

Discovering Custom Decals - Handout

Dave Ackmann – Gateway NMRA – 27 March, 2021

Printing decals is easy; the challenge and value lies in collecting or designing the images.

My environment: Canon MG 2520 ink jet printer,
Rolurious Water Slide decal paper (start with the white version),
Automotive Spray Lacquer (to protect water soluble inks)
MicroScale MicroSet (blue bottle) and MicroSol (red bottle)

The process: Design image using PC software (PowerPoint, Photoshop Elements, Graffwriter)
Print on “Waterslide” Decal Paper and wait to dry (it can smudge, be careful)
Seal with spray lacquer and wait to dry
Seal print surface with gloss coat and wait to dry
Cut out decal, trim closely
Prep surface with MicroSet (brush on)
Apply decal to surface; move with dental pick, toothpick
Apply dull finish, if desired

Watch decal application clinic on NMRA.ORG

Decal paper can be white or transparent, but ink jet printers can't print white

First Projects: Depot Sign, City Limits Sign, Barn Sign

Create Custom Designs: Lots of clip art on the Internet, photos too; just select image, right click mouse and copy/paste or save to file.

Use PowerPoint Drawing tools; learn to draw shapes, add text, size, align, rotate and crop

Remove backgrounds with Adobe Photoshop Elements (\$69.99 on Amazon)

Use PNG files when a transparent background is needed

Graffiti: Graffwriter.com and Graffiti Name Creator for Android (Ron Marsh's YouTube)

Support Structures on Thingiverse.com

More info on <http://daackm.github.io>



Thanks to various designers from Thingiverse for 3D building models.