

Instructions for use of the Scale Corrugated Metal Dies

There are a couple of different methods for making scale corrugated metal with the dies. The first involves using your fingers to emboss the foil on the ribs of the die. For this method, first cut your foil to the desired size.

Align the edges of the foil with the ribs on the die and place your thumb on one edge of the foil. (Fig. 1) Be sure to hold the foil parallel to the ribs on the die.

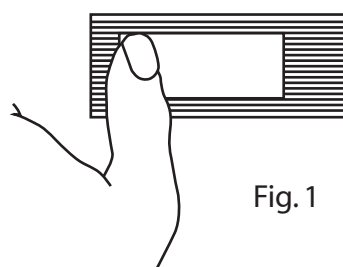


Fig. 1

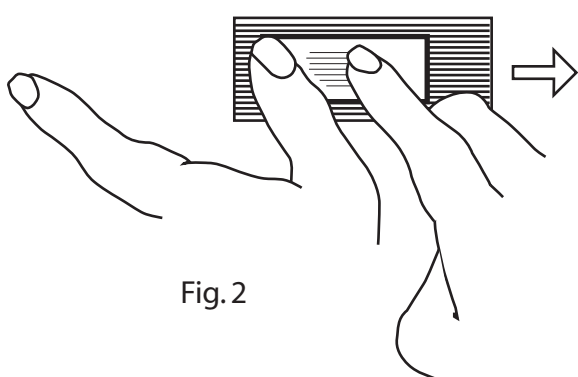


Fig. 2

Hold the foil firmly with your thumb and with the finger of your other hand, gently run your finger over the foil, making sure that you always run away from your thumb to prevent "crinkling" the foil. (Fig. 2) Press hard enough to emboss the ribs into the foil but not so hard as to tear it.

Once you are satisfied with the embossing on the currently uncovered side, before you remove your thumb place your finger on the opposite side of the strip and hold the foil in place with your finger. (Fig. 3) Again, be sure that the foil remains parallel to the ribs on the die.

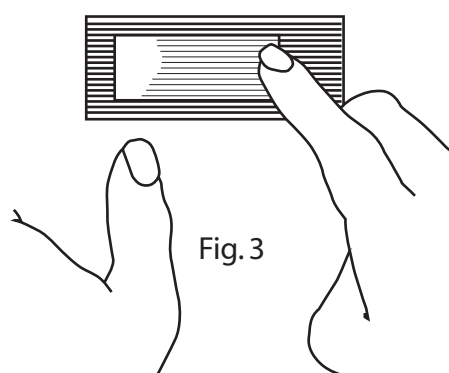


Fig. 3

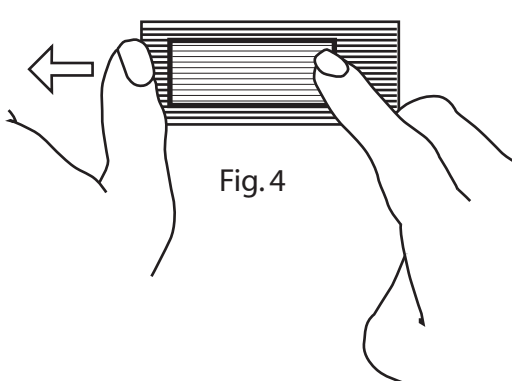


Fig. 4

While holding the foil in place with your finger, run your thumb across the area that still needs to be embossed. (Fig. 4) Use enough pressure to match the rest of the embossing but not enough to tear the foil.

You should now have a miniature sheet of corrugated metal that can be painted. Be sure to handle the sheet carefully, as it is easy to bend it. To paint it, it is best to first give it a coat of primer, as most hobby paints will not stick to the polished foil. The best method for painting that I have found is to place double stick tape on a board or sheet of hard foam. Remove as much "tack" from the tape as you can by repeatedly touching your fingers to it (this keeps the foil strips from sticking too much, making them hard to remove without damage). The best method for painting the strips is to use an airbrush with as little air pressure as possible (to keep from blowing the light foil strips off the tape). I have, however, has success with standard spray cans and using something like a putty knife to remove the foil strips from the tape.

The second method for embossing the foil involves the use of two dies. As before, first cut your foil to the desired size.

Align the edges of the foil with the ribs on the die. (Fig. 1) Make sure the foil is parallel to the ribs.

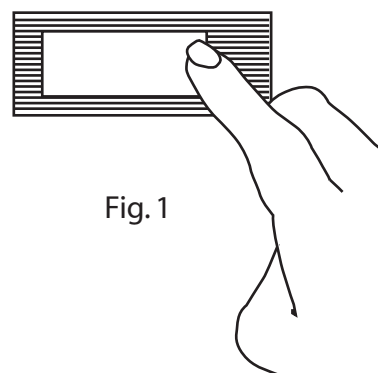


Fig. 1

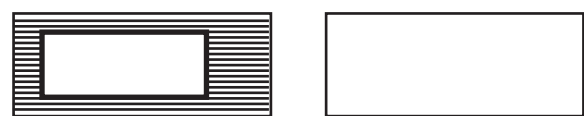


Fig. 2

Take the second die and turn it "upside down" (with the ribs facing down *towards* the ribs on the first die). (Fig. 2)

Carefully lay the second die over the first die. (Fig. 3) Be sure the ribs on both dies "lock" together. It is easier to align the ribs if you lay the top die slightly off center from the bottom die.



Fig. 3

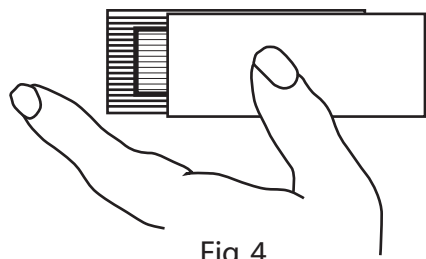


Fig. 4

Pressing with your thumb or finger, "slide" the dies back and forth (carefully) over each other. (Fig. 4) The ribs should be "locked" together preventing the dies from moving up and down (in relation to the picture). Be sure that you don't press too hard or you may tear the foil.

The backside of the die has a "bumpy" surface that looks a bit like miniature stucco. To emboss foil with this pattern, use the "finger" method described on the first page.

To make old looking panels that have seen some rugged wear, try putting varied amounts of creases in the foil before embossing. These will show up as tiny imperfections in the panel. For really abused panels, lightly wad up the foil and smooth it out with your finger before running it through the die.

The dies are sized so that you can make a scale panel up to 6' wide by 20' long. This allows you to make standard 8' X 4' panels as well as longer panels like the ones used in Quonset huts (usually 4' X 16")

Note: The dies are made out of a very rugged material but can be damaged by excessive heat. They should be laid on a flat surface when not in use. The material they are made of is generally impervious to solvents and will not permanently stick to most glues (including CA and styrene weld).