AeroLITE™

Made in England for Stevens AeroModel

Ultra-light, iron-on film for park flyer and micro aircraft

Weighing in at only 0.6 oz per square yard, AeroLITE is one-third the weight of conventional model aircraft covering films, making it the lightest iron-on covering film available. AeroLITE is ideal for use in all park flyer and micro, indoor modeling applications that require careful attention to weight savings. While ordinary covering film is prone to warp and to crush delicate airframes, AeroLITE is less likely to damage these delicate structures, while providing a high rate of shrink and fantastic high-gloss finish. AeroLITE's ease of use, high rate of shrink, and beginner-friendly, low-temperature application make it the ideal film for your next modeling project!

Distributed by Stevens AeroModel
26405 Judge Orr Rd., Calhan, CO 80808
www.stevensaero.com

Application guide

Prior to applying AeroLITE to your model, please remove the plastic protective backing that covers the pre-applied film adhesive. To remove the protective backing from the film apply two pieces sticky tape on opposite sides of the film (one to the film side and one to the backing), at a corner, now rapidly pull tape apart to separate backing from film.

Always use a fresh sharp #11 hobby knife blade to trim AeroLITE. Blades dull quickly (usually within 3-5 cuts) so keep an adequate supply on-hand. Using a dull blade will result in tearing and snagging of the film.

Application of AeroLITE follows a two step process and our film features two distinct operating temperatures. Attempts to apply film with an iron that's too hot will result in the film pulling away from the seam prior to achieving optimum adhesion. Follow our "IRON SETUP GUIDE" to properly calibrate your iron for this product.

Step 1 – Application

Open Framework - Seal around the perimeter with iron at low heat (175-195 deg. F). Trim off surplus. Reseal trimmed edges.

Solid Surfaces - i.e. sheet balsa. Iron should be set to low heat (175 deg. F) work film from one end of solid surface to other. Ensure whole piece is attached to the balsa at every point. Do not shrink.

Wings - Cover the underside first using a separate piece of AeroLITE for each panel. Overlap joints at panels by 1/8 in. Cover the top surface last ensuring that upper panel overlaps bottom covering by at least 1/8 in.

Fuselages - Cover top and bottom of assembly first, finish fuselage by covering sides last. Overlap top and bottom by 1/8 in.

Step 2 – Shrink

Increase covering iron temperature to (230 - 250 deg. F) and glide the iron slowly across the surface of the film. Tip: Flexible and delicate parts should be taped or pinned to a flat surface while shrinking.

Iron setup guide

Proper iron setup and temperature control is essential in producing a high quality model finish.

An infrared thermometer (from your local hobby or hardware supply) is a valuable tool for assisting with the proper setup of your hobby iron. In the event that a thermometer is not available then the following test can be performed to discover the proper working temperatures of our iron-on film:

Square Test - Cut a 1 inch square of film, remove backing, and place adhesive side up on the sole of your covering iron and observe it's behavior.

At 175 deg. F the square will lay flat and will not curl or wrinkle.

At 195 deg. F the square will slowly form into shallow hills and valleys.

At 210 deg. F the square quickly forms distinct hills and valleys.

Application Test - Iron a 1 inch wide strip of AeroLITE onto a smooth sanded balsa sheet.

At 175 deg. F the AeroLITE stirp will adhere and when cool will peel off taking only a few balsa wood fibers with it.

At 210 deg. F the AeroLITE strip will firmly attach to balsa and when removed will lift off a significant amount of wood fibers.

At 250 deg. F the adhesive on AeroLITE strip will melt into the wood, changing the color of the film and causing a speckled appearance. Removing the film will result in significant amounts of color and adhesive being left on the framework.

Even if you have an infrared thermometer at your disposal for iron setup, it is worth while to perform the above tests using scraps of balsa and AeroLITE to tune your iron for optimum covering performance.

Advanced techniques

Trim application
AeroLITE may be used as trim or striping. Most all film colors will work great as trim when used over top of a solid base such as white. In general White, Bright Yellow, Bright Red, and all Transparents will have there color altered when applying over any colored base. Thus, it is suggested to use our more opaque AeroFILM or AeroTRIM products when applying colored films over any base other than white.

To apply AeroLITE as a trim - Remove the protective backing from film and cut trim to shape. Clean the surface where trim will be applied using glass cleaner. Run a tack cloth over surface to remove any dust. Now soak adhesive side of trim with glass cleaner and apply to model. "Float" trim into position on model then using a business card or credit card run over the surface of the trim to squeegee glass cleaner out from under trim. Allow trim to dry 12-24 hours then secure trim with an iron set on low heat (175 deg. F)

Painting AeroLITE
We have found that under some circumstances AeroLITE can be painted. Paint will resist most of the day to day use of the model but is not immune from scratching or chipping.

To paint AeroLITE - First cover model with base color film. Mask area to be painted with a suitable masking film or tape. Now, gently rough surface of film within open mask area using 0-0 steel wool. Next, clean within mask area with glass cleaner and or denatured alcohol (A tack cloth will also aid in removing dust from the painted area) To prevent bleeding under mask, seal edges of mask design with a clear lacquer. Once Lacquer has dried use a complementary lacquer based paint in the color of your choice to paint over masked area. Remove mask.

Seaming over glass
Very complicated multicolored covering schemes can be achieved by pre-cutting a design from AeroLITE and joining parts over a sheet of glass. The cut design is arranged (adhesive side down) over glass with edges overlapping by at least 3/16 inch. With an iron on low heat (175 deg. F) seal overlapping edges of design. Lift seamed design from glass and apply to model.

AeroLITE is available in the following colors: 27.5 x 78 in. (0.7 x 2 meter) rolls.

Bright White*	(SOLITE-W)	Metallic Silver*	(SOLITE-S)
Black*	(SOLITE-BK)	Olive Green	(SOLITE-GD)
Bright Red*	(SOLITE-R)	Transparent Ruby	(SOLITE-TR-R)
Navy Blue*	(SOLITE-B)	Transparent Blue	(SOLITE-TR-B)
Bright Yellow*	(SOLITE-Y)	Transparent Yellow	(SOLITE-TR-Y)
Antique White*	(SOLITE-AW)	Transparent Green	(SOLITE-TR-G)

Now available in convenient "PatchPak" sizes: 11 x 27.5 in. (0.28 x 0.7 meter).

Bright White*	(SOLITE-XW)	Metallic Silver*	(SOLITE-XS)
Black*	(SOLITE-XBK)	Olive Green	(SOLITE-XGD)
Bright Red*	(SOLITE-XR)	Transparent Ruby	(SOLITE-XTR-R)
Navy Blue*	(SOLITE-XB)	Transparent Blue	(SOLITE-XTR-B)
Bright Yellow*	(SOLITE-XY)	Transparent Yellow	(SOLITE-XTR-Y)
Antique White*	(SOLITE-XAW)	Transparent Green	(SOLITE-XTR-G)

* Indicates matching AeroTRIM self-adhesive trim sheets available.