

Trying to letter a model with decals can be very trying to many people, especially in the smaller scales.

The greatest difficulty presents itself when individual letters and numbers have to be cut, soaked in water and applied to the surface.

As with most decal manufacturers, the style and size of decal material is geared-up for model rail-roading needs. There must be another approach for greater variety in circus model building, and there is - it is called DRY TRANSFER LETTERING.

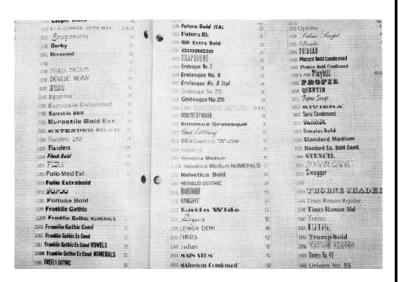
There are a number of manufacturers who produce dry transfer lettering today. The best sources are art supply stores.

A major manufacturer is Prestype Inc., located at 194 Veterans Blvd., Carlstadt, New Jersey 07072.

The photo shows a sample of the styles available from their catalog.

[Note: Prestype may no longer be available due to its replacement by computer generated typesets. - Sup. of Plans 2003]





Using Ringling Trunk Wagon #101 as the subject, the decal sheet is marked as to where the lettering will be applied. In this case, the wagon ribs are drawn with a ball point pen. The three marks on the left represent the three lines of lettering.

Making Decals with Dry Transfers

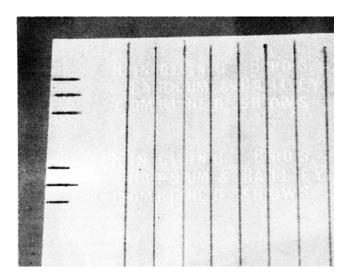
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Circus Model Builders

Drawn By Joe Kasper, CMB 1940 DRAWING NUMBER #0278

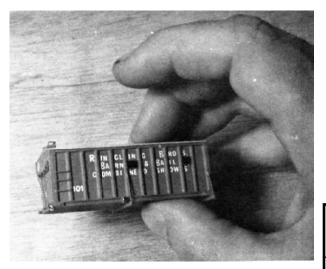
Most everyone knows about dry transfers and how they work. Those who have used them have had difficulty in getting the backer sheet into hard to reach places.

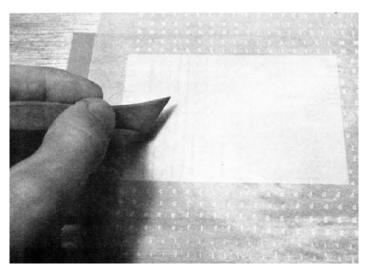
For this reason, we are going to apply the dry lettering to decal paper first and then apply the completed lettering as a decal. Decal sheets are manufactured by Walthers, Part D6S2 at a cost of S5c and available thru: Terminal Hobby Shop. 5619 W. Florist Ave., Milwaukee, Wisc. 5321\$



It is always a good idea to give the decals a LIGHT coat of Testors Glosscote #1261. [Clear Spray Lacquer] This should also be done with commercial decals as well.

The Glosscote provides a sealer for the dry transfers in this case, but it also gives the decal film more body to that it will not break apart when separation takes place from the backer paper.





Although this photo shows the completed lettering, it is hard to see because of the white lettering over the light color decal paper.

It should be noted that it is possible to do shadow lettering also. It would be necessary to purchase the lettering in different colors. Basic colors are black, white, red, blue, yellow and gold.

If a blue drop shadow was required, apply the blue lettering first; then apply the white lettering over it, slightly offset.



The decal is then cut into strips in order to fit between the wagon side ribs. After the decal is positioned, Walthers Solvaset is applied. This liquid softens the decal film enabling it to snuggle down over rough sufaces.

The cover photo shows the completed lettering on Wagon 1O1 being pulled by Mack #230, that was also lettered in this same manner.

Making Decals with Dry Transfers

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SCALE: None

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DRAWING NUMBER #0278