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### Dancing Wings Hobby LS-MP-02-008

# Dancing Wings Hobby 2M Orange Covering Film Instruction Manual

**Model:** LS-MP-02-008 | **Brand:** Dancing Wings Hobby

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This manual provides comprehensive instructions for the proper application and care of your Dancing Wings Hobby 2M Orange Covering Film. This heat-shrinkable film is designed for covering balsawood model aircraft, providing a durable, lightweight, and aesthetically pleasing finish. Please read all instructions carefully before beginning the application process to ensure optimal results and safety.

## 2. SAFETY INFORMATION

Always prioritize safety when working with tools and heat. Failure to follow safety guidelines may result in injury or damage to the product.

- **Heat Tools:** Use a covering iron or heat gun with caution. These tools operate at high temperatures and can cause burns. Always place hot tools on a heat-resistant stand or surface when not in use.
- **Sharp Tools:** Exercise extreme care when using hobby knives or razor blades. Always cut away from your body and keep blades sharp to prevent slips.
- **Ventilation:** Work in a well-ventilated area to avoid inhaling fumes that may be released during the heating process.
- **Flammable Materials:** Keep the work area clear of flammable liquids or materials.
- **Age Recommendation:** This product is recommended for users aged 15 years and up due to the use of heat and sharp tools.

## 3. PACKAGE CONTENTS

Verify that all components are present upon unpacking.

- 1 x Roll of Dancing Wings Hobby 2M Orange Covering Film (60 cm x 200 cm)



Image 1: The Dancing Wings Hobby 2M Orange Covering Film roll, displaying its vibrant orange color, approximate dimensions (width  $\approx 0.64\text{M}$ , length  $\approx 2.00\text{M}$ ), and model number LS-MP-02-008. An orange rod is also visible, likely for scale or demonstration.

## 4. REQUIRED TOOLS (NOT INCLUDED)

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The following tools are necessary for successful application of the covering film:

- **Covering Iron or Heat Gun:** Specifically designed for model aircraft covering.
- **Sharp Hobby Knife or Razor Blade:** For precise cutting and trimming.
- **Steel Ruler or Straight Edge:** For accurate measurements and straight cuts.
- **Cutting Mat:** To protect your work surface.
- **Cleaning Alcohol or Degreaser:** For surface preparation.
- **Soft, Lint-Free Cloth:** For cleaning and smoothing.
- **Small Pin or Needle:** For puncturing air bubbles (if necessary).

## 5. PREPARATION

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## 5.1 Surface Preparation

- Ensure the balsawood structure is completely assembled, sanded smooth, and free of any dust, oil, or debris. Any imperfections on the surface will show through the covering film.
- Clean the balsawood surface thoroughly with cleaning alcohol or a degreaser and a lint-free cloth. Allow it to dry completely.
- For best adhesion, some modelers apply a thin coat of balsa sealer or sanding sealer, then sand it smooth before covering. Ensure the sealer is fully cured.

## 5.2 Cutting the Film

- Unroll the covering film on a clean, flat cutting mat.
- Measure the area to be covered, adding an overlap of approximately 1-2 cm (0.5-1 inch) on all sides for trimming and wrapping around edges.
- Using a sharp hobby knife and a steel ruler, carefully cut the film to the required dimensions.

# 6. APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

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## 6.1 General Application

- **Set Iron Temperature:** Start with a medium heat setting on your covering iron (refer to your iron's manual for specific temperature guidelines, typically around 100-120°C or 212-248°F for initial tacking). Test on a scrap piece of film first.
- **Tacking Edges:** Position the cut film over the balsawood section, ensuring the adhesive side (usually the inner side of the roll) faces the wood. Begin by tacking down one edge of the film to the balsawood structure using the covering iron. Apply gentle pressure and move the iron slowly along the edge.
- **Stretch and Tack:** Gently pull the film taut across the surface, ensuring there are no wrinkles. Tack down the opposite edge, then the remaining two edges, working from the center outwards.
- **Adhering to Structure:** Once the edges are tacked, use the iron to adhere the film to all underlying balsawood spars, ribs, and framework. Apply firm pressure and move the iron steadily.
- **Shrinking the Film:** Increase the iron temperature slightly (typically around 130-160°C or 266-320°F). Hold the iron slightly above the film, or lightly touch the film, moving it in a circular or sweeping motion. The film will begin to shrink and tighten, removing any remaining wrinkles. Avoid overheating, which can cause the film to melt or distort.
- **Trimming Excess:** Once the film is fully adhered and shrunk, use a sharp hobby knife to carefully trim any excess film along the edges of the structure. For a clean finish, you can wrap the film slightly around the edge and adhere it to the underside.

## 6.2 Covering Corners and Curves

- For complex curves or tight corners, apply less heat and stretch the film gently as you work.
- Make relief cuts in the overlap areas to allow the film to conform without excessive wrinkling.
- Work slowly, tacking small sections at a time, and gradually shrinking the film into place.

# 7. MAINTENANCE

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Proper maintenance will extend the life and appearance of your covered model.

- **Cleaning:** Clean the covered surfaces with a soft, damp cloth and mild soap if necessary. Avoid harsh chemicals or abrasive cleaners, which can damage the film.

- **Repairs:** Small punctures or tears can often be repaired by applying a small patch of the same covering film. Cut a patch slightly larger than the damaged area, round the corners, and apply it with a covering iron at a low temperature.
- **Re-shrinking:** Over time, temperature changes may cause the film to loosen slightly. A quick pass with a heat gun on a low setting can re-shrink the film and restore its tautness.

## 8. TROUBLESHOOTING

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Common issues and their solutions during the covering process.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
<b>Bubbles under film</b>	Trapped air; insufficient heat or pressure during adhesion.	Puncture the bubble with a fine pin or needle, then re-heat and smooth the area with the iron.
<b>Wrinkles or creases</b>	Film not pulled taut enough; uneven heat application; too much heat in one spot.	Apply gentle heat with the iron or heat gun, stretching the film slightly if needed, and smooth outwards from the center. Reduce heat if film is distorting.
<b>Poor adhesion</b>	Surface not clean; insufficient heat or pressure; iron temperature too low.	Ensure the balsawood surface is clean and free of contaminants. Increase iron temperature slightly and apply more pressure.
<b>Film melting or distorting</b>	Excessive heat; iron held in one spot for too long.	Reduce iron temperature. Keep the iron moving constantly over the film. Practice on scrap pieces to find the correct temperature.

## 9. SPECIFICATIONS

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Key technical details of the Dancing Wings Hobby 2M Orange Covering Film.

Attribute	Value
<b>Model Number</b>	LS-MP-02-008
<b>Brand</b>	Dancing Wings Hobby
<b>Color</b>	Orange
<b>Length</b>	200 cm (2 meters)
<b>Width</b>	60 cm
<b>Approximate Weight</b>	110 grams (3.88 ounces)
<b>Material</b>	Heat-shrinkable film
<b>Recommended Age</b>	15 years and up

## 10. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

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Dancing Wings Hobby products are manufactured to high standards. For any questions, technical assistance, or warranty inquiries, please contact your retailer or the manufacturer directly. Please retain your proof of purchase for warranty claims.