

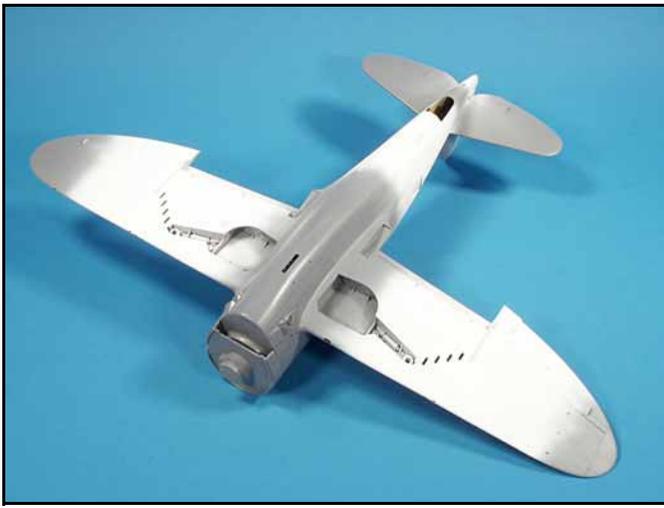


## **MIKE ASHEY'S PAINT LAYERING TECHNIQUE FOR AIRCRAFT**

This article present my technique for airbrushing several different colors of paint on a scale model. I use lots of masking tape and I do not use it straight off the roll. I lay out two strips, one on top of the other and I use a straight and a sharp X-Acto blade to cut strips of tape so all four sides of a piece of tape from the top layer have clean cuts. I also carefully plan how I am going to paint the model and this includes the sequence of the application of different colors. I always prime the surface of my models and as a general rule of thumb I work from the lighter colors to the darker colors. Paint preparation for airbrushing is very important and I always test the paint before applying it to the model. For this project I used Testors Model Master enamel paints.

This article is associated with two other project articles. The first one is an article on building this model, which is the 1/32 scale P-47D by Hasegawa. The second article describes how to work with Eduard's P-47D self adhesive pre-painted photoetch detail set. Taken together the three articles are very instructive on how to build, detail and paint this kit and as with all of my articles, there is a wealth of information that can be applied to any scale modeling project. Also, check out the aircraft gallery photos of this kit.

To learn more about construction techniques, paint preparation and application and decaling check out the on line books especially my brand new book titled:  
**BUILDING AND DETAILING SCALE MODEL AIRCRAFT**



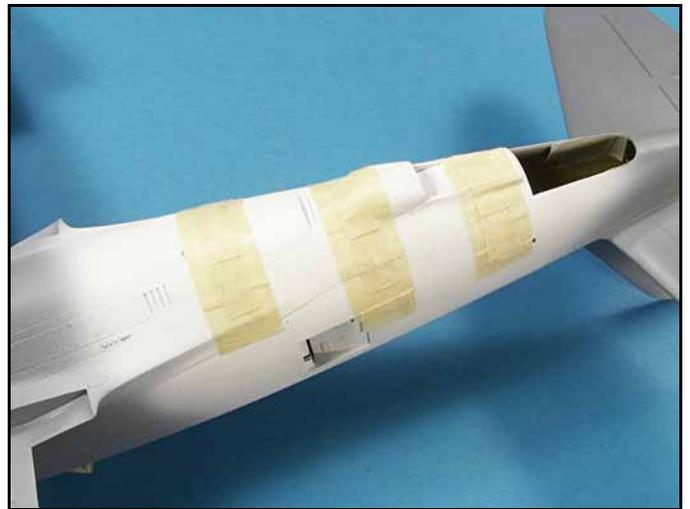
Once the cockpit was masked and the model primed, I airbrushed several coats of flat white over the areas that will have invasion stripes.



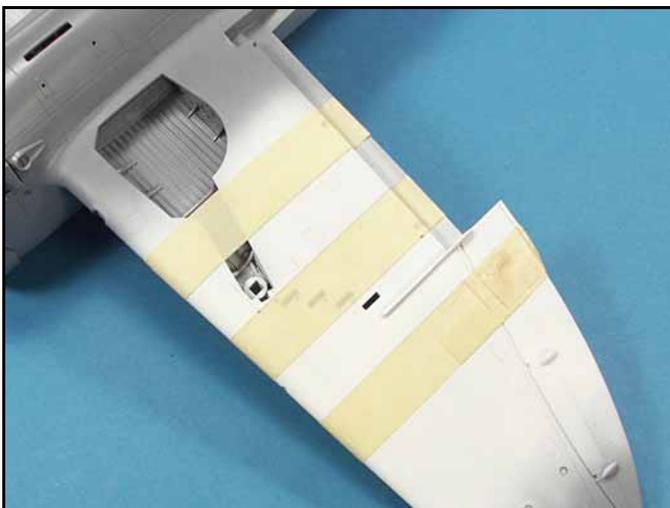
The forward section of the engine cowling and the rudder are red and the tips of the propellers are yellow. To help make these colors stand out I use flat white as a base undercoat.



I carefully measured and cut stripes of masking tape the width of the white invasion stripes. It took me several tries before I finally got the stripes on the fuselage to look straight and even.



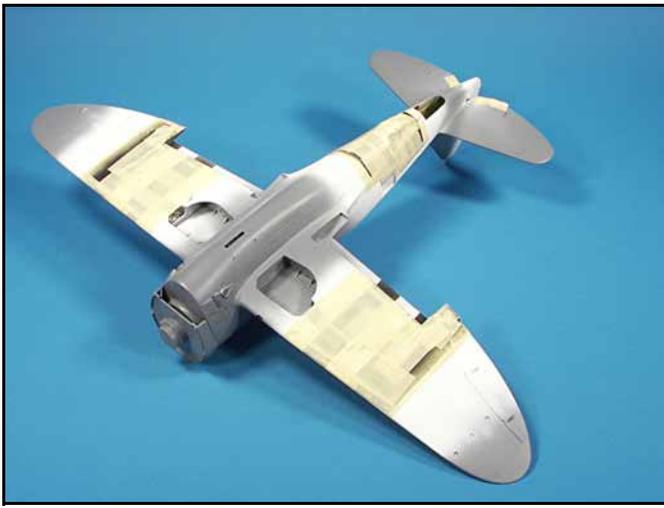
Note how I used thin lengths of masking tape so that they would contour around the fuselage and then I filled in the areas with small square strips.



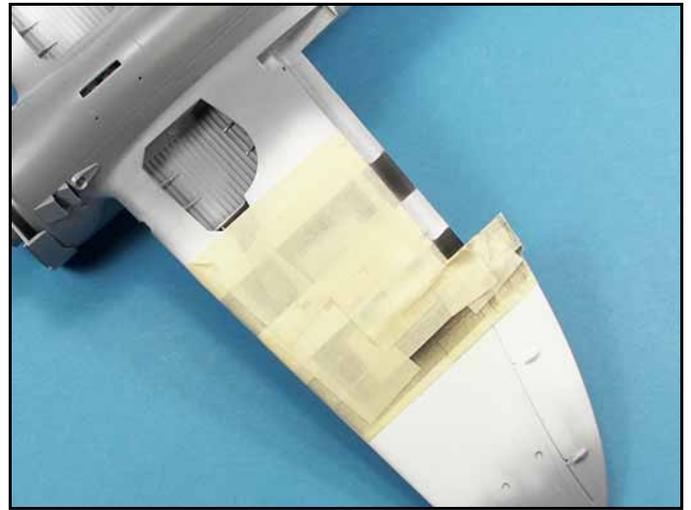
The wings were much easier to mask. The width of the black stripes is the same as the white ones.



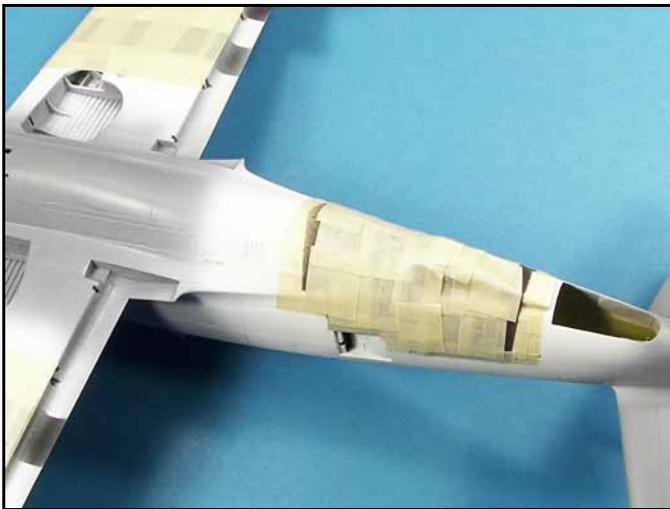
I applied some large sections of tape to protect the areas around the stripes from over spray and then I applied the flat black color.



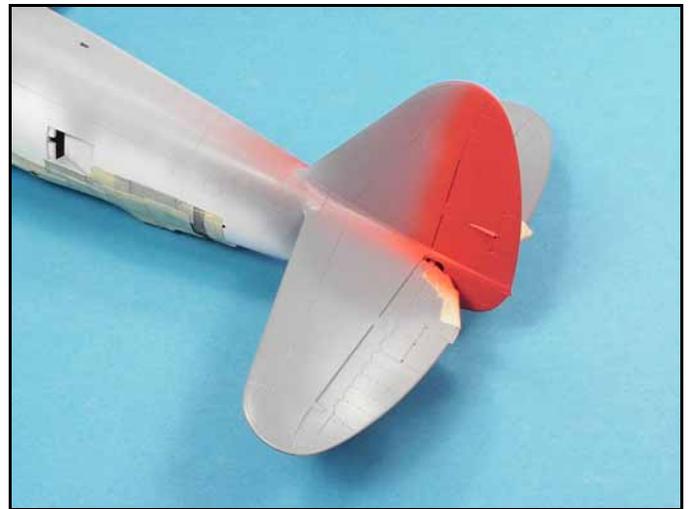
Once the flat black paint was dry I masked over it.



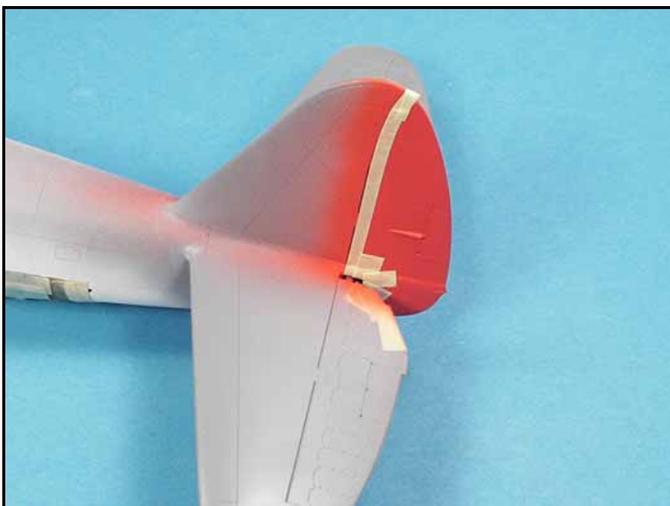
Note how I used small lengths to work over the raised details on the underside of the wing. Be sure that the tape sections overlap so paint will not bleed under the edges.



Painting straight and level stripes on a contoured surface is very challenging. If you go slow and check your work as you mask, the stripes will look really good.



Next I masked around the trailing edges of the elevators to prevent overspray and then airbrushed the rudder flat red.



Masking the rudder was a two step process. First I used long thin strips to outline the rudder.



Once I was satisfied with the outline I filled in the surface area of the rudder with larger sections making sure they overlapped each other. The masking on the elevators was also removed.



I re-applied primer to areas that had an overspray from the flat red, white or black. I then applied three light coats of flat gull gray to the underside of the model.



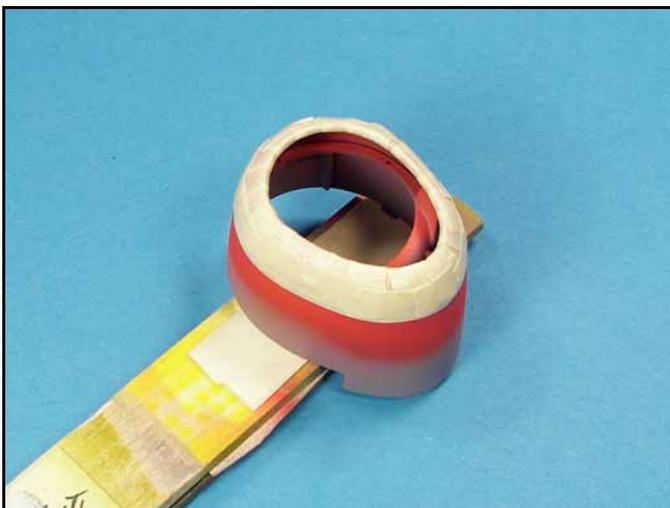
I then removed all the masking tape from the wings and checked the stripes. I touched up any areas that needed attention.



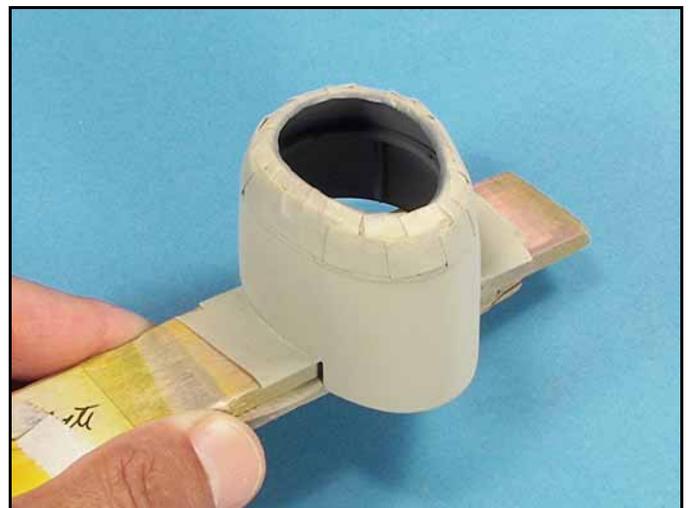
I drew curved demarcation lines between the upper and lower fuselage colors onto thin cardboard and then traced them onto masking tape. I applied the curved masking and then, I completely masked the underside of the model.



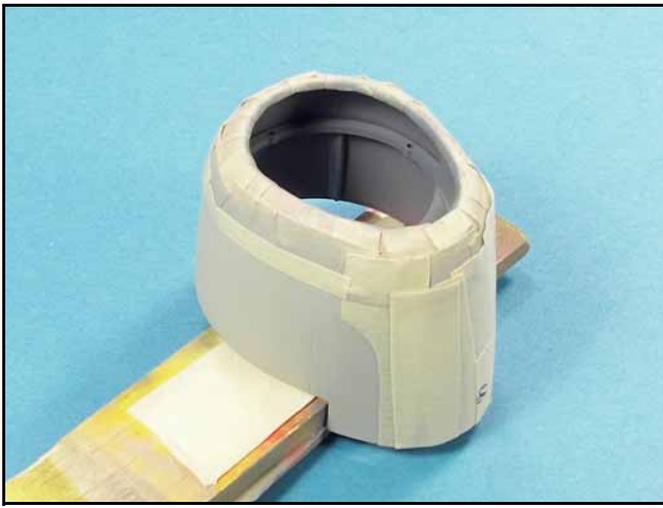
The top side of the model was then airbrushed with several light coats of dark gull gray.



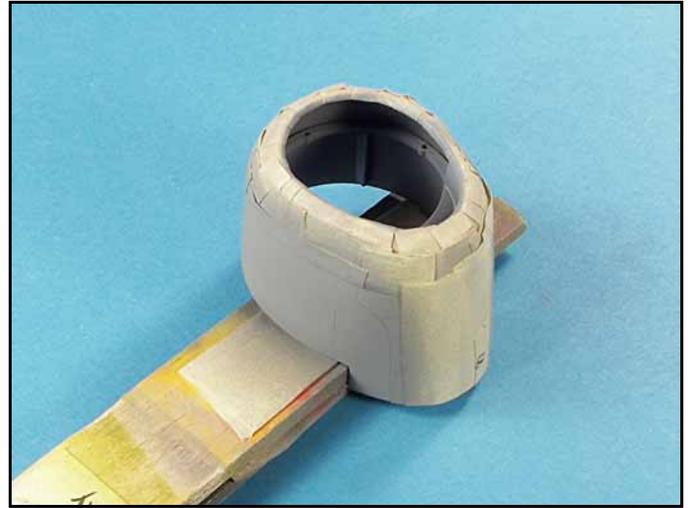
Before proceeding any further on the model I painted the cowling flat red and then masked off the area. Here again I used long lengths of thin masking tape so that it would follow the shape of the cowling.



The cowling was then painted the same color as the underside of the of the model, flat gull gray.



I positioned the cowling on the model, marked the locations for the masking tape, and then masked the lower forward section. Here again I made templates first and then traced them onto the masking tape.



The remaining surface was then painted the same color as the top side of the model, dark gull gray.



I then attached the cowling with tape and then proceeded to mask the top surface for the next color. I drew shapes on wide sections of masking tape, cut them out and then applied them to the surface of the model.



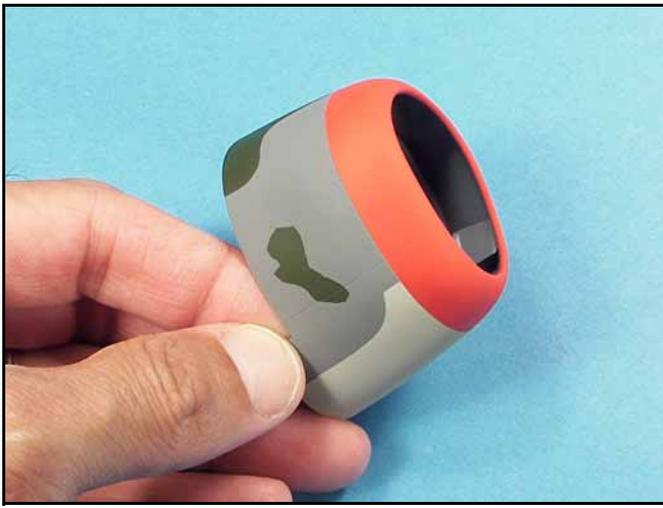
I checked to make sure that all the tape was firmly attached so that the paint would not bleed under it. I then airbrushed the upper surface with dark green FS 34079.



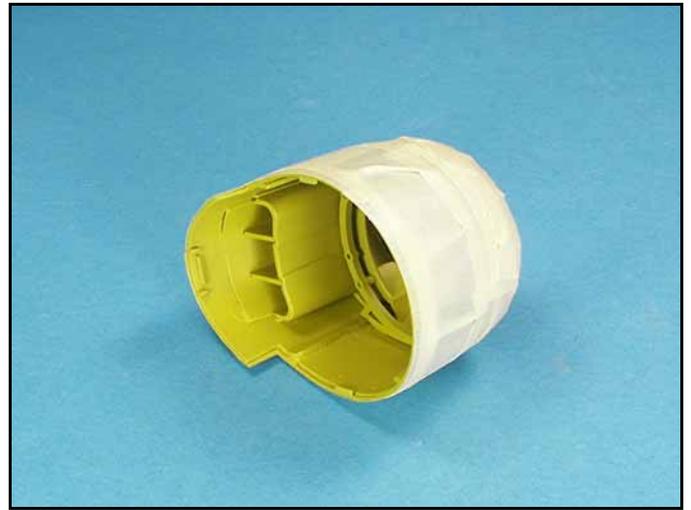
I then removed all of the masking tape from the model except for the cockpit area and checked my work. I touched up any areas that needed attention.



The underside of the model looks very clean and crisp. This is what good masking can achieve in combination with good airbrushing technique and paint mixing. The last step will be to paint the gear wells and the inside flap areas.



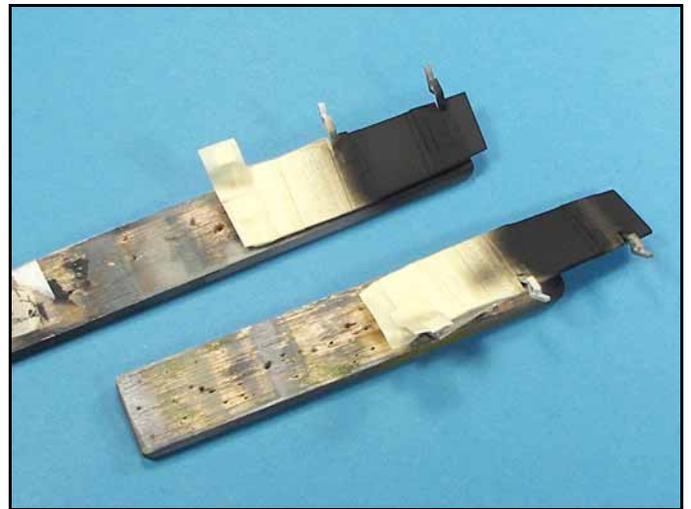
The cowling looks pretty good but I still needed to paint the inside area.



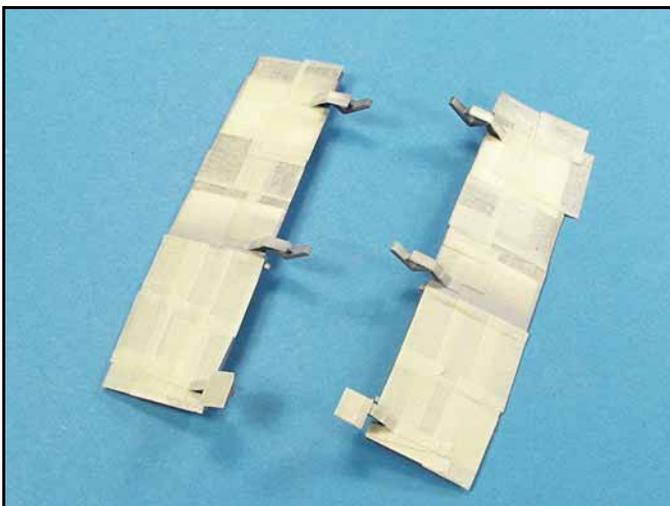
I completely masked the outside surface and then primed the inside area using very low pressure. I then painted the inside yellow zinc chromate.



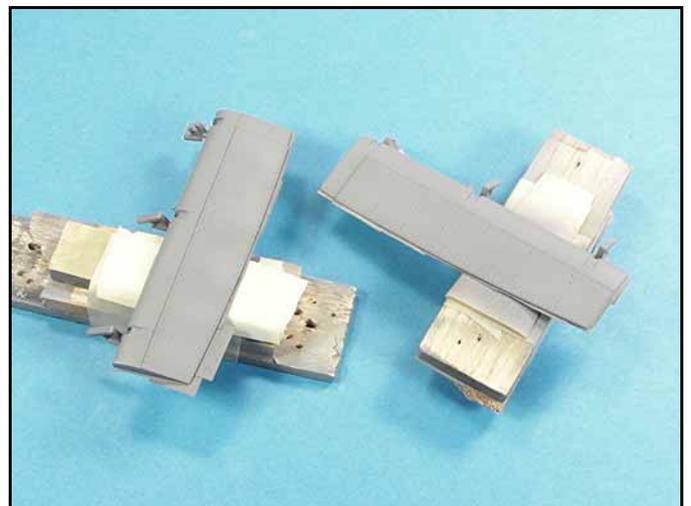
Now the cowling looks much better!



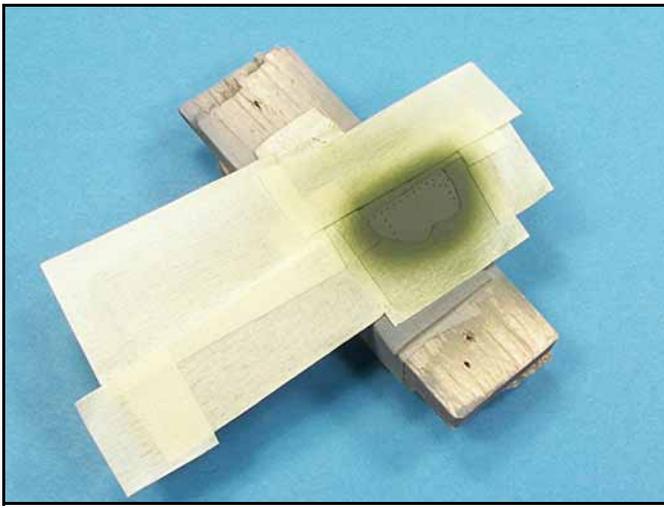
Next up were the flaps. I attached them to the model to mark the locations of the stripes. I airbrushed flat gull gray, masked off the areas for the flat white, applied the paint and then masked off the flat white and applied the flat black.



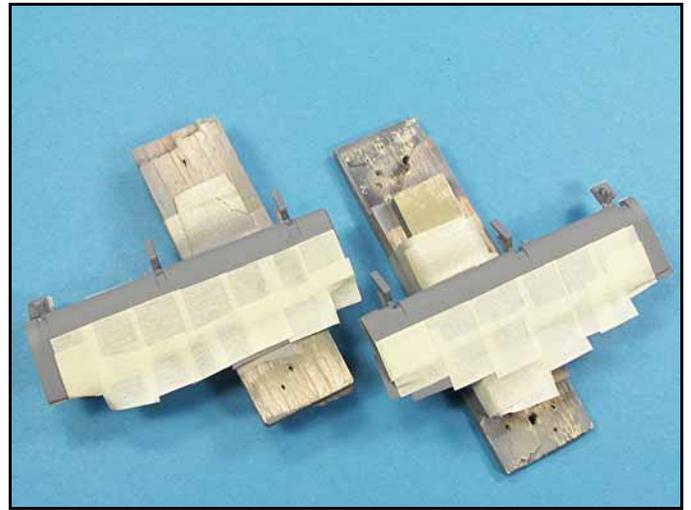
Next, the entire underside was covered with masking tape.



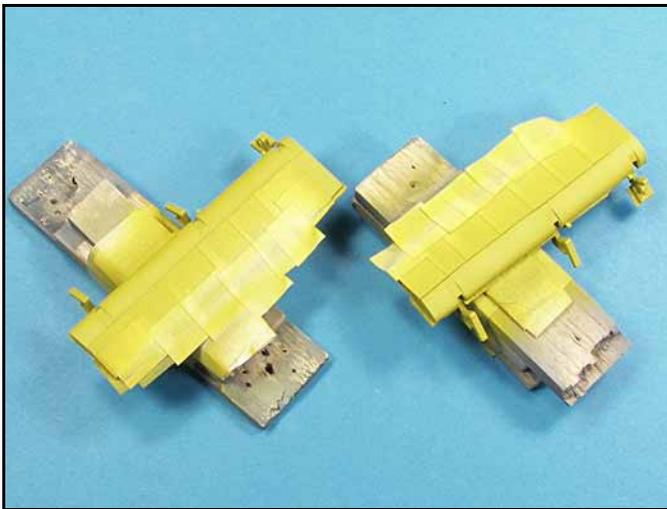
I then applied the topside color dark gull gray to the flaps.



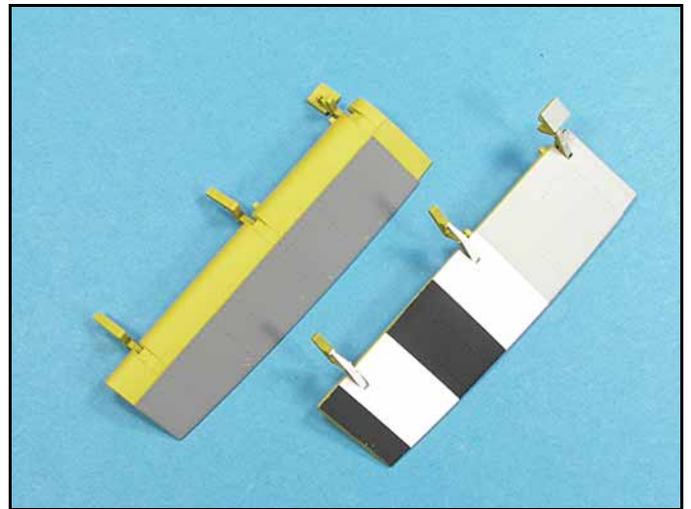
The right flap needed to have a small area of dark green FS 34079 to match the area on the wing.



I then masked off the upper surfaces so that I could apply the yellow zinc chromate to the inside of the flap areas.



At this point the flaps have a lot of masking tape on them. I airbrushed several light coats of yellow zinc chromate.



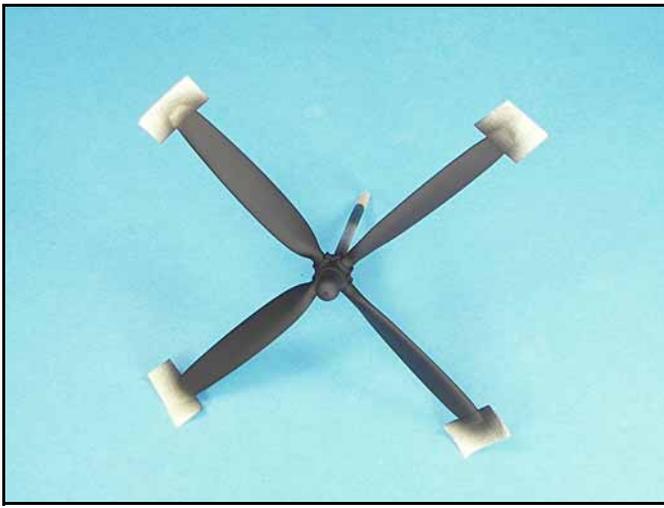
Now that all the tape is removed, all the masking was worth the effort. There are very sharp demarcation lines between the colors.



Next up was the propeller. I airbrushed the tips with several light coats of flat yellow.



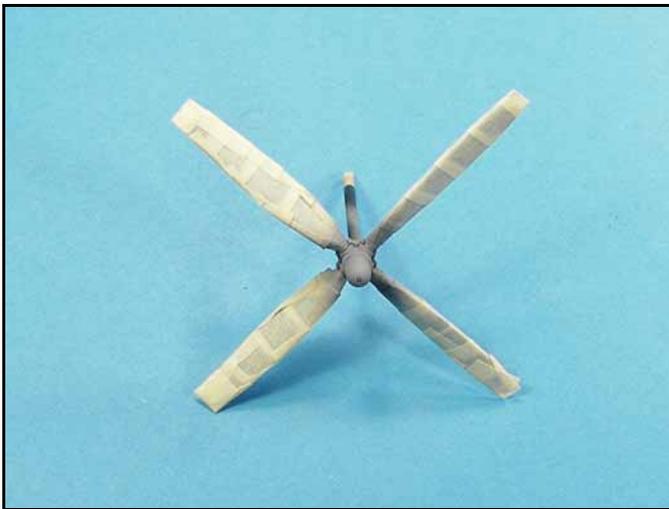
The tips were then masked off with small strips of masking tape. One for the front and one for the back. I used the tiny lines on the propellers as a guide for the masking tape.



The propellers were then airbrushed with two coats of flat black with a few drops of flat white added.



I then removed the masking tape to check my work and touched up any areas that needed attention.



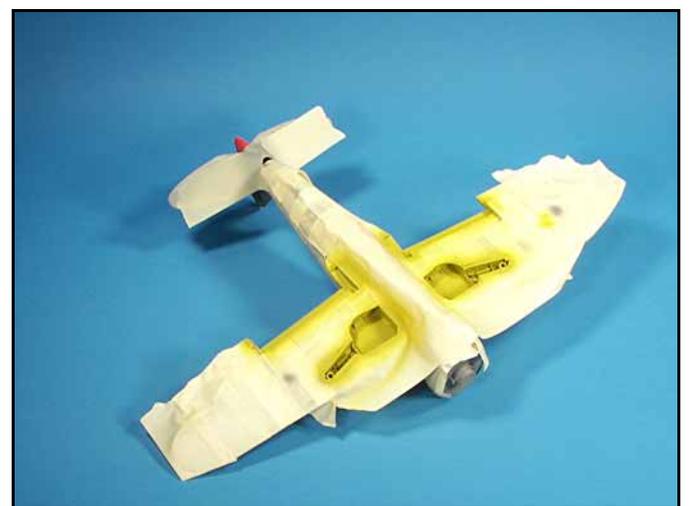
I then carefully applied tiny lengths of tape where the propellers blades attached to the hub. I then applied larger strips around the propellers starting from the area closest to the hub.



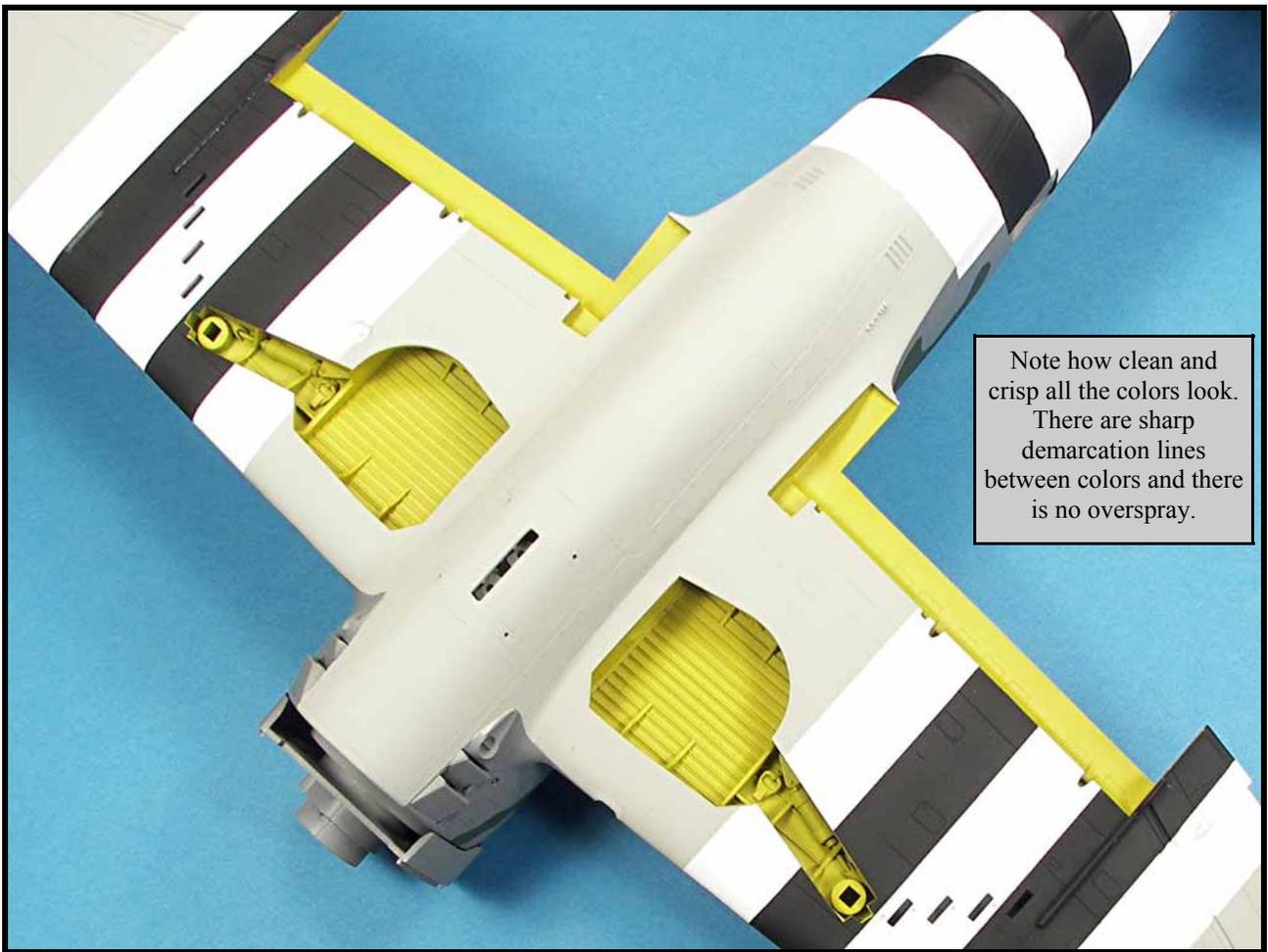
Next I applied two coats of steel to the hub and sealed the paint with clear flat dullcoat.



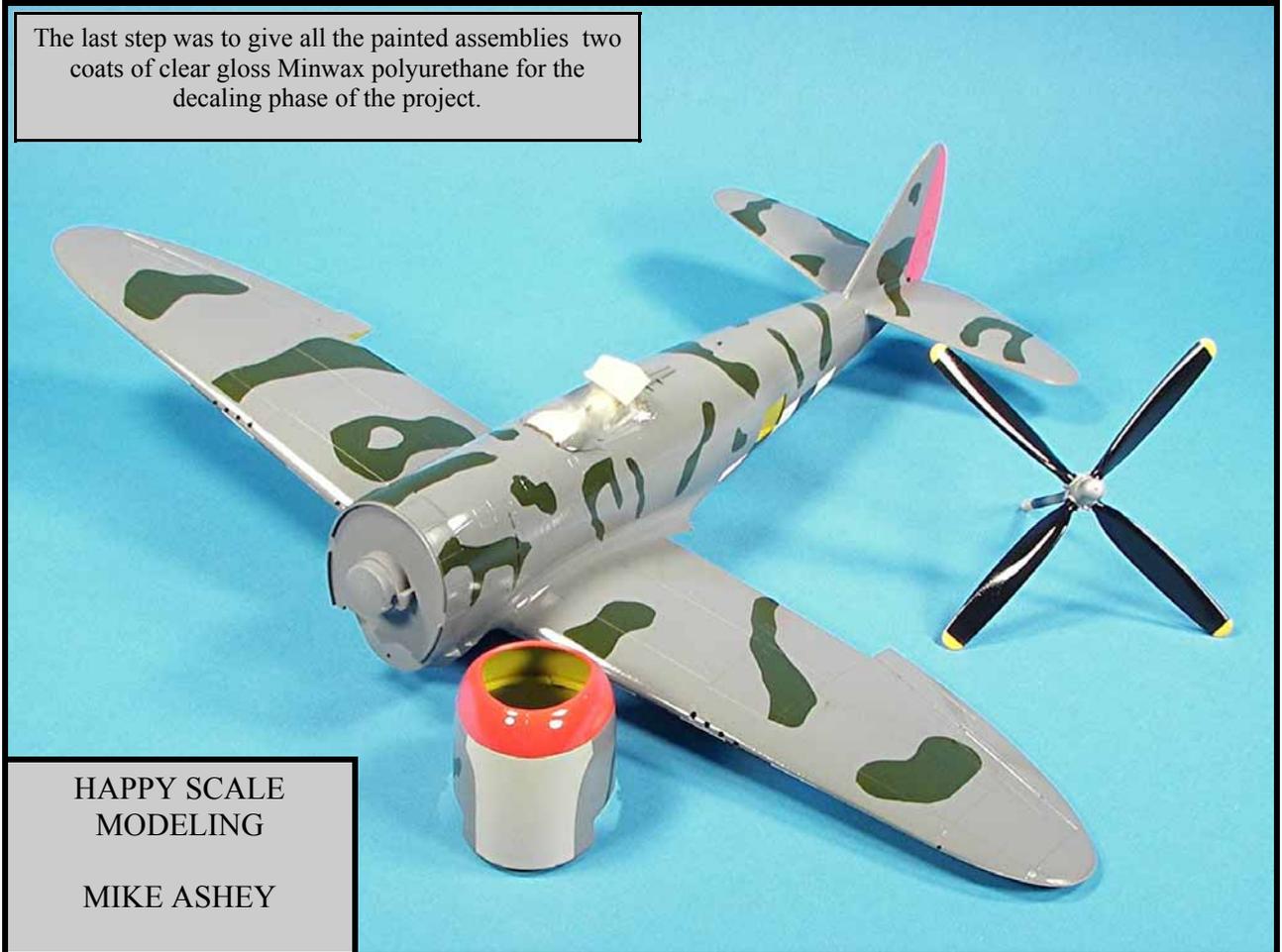
Now that all the masking tape has been removed you can see how crisp the paint job looks. There are sharp demarcation lines between the yellow, black and steel colors.



Next, I carefully masked around the wheel wells and the flap locations and then added liberal amounts of tape on the model to protect the surfaces from overspray. I then applied several light coats of yellow zinc chromate.



Note how clean and crisp all the colors look. There are sharp demarcation lines between colors and there is no overspray.



The last step was to give all the painted assemblies two coats of clear gloss Minwax polyurethane for the decaling phase of the project.

HAPPY SCALE  
MODELING  
MIKE ASHEY