

Glazing Ship Windows

After some experimenting and a few failures 'Adrift' of MSW has finally cracked the process using crystal resin.



I start by spray painting the frames, this is not only for decoration but to seal the laser burn area around the glazing and stop it giving the glazing a brown hue. You could of course then sand off the front of the frames if you wanted to see wood.

Seal the painted frames with the same varnish you will finish the ship with (Flat /Matt) so that you do not have to touch this area again after the work has been completed.



Complete this activity before fitting the windows to the ship/part. Pin the frames down over a sheet of release tape (Sellotape or similar). As the glazing resin is very liquid, to stop it running out I put a drop of Golden self levelling gel in each opening. This forms a lining and seals each cell. After allowing 12 hours to cure, ensure there is no dust in the cells, and then fill each with a drop of 'Solid Water'. A touch of a flat blade on the top of each

frame levels up the resin and removes any excess.

Gently blow across the resin using a straw to remove any bubbles that may have formed due to the chemical reaction.

You may experience some 'hollowing' where the liquid will contract in the middle of the pane while retaining its original level at the edges of the windows (surface tension). If necessary, to get around this, build the panes up in several layers. Just mix enough for each step – a single drop of each part is normally sufficient for the windows of a Brig/Frigate style model window.

Put the windows somewhere dust free to cure and bingo! Paint the backboard behind the windows black or pale blue for best effect if there is no open cabin.



The Solid Water clear resin can be obtained from
http://www.guidelinepublications.co.uk/acatalog/deluxe_materials.html

The Golden Gel is an artist's glaze and this, or something equal, is available at most art supply shops.

The glazing product is called 'Liquid Gloss' or 'Liquid Glass' in other countries and is a two-part resin/epoxy. The chemical reaction between the two components sometimes causes bubbles in the mixture which sometimes, may require you to blow across the surface of the mix to remove them (using a straw or similar tube).

In Australia, Art and Craft make 'Liquid Gloss' and can be found in most craft stores, including Spotlight.