



**Accur8 Spacemodels**  
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▲ This red mark centers over the electrical tunnel cover that is glued over the seam of the corrugated body wrap

**F**

**D**

**B**  
Forward Edge

Apply this edge first

Seam of Wrap A aligns with seam of Wrap B

Apply this edge first

Apply this edge first

Apply this edge first

**A**

**A**

This edge applies first

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Remove 1/4" backing from this edge of the main escape motor wrap. This edge applies first.

Seam of Wrap B aligns with this mark

**C**

**H**

Apply strips **F** over the appropriate printed strips on the BPC Wrap (**B**) for 3D effect  
Apply ovals **G** over the ovals on wrap **C** for 3D effect.  
Apply strip **H** over the matching printed strip on wrap **C** for 3D effect.

**Tip:** If you don't get the alignment of capsule wrap **C** "just right" or if you end up with a wrinkle, cut a narrow strip of the wrap way inside the nearest printed strip on the BPC. Then peel up and reposition the desired section of wrap **C**. When all of wrap **C** is positioned satisfactorily and wrinkle free, the strips **F** are applied over the gaps in wrap **C**.  
**Spray a very light (non-"wet") coat of clear spray over the entire skin sheet immediately after opening** package to protect it from dirt, grime and stains. Also, the clear spray penetrates the white vinyl coating and toughens it tremendously. I recommend a spray such as ACE Premium Enamel Clear Gloss. It has minimal effect on the vinyl (other sprays: **Minwax Polycrylic Water Based Clear Spray is recommended for clear coating**

# Apollo Little Joe II - Vehicle A-004

# Applying the Accur8 Vinyl Skins For Estes 1/45 Little Joe II

It is generally better to apply the skins as you build the model as this allows you to more easily handle and prepare the subassemblies and apply the skin to the subassemblies and get all of the alignments right. However, with a little patience, it is still relatively easy to apply the skins to a finished model.

## Escape Motor Skinning

Start with the escape motor. Glue the nosecone (FF) to the escape motor tube (EE). Use filler or your favorite method to make the joint between the body tube and the nosecone as smooth as possible. Apply a coat or two of gloss white to the finished nosecone/tube assembly and allow to dry, preferably overnight (paint that is not completely dried can affect the skin adhesive)

Carefully cut the escape motor nosecone wrap (A) from the sheet. Place the wrap face down on your work surface and peel back one of the straight edges and cut away about 1/4" of the backing away. Flip the skin over and replace the 1/4" of backing making sure the slick side of the backing is against the adhesive of the skin. *This process of cutting away the backing and replacing it is important to achieving the proper alignment of the skin and is used for applying each skin section to the model.*

Tightly wrap the skin (with the backing still on) over the escape motor nosecone. Try to "pre-curl" the wrap. The rear curved edge of the skin aligns EXACTLY over the edge where the nosecone transitions from a cone to a cylinder. Once satisfied with the alignment, while holding the wrap in place with one hand, carefully lift the edge of the wrap from which you cut the 1/4" section and remove that section. Adhere the skin from which the 1/4" section was removed to the nosecone. Check the skin alignment before removing the remainder of the backing and adhere the rest of the skin to the nosecone. There may be a slight overlap of the edges...which is okay. If the alignment isn't exactly right, you can carefully peel the skin back up and reapply.

Cut out the forward escape motor wrap (B). Use the corner marks as guides for cutting. The wrap is one piece that is within the dotted line box. Again, cut away 1/4" of backing and replace on one end. Tightly wrap around the escape motor tube and cylindrical portion of the nosecone so that it is flush against the wrap you applied above. the seam of (B) aligns with the seam of (A) and the solid black circle is on the edge furthest away from the nose cone. Once satisfied with positioning and alignment, remove the 1/4" backing, tack in place, remove the remainder of the backing and finish applying the wrap.

Cut out the main escape motor wrap (C) and cut away and replace a 1/4" section of backing along one long edge of the wrap. Test wrap around the escape motor body aligning the seam of the forward escape motor wrap with the small black mark on the forward end of the main wrap (the forward end is nearest the two grey ovals). The seam of the main wrap DOES NOT ALIGN with the seam of the forward wrap. Once satisfied with alignment tack in place by removing the 1/4" back and then finish wrapping. **The overlap of the long edges of wrap (C) is intentional**, giving a 3D effect to the strip representing one of the electrical tunnels that runs the length of the escape motor overlaps the seam. Cut out the strip H electrical tunnel and position it over the matching printed tunnel on wrap (C).

Carefully burnish all the wraps over their entire surfaces to assure complete adhesion of the wraps. Pay particular attention to the seams. The back of your thumbnail makes a good burnisher as it will smoothly slide over the vinyl without digging in or leaving marks.

Apply several light coats of clear to the escape motor tube/nosecone assembly to toughen and seal the wraps.

## Capsule Skinning

Prepare the Apollo capsule for skinning by preparing and painting with gloss white.

Cut out the capsule wrap (D). Remove and replace 1/4" of the backing from the edge of the wrap nearest the "triad" of black rectangles...this is the edge that applies to the capsule first (not the edge under the long black triangle). Notice that there are two raised rings around the circumference of the capsule that the wrap will center between. Also notice that there are two raised "tick" marks above the top ring and two below the bottom ring. The long solid rectangle aligns within the rectangle formed by the tick marks. Test wrap the skin section and get everything aligned and tack down the edge of the skin by removing the 1/4" backing. Make a final check of alignment and adhere the rest of the wrap. It's okay if the edge with the long black rectangle overlaps a bit. Carefully burnish the entire surface of the skin to make sure it completely adheres to the capsule. Be careful not to damage or mar the skin surface. Cut out the strips (F) and apply to the appropriate printed strips on wrap (C) for a 3D effect. See the Tip on the main skin sheet for correcting slight misalignments in applying wrap (C) before applying strips (F).

Apply several light coats of clear to the capsule to toughen and seal the wrap.

## Booster Skinning

Assemble the booster according to the Estes instructions. Give it an overall coat of gloss white then paint the body and fins aluminum. Don't apply the RCS Quads yet.

Cut out the main roll pattern wrap. Use a straight edge as a guide to cut all the way across the sheet on both top and bottom of the wrap. Trim the narrow strip from the edge of the wrap nearest the short single roll pattern rectangle (the left edge).

Remove and replace 1/4" of the backing on the edge nearest the long single roll pattern rectangle.

Test wrap the skin around the forward end of the booster. Note that there is a row of small black dots along one edge. This edge will go flush against the corrugated wrap on the body. Also note that one of the dots is RED (below the three equal-sized rectangles). This dot will align with the seam of the corrugated body wrap. Once satisfied with positioning and alignment, tack the wrap down by removing the 1/4" backing. Once you are satisfied adhere the rest of the backing to the booster. Carefully burnish the entire surface of the skin to make sure it completely adheres to the body tube. Be careful not to damage or mar the skin surface.

Apply several light coats of clear to the capsule to toughen and seal the wrap.

## Final Assembly

Assemble the escape tower, paint and glue it to the capsule. Assemble, paint, and install the escape motor nozzles into the escape motor skirt (paint the skirt black). Glue the escape motor skirt to the escape tower.

Finish assembly of the escape motor by packing in the clay as directed in the Estes instructions and install the escape motor to the skirt making sure the lowermost rectangle of the escape motor roll pattern exactly centers between the tower legs that are centered over the "triad" of rectangles on the capsule. Closely examine the illustrations below to be sure of your pattern alignment before gluing the escape motor to the skirt.

Cut out and remove the small rectangles on the roll pattern skin that are marked "RCS" to expose the body tube. Assemble and paint the RCS assemblies according to the Estes instructions and glue the RCS assemblies to the body using the RCS cutouts as guides.

There is a spare escape motor nose wrap as well as an electrical systems cover (long strip below nose cone wraps) to give a "3D" effect. Cut it out and position over the same-shaped cover on the escape motor wrap before applying the motor wrap.

Lastly, cut out and apply the two "General Dynamics" placards as shown on the illustration below, apply the "UNITED STATES" decals from the kit and finish any other construction then apply a coat or two of satin or flat clear to the entire model.

**Minwax Polycrylic Water Based Clear Spray (available in Gloss or Satin) and Pledge Floor Care Finish are the recommended clear coatings for use with Accur8 Skin Kits.**



