

SNAPSHOT

PAINT WOOD GRAIN ON PROPELLERS

PAINTING THE FINE GRAIN LINES ON WOODEN PROPS CAN SEEM LIKE A CHALLENGE, but really all you need to make it work are fine-tipped paint brushes, thin strips of tape, and more gloss than you might expect.



1

First, base-coat the propeller with pale cream. Then brush on a layer of burnt umber oil paint — this is one of the only times in model painting when you *want* to leave visible brush strokes behind to emulate wood grain.



2

Once the prop dries, airbrush it with Tamiya clear orange (No. X-26) to seal the layers. Narrow strips of tape are all you need for clean masking lines. Once placed, mist on a mix of clear orange, Citadel brown ink, and Pledge Floor Gloss (PFG) from an airbrush.



3

When you remove the masks you'll find a propeller that looks laminated thanks to the addition of glossy PFG. The transparent sheen also helps highlight the wood grain brush strokes.



4

At this point you can apply decals to the blades and call them complete.



5

These props were placed on Eduard's Weekend Edition 1/48 scale Fokker Dr.1 (No. 8492) built by Mike Grant for the January 2017 issue of *FSM*. They feature pale grain lines next to dark mahogany wood, but the same steps could be used on any wooden propellers.