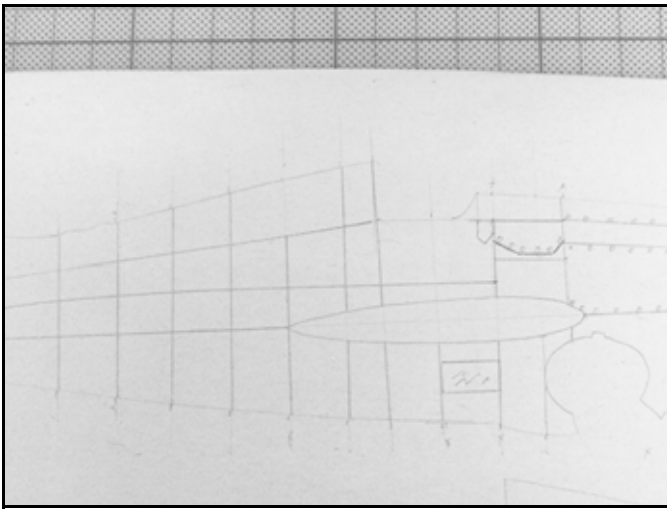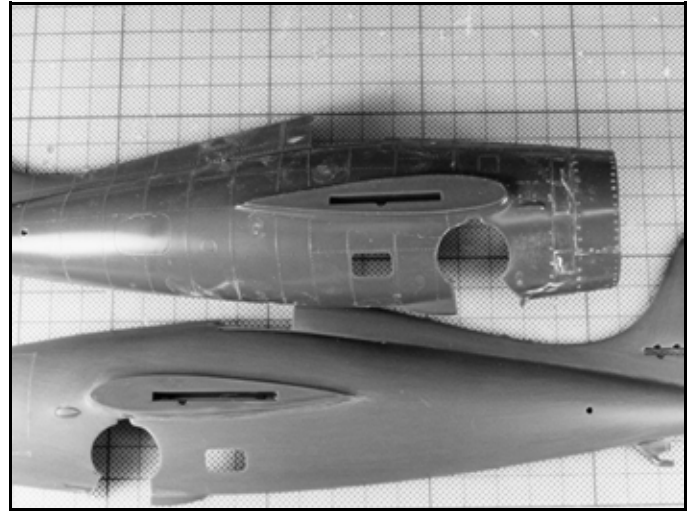# MIKE ASHEY PRODUCTIONS
PRESENTS

SCRIBING AIRCRAFT PANEL LINES
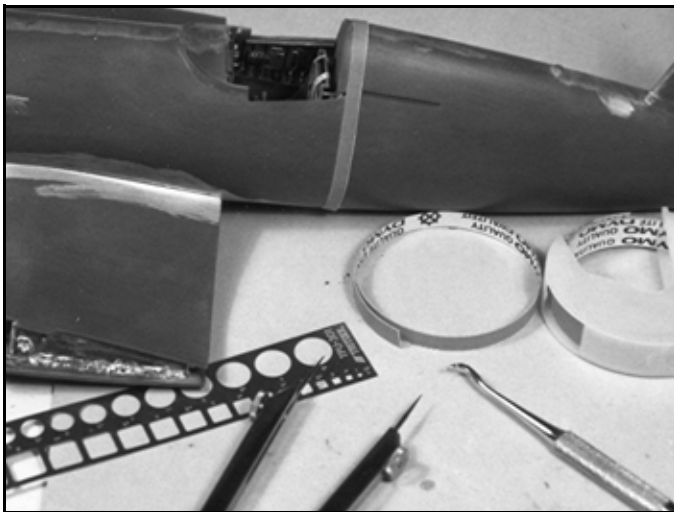## BY
MIKE ASHEY

The appearance of any kit with raised panel lines can be improved by sanding off the raised detail and rescribing the panel lines. I modified Revell's 1/32 scale kit of the F3F Wildcat by scratchbuilding the interior, improving the landing gear and rescribing the panel lines. I also back dated the kit to the Wildcat version without folding wings. Some of the pictures in this article are of the rescribing work that I also did on Revell's F4U Corsair. To scribe panel lines you will need labeling tape, a plastic scriber, needles, a ping vise, a small flexible ruler and drafting dividers.
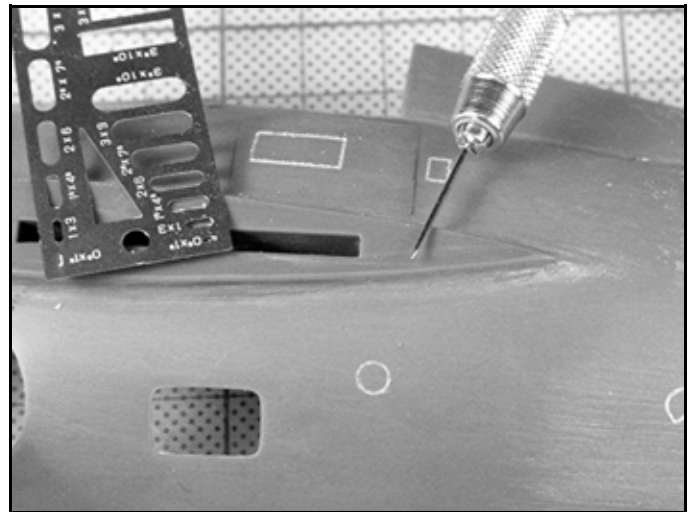
Since I planned on removing all the raised panel lines I traced the outline of the fuselage half and then added the locations of the panel lines so that I would have a visual reference for their locations. I also did this on the wings.
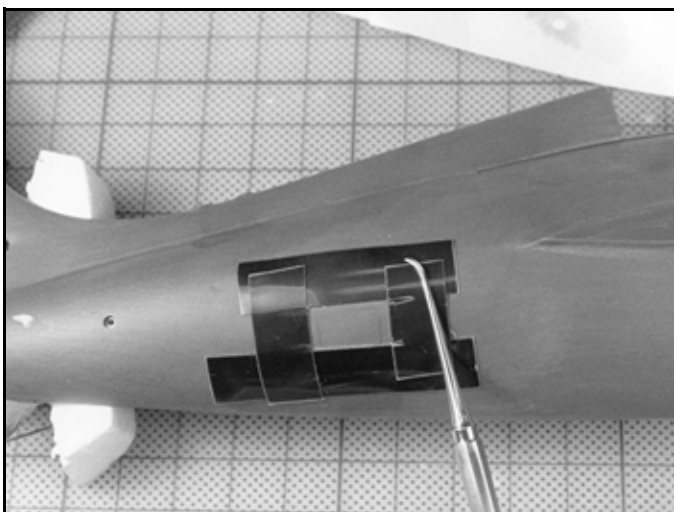

All the panel lines have been sanded off and the other side is well underway!. When doing this be prepared for lots of plastic dust!
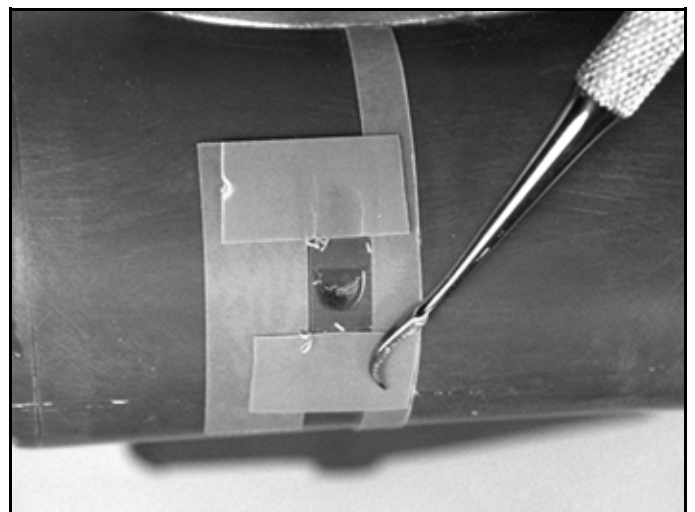

Here are the tools that you will need for panel scribing. The drafting dividers will help you measure the distances between lines so that you can correctly mark them prior to attaching labeling tape.
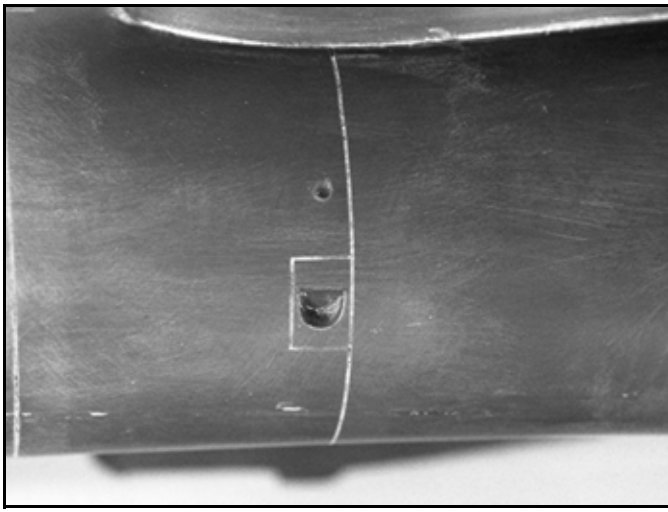

Small box and circular shapes are best achieved using a photoetch template guide and a needle secured in a pin vise
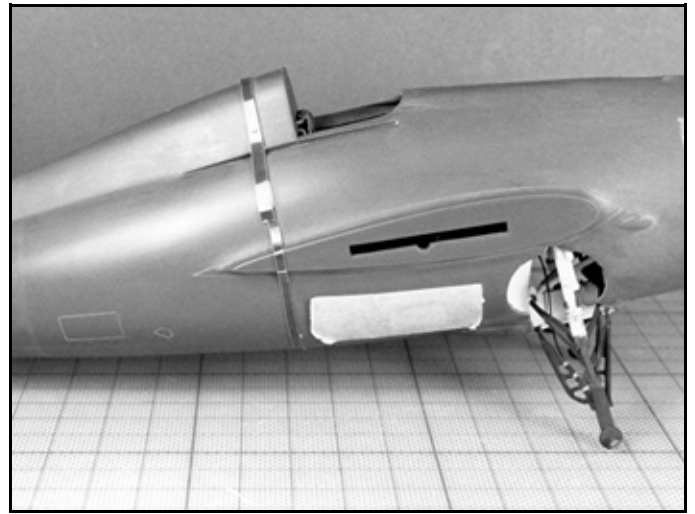

Shape sizes that are not on the photoetch template can be created using labeling tape.
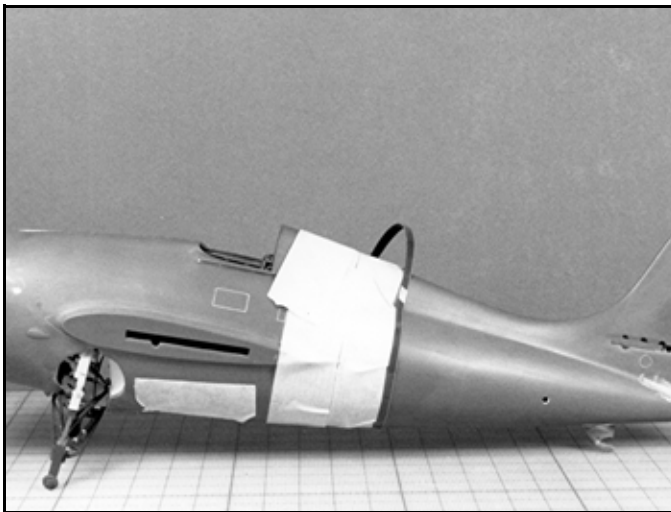

You can even make very small box shapes with labeling tape. Sometimes I use a plastic scriber and other times I use the needle scriber.
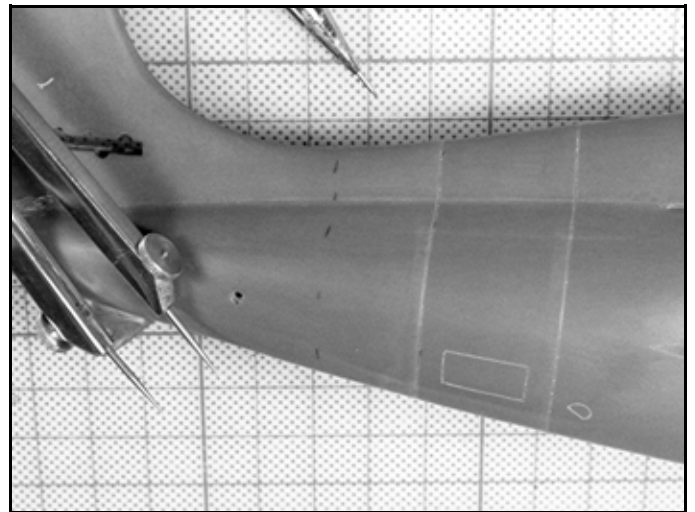
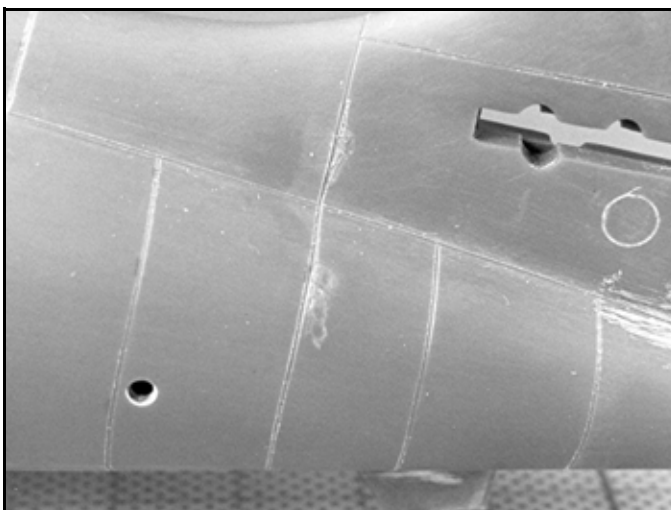Note how clean the lines look on the small box shape.

Setting the first line on a fuselage is important because all other lines are measured from this initial one. I set the line in pencil and then use a thin length of labeling tape to wrap around the fuselage.
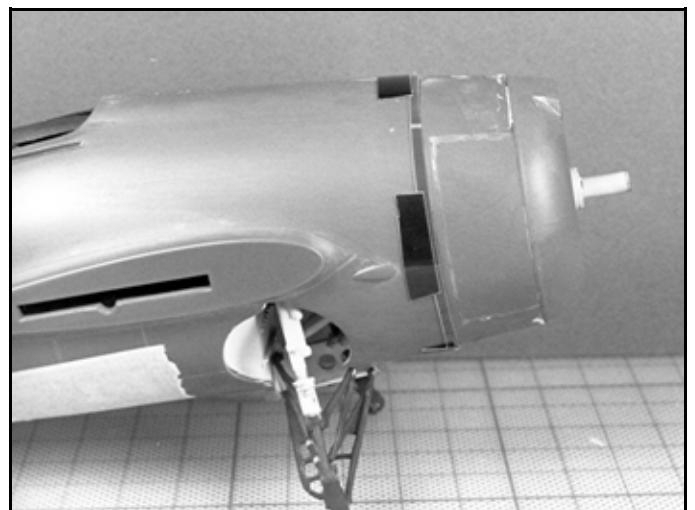

I use masking tape to help protect the surface of the plastic in case of skip over the labeling tape.
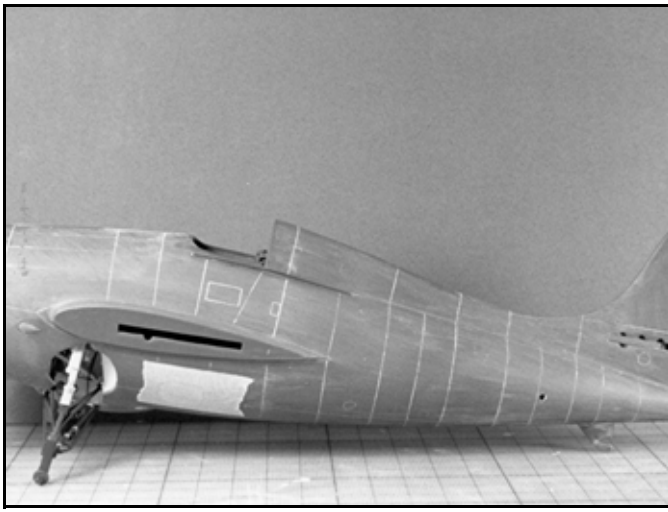

The dividers will measure the distances between the lines which I mark with a pencil and then set the labeling tape along the pencil marks.
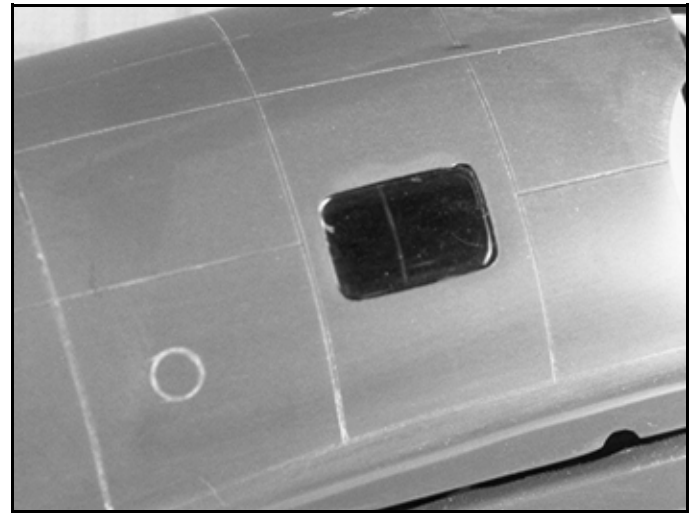

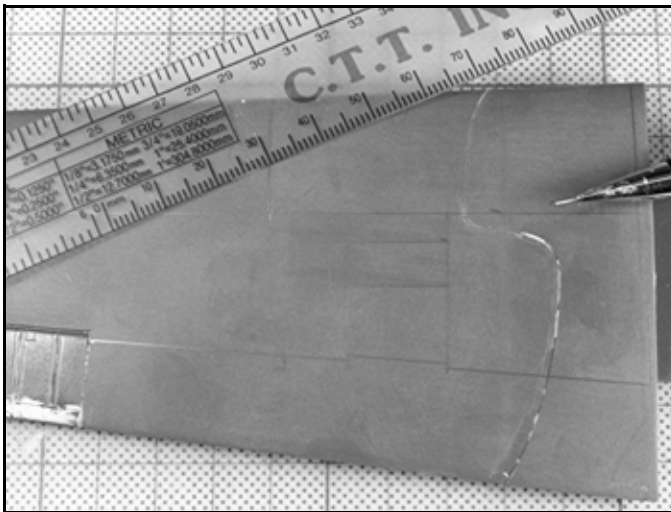If you do gouge the plastic with the scriber, just fill it with super glue and sand it smooth.

Cutting thin lengths of labeling tape helps shape the labeling tape over fuselage contours. To secure the tape in place back it up with wider sections so the tape will not move when you run the scriber along its edge.
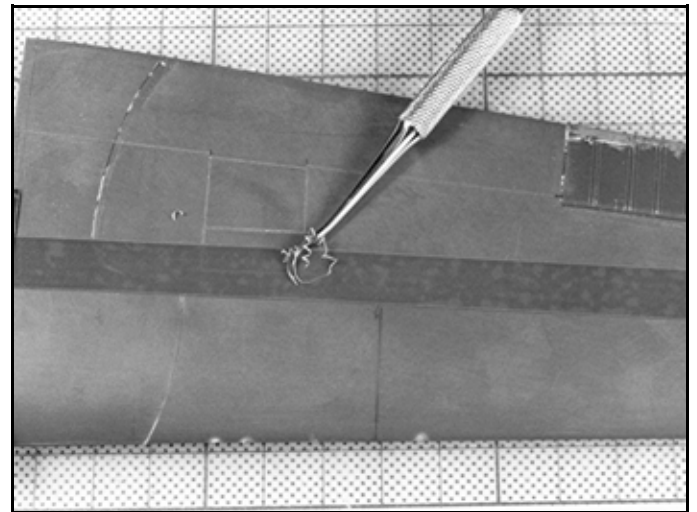
Once the scribing is complete I smooth out the surface with 0000 steel wool. This leaves plastic dust in the scribed lines giving you a visual reference for you work.

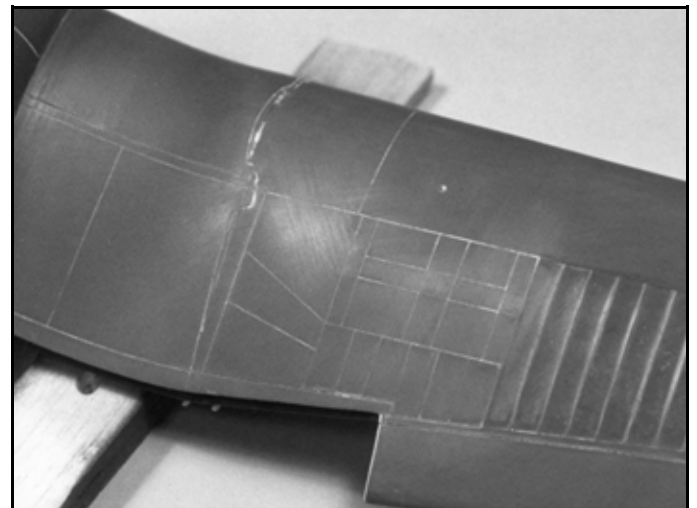Note how the horizontal and vertical lines connect neatly without any overlap.

Scribing lines on a flat surface is much easier , but I still draw all the lines in pencil first and then start scribing.

I like to scribe the long lines first and then connect shorter panel lines to it.

The panel lines on the wing of this Wildcat were pretty easy to draw and scribe.

The panel lines on the wing of this Corsair were a little more complicated as there are some angled lines and connection points. To achieve good results always plan you work and go slow when scribing!