

SAILSetc guidance

Pens suitable for marking surfaces

Metal, plastic, sail film

At SAILSetc we use **Staedtler** Permanent Lumocolour S, black, 0.4 mm thick, pens for most workshop applications where a clear mark needs to be made. These work on almost any surface and marks made of any solid surface are easily totally removed using acetone. Perfect for metal, plastic and sail film.

Other pens, pencils.

Many other pens make marks on anodised surfaces that are difficult to remove using acetone, methylated spirits and other solvents. If you have this problem try using a mildly abrasive surface cleaner, as used in kitchens, to remove the mark. The polishing compounds marketed by Farecla and others work in the same way.

On many anodised aluminium surfaces, especially those with a matt surface, pencils work perfectly well. A sharp, soft, pencil mark can be removed relatively easily after use – try using a normal eraser. Mark form harder grade pencils may require treatment with abrasive cleaner.

Polishing masts

These mildly abrasive products can, as a side effect, polish the surface that is treated – especially noticeable on the rather dull anodised surface normally created on 7075 alloy. The whole mast can be treated in the same way to restore an even appearance.

Black surfaces

Of course black pens are no help on black surfaces like masts and natural carbon. Those of you fortunate enough to have perfect colour vision may be able to use the green, blue or red alternative versions of this pen. I use white wax crayons made by **Sanford** – China Marker 02060 164T. They are perfect for marking gloss black surfaces although the marks lack precision unless the point is kept very sharp. The marks made by these crayons are easily removed using acetone.

Clear or black sail laminates

On transparent and black sail laminate materials, as well as black and dark mouldings, we use **Pilot** Silver and Gold Extra Fine Markers. The silver version leaves a clear dense line. The gold is not so good but works well enough. These pens require the metallic pigment to be dispersed in their reservoirs before use and the marks take a while to dry. Avoid smudging during that time. The marks made by these pens are easily removed using acetone.

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