decals 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 such as Micro-Set or Micro-Sol. Allow to dry completely.

After all the decals are dry, locate the self-adhesive silver trim material. Remove the the silver trim strip from the surrounding material and apply to the base of the nose cone as shown (trim to length as needed). 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.



# Black Brant VB 24mm White Stripe Marking Guide