Applying the lines

Most of the lines on the model have been applied using a commercial lining pen. The pen is of the hollow needle type and was originally acquired from the Bob Moore catalogue some twenty-eight years prior to its use on "Flash Gordon". During the interim period I've built up a comprehensive set of guides that enable the pen to follow an edge and create a parallel line at an adjustable distance from it. One of the more suitable paints for this type of pen is Humbrol enamel. New paint works best and even better during the brief period of a warm summer. Due to the higher temperatures, the paint has a lower viscosity, which in turn allows it to pass more freely through the hollow needle. Old paint on the other hand, often carries debris in the form of tiny fragments that have become detached from the rim of the tin. It doesn`t take much to block a needle with an internal diameter of 0.012 in.





The picture (above) shows the red line being applied to the canopy front. A guide has been fitted to the pen, enabling it to reference the edge of the canopy valance. The guide itself can be adjusted by moving the reference pin along the guide bar. In order to maintain a uniformity of distance for the various lines, washers (10 B.A. size) are placed between the reference pin and the paint cup. The straw line shown in the picture had been applied several hours previously and was made using a single pass of the pen. The red line, being a darker colour will need to be much wider and will be achieved by making three passes of the pen. Between each one, the reference pin will be adjusted by removing one washer from the guide bar.

Lettering the canopy

Microsoft's font list numbers around three hundred different styles. After choosing a suitable font (**Burlesque**), the words were printed out actual size and temporarily fixed directly above their intended location.

The picture (above) shows the early stages in lettering the canopy signboard. At this stage the priority was to get the spacing correct. Also a dimensional allowance would need to be made for the later application of shading.

The picture (right) shows the shading being applied. For this and all other brush applications, Humbrol was the paint of choice.

