



# **Decals And A Paint Scheme**

**For A Private Railroad Name  
Gordon Fewster**

## **Personal Model Railroad Paint Scheme:**

**My “Ontario Southern Railway”:**

**I Grew up in Ontario, NY, east of Rochester. My OSRy runs from Bear Creek harbor on the lake shore in Ontario to the Pennsylvania coal fields**

**After some thought, I decided to use some variation of a Tuscan Red body with yellow and/or black striping and yellow lettering.**

**Several combinations were tried on old locomotive bodies, finally settling on a 3/16” (16”) black stripe on the body, with a 1/64” (about 1 ½”) pinstripe on each side, with Champion dulux gold lettering. (A ¼” (22”) stripe was used on cab units.)**

**(Champion used to supply common word decals, including “Ontario”, “Southern”, and “Railway” for this purpose)**

**To Paint Locomotives with this scheme:**

**Spray pin stripe area with Floquil Reefer Yellow**

**Mask Stripes with 1/64" chart tape**

**Spray center stripe with Floquil Engine Black**

**Cut masking tape to width and mask stripe**

**Spray entire body with Floquil Tuscan Red**

**Remove masking and touch up as needed.**

**Apply lettering (one word at a time)**

**Did not apply gloss coat under decals**

**Did use Decal softener liberally**

**Spray Testors Dullcote**



**Original:**

**Paint yellow, Mask (1/64")**

**Paint Black, mask**

**Paint Tuscan Red**

**Apply lettering (one word  
At a time)**

**Dullcoat**

# **Trials to make Decals and Simplify Painting Process (Without changing the basic paint scheme)**

**I found or concluded:**

**Decal Paper: is available in 4 common types**

**Clear or White decal film (either can be on white or colored paper)**

**(White film is the only common way to get white on a decal)**

**For 1) Ink Jet printers or 2) Laser printers and toner type Office Copiers**

**Five 8 ½ “ x 11” sheets for ~ \$7 at MicroMark**

## **To Make a Master for the RR Decals using a PC & Printer:**

**You can use CAD, Drawing, Word Processor, copy and resize photos, etc (CAD software is not generally user-friendly)**

**Any PC software that lets you make and print an image**

**Expect some trial and error!**

### **Microsoft Works Word Processor did all I needed:**

**You can: Select font, type size, type and background fill colors,  
Change spacing of letters**

**For all of these, each line can be different**

**For stripe: use a small type size, no lettering, background fill color is stripe color**

**Print in Portrait or Landscape format**

**Copy and Paste commands can save a lot of time with repeating features**

## **Issues:**

**Both: White decal Paper: Trim edges exactly or get uneven or white edge**

**(Makes uniform narrow edge stripes difficult)**

**Ink Jet: With clear film, black coverage is acceptable, no other color will hide anything underneath.**

**Must seal or will smear or wash off.**

**MicroMark says use their fixative. DullCote works.**

**Set printer for transparencies**

## **Copier:**

**Possible flaking if trimmed close. Fixative said to help**

**Color may not be as saturated as ink jet (one trial!)**

**Print two steps darker than with paper**

## What I did:

- 1) Only used decal for black stripes and lettering
- 2) Painted Yellow and Tuscan Red
- 3) Added black outer stripe to hide yellow/red transition
- 4) Printed Master Copy on “HP Bright White Inkjet” paper (as noted, lettering and yellow area were left clear)
- 5) Printer was set to “best” or “presentation” quality
- 6) Master copied onto MicroMark clear “laser copier” paper with “office” (toner type) copier
- 7) Model stripe area painted 1) white, then 2) reefer yellow (White covers well, yellow does not.)
- 8) Cut and apply masking tape w/ edges located to be centered under outer black stripe
- 9) Paint body tuscan red
- 10) Apply decals, Micro Sol or Decal Set, and Dullcote
- 11) Admire results (or strip and start over!)

## **Alternative Method:**

**Print all striping and lettering on white decal film (Inkjet)**

**Paint body color only**

**Apply decal, decal set, etc, and Dullcote**

**Pros: Easier**

**Cons: Inkjet yellow not as saturated as paint**

**(would not match older locos)**

**Likely difficulty trimming edges evenly**

**Note: Handrails black, not yellow**

**(No OSHA in 1950)**

**(Relatively thick plastic handrails seemed more noticeable in yellow)**



**w/ Home made decals:**  
**Paint white, yellow, mask**  
**Paint Floquil Tuscan Red**

**Apply Decals**  
**Dullcote**

**Used similar procedure for passenger cars  
(Must print decal in landscape mode  
to get one piece full HO car length)**



**Soaked cars in IPA 24 hours, scrubbed to strip, then similar procedure to engines. Handrails hand painted black**

