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Overview

These instructions are **not** intended as a tutorial on how to repaint Flight Simulator aircraft, or how to best use your Windows paint program of choice. If you are looking for a good tutorial on this subject, you might want to check out Eric Joiner's excellent treatise [here](#).

This paper is intended to give you basic guidelines on how the texture formatting of the Avanti works, and how you can use these files to create and format a new paint scheme.

In Flight Simulator 2004: A Century of Flight, additional paint schemes for any individual aircraft can be added by creating a new, complete texture set, and adding these textures to a new folder in the aircraft's directory structure using the naming convention texture.***. Where "****" is the unique folder name you wish to use.


For example, if you are creating the N320CA texture scheme, you might want to name this texture folder:

texture.N320CA

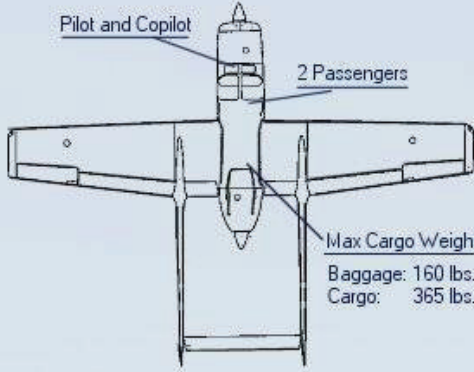
We recommend you **absolutely avoid** using naming schemes such as "texture.2", "texture.3", as you never know who else will be uploading new texture schemes, and such *generic* naming will most certainly result in duplications.

Since the Cessna 337 was provided with an automated Load Manager in FS 2004, your add-on paint scheme should ideally be formatted to work with that utility. This instruction set will show you how to configure your paint scheme to work seamlessly with this utility.





Cessna 337 Load Manager



Pilot and Copilot

2 Passengers

Max Cargo Weight

Baggage: 160 lbs.

Cargo: 365 lbs.

Options

Avionics Options

- ☒ Reality XP WX 500 Weather Radar
- ☒ Reality XP Garmin GNS 530
- ☒ Reality XP Jetline 2
- ☐ SimFlyers Garmin GNS 430

Systems Realism

- ☐ Use Alarms
- ☐ Advanced Autopilot

Realism Modeling

Easy

Maintenance And Operation

Cost

Currency: US Dollars

Total Fuel Used: 7.02 Gal.

Fuel Cost: 20.42

Maint. Cost: 0.00

Repair Cost: 0.00

Fixed Costs: 143,505.67

Total: 143,526.10

Options

Status/Repair

Fwd Engine

Status: OK

Engine time (Hrs): 0.06

Hours to next service: 24.94

Aft Engine

Status: OK

Engine time (Hrs): 0.06

Hours to next service: 24.94

Options

Formatted Paint Schemes*

Default Paint scheme

Ramp Loading (MTOW)

Cargo

0 Aft

Passengers\ Crew **

2

Ramp Weight: 10,412.00 lbs.

*** Not including pilot

Set

*See the Loadout page of the POH for instructions on adding paint schemes

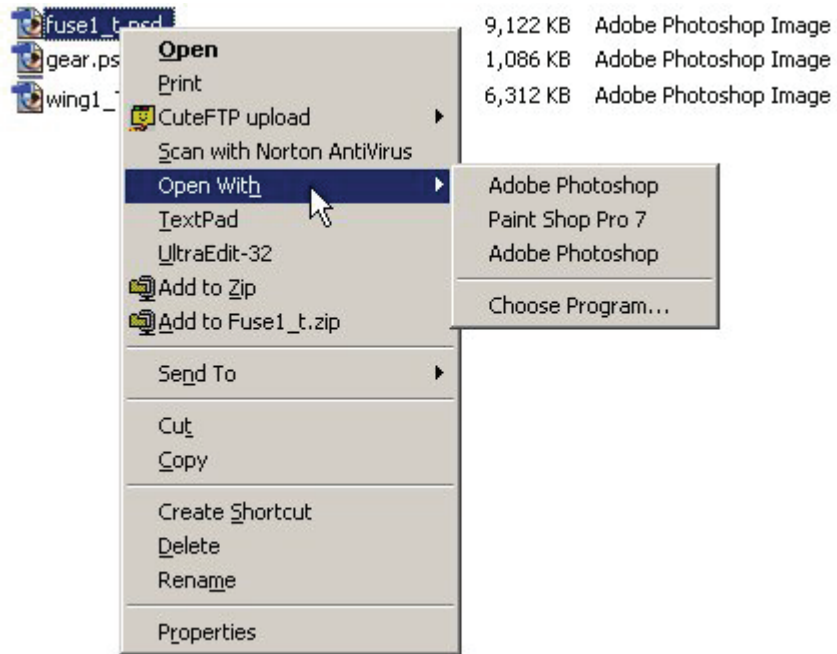
Finally, we will provide you with some basics on how to construct your upload file.



Image Basics

The working files you have downloaded are in *.psd Adobe Photoshop format, which is considered the industry standard. This format is also recognized by many popular Windows paint programs, such as JASC PaintShop Pro® 8 and Corel Draw®.

Simply open the file with the program of your choice.



As previously mentioned, these instructions are not intended to be a tutorial on how to paint aircraft, or use any specific paint program. These are simply basic instructions on how to work with these files.

This download contains four working files in the **Templates** folder:

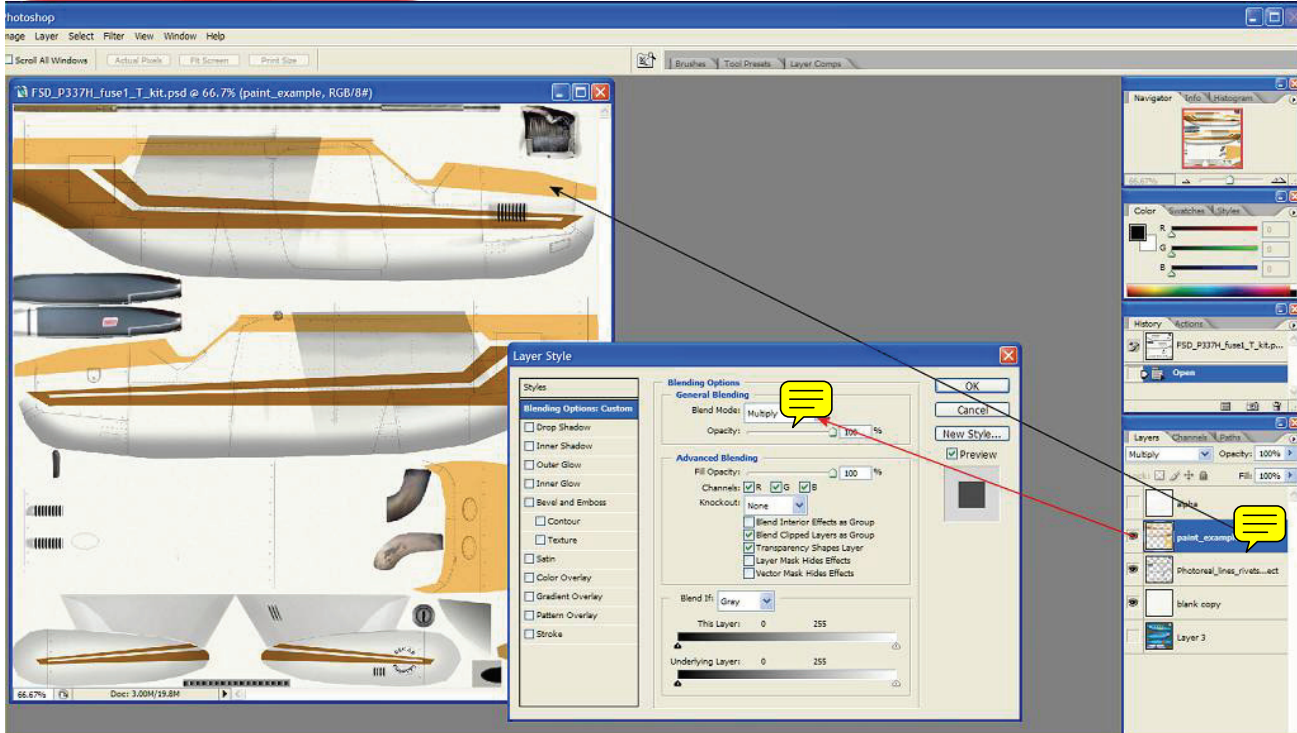
1. FSD_337H/D_fuse1_T_Kit.psd
2. FSD_337H/D_fuse2_T_Kit.psd
3. FSD_337H/D_wing1_T_Kit.psd
4. FSD_337H/D_wing2_T_Kit.psd

- fuselage texture #1
- fuselage texture #2
- Left wing
- Right wing

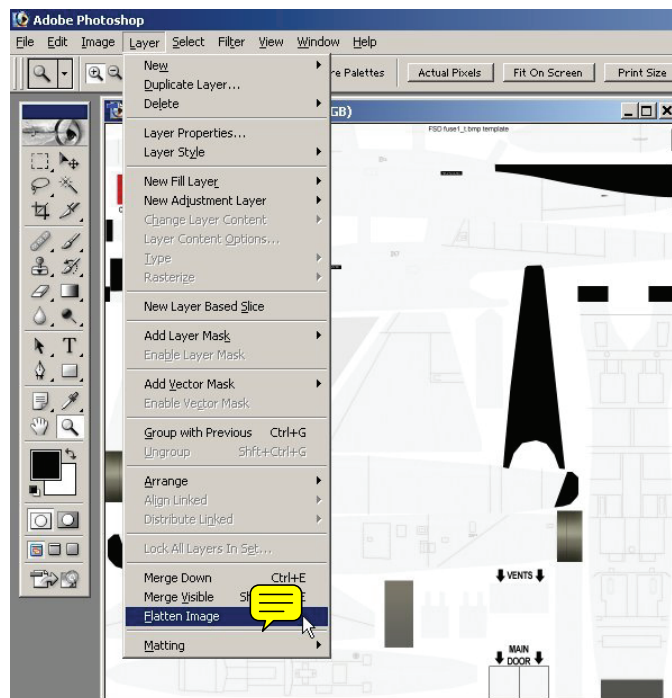
These are the sections of the aircraft that can be repainted. The working images are layered *.psd images. Each individual layer is given a descriptive label to allow you to create precise textures.

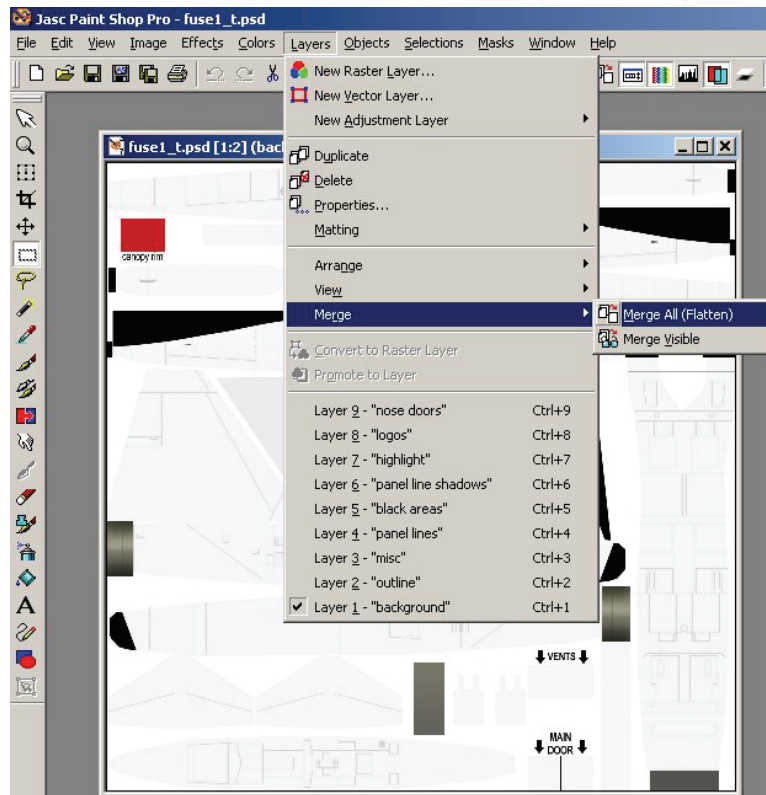
On this occasion we have tried to minimize the confusion on the number of layers and created on most repaint PSD one single texture layer that contains all the Photo-real, lines, shadows, and rivets details.

For the photo-real...layer to shows its detail on your repainted surface, please give your repainted surface layer a MULTIPLY option for the layer blend mode and let it remain as your



When you are satisfied with your work, make sure you flatten the image and save it, using the same file name (and remove the _kit), but with a .bmp extension.





We recommend using DXT3 16-bit extended bitmap format for these aircraft textures, for best simulator performance. The program [DXTBmp by Martin Wright](#) is an excellent tool for this application. You can also use Microsoft's Image Tool, which is available in the [FS 2004 Terrain SDK](#).

Configuration Files

The Porter was released with a Load Manager, which will allow users to add paint schemes quickly and easily. The Load Manager finds add-on texture folders, fills in all missing textures, and formats the 337H/D Aircraft.cfg file automatically, so that the new paint scheme will be available in the FS 2004/Select Aircraft menu.

In order to accomplish this, the Load Manager makes use of two configuration files, which **must** be located in the add-on paint scheme's texture folder:

[Paint.cfg](#)

Contains display information on how the new paint scheme will be displayed in the Load Manager's information window, and in the FS 2004 Select Aircraft menu

[Aircraft.bmp](#)

Image to display in the Load Manager's view window.



Paint.cfg File

The Paint.cfg file within each texture folder determines how the new paint scheme will be displayed in the Load Manager's View Window, and also, contains entry data for how it will be described in the Select Aircraft menu in Flight Simulator. The Paint.cfg file contains eight entries:

scheme=	Defines how the entry will be displayed in the Load Manager's information window
ui_variation=	Defines how the paint scheme will be defined in the Porter Aircraft.cfg file, and in the FS 2004 Select Aircraft menu
texture=	Literal name of the texture folder you have chosen. For example, the texture folder name for the Liberty paint scheme is texture.liberty. The entry in the Paint.cfg file is texture=liberty
atc_id=	Defines the tail number for the Aircraft.cfg file, and for the FS 2004 ATC feature.
title=	Unique title for the entry in the Aircraft.cfg file. Make this name as unique as possible, to reduce the possibility of duplication with someone else's paint scheme. The FS 2004 menu system will not deal with duplications!
description=	Another entry for the Aircraft.cfg file.

Best results will be obtained by not adding any space between the entry's "=" sign and the data. Here is an example for the N320CA paint scheme by Janey Gelling. The paint scheme is located in a folder titled texture.N320CA:

```
scheme=N320CA
ui_variation=Skymaster P
texture=N320CA
atc_id=N320CA
title=Cessna Pressurized 337H N320CA
description=Cessna Pressurized 337H by FSD for FS2004
Paint Scheme by FSD.
```

The Load Manager also utilizes a view window, so that users can see what the individual paint scheme looks like. It is a convenience feature, and is in fact optional. If no image is provided, the Load Manager will display this image:





If you don't want your new paint scheme to look like this, you will want to provide your own image for users to see:



The image should ideally be 293 x 297 pixels. It can be either 8-bit (256 color) or 24-bit (16 million color). The name of the image **must** be:

Aircraft.bmp

In practical terms, you will find that you likely will not lose image quality reducing the image memory size to 256 colors, but the difference in file size is significant. So from the standpoint of economizing on bandwidth, we recommend you use 8-bit 256 color images. But it is your choice.

Putting It All Together

Since the Load Manager formats everything for the user, and copies all of the generic textures you did not paint from the aircraft's main texture folder automatically, it is not necessary, **and not desirable** for you to upload all 18 aircraft textures for your new paint scheme. The only files you should upload are the ones you repainted. The Load Manager scans the aircraft folder structure when it is executed. If it finds these five textures:

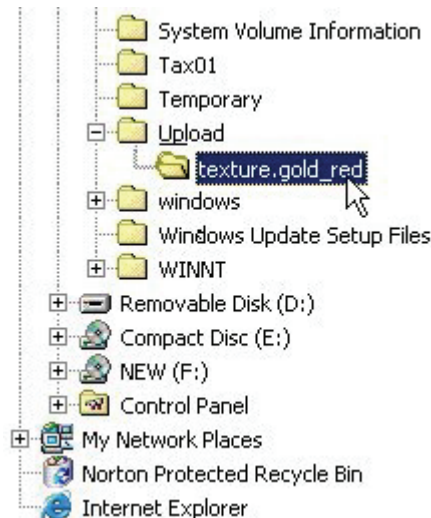
FSD_337H/D_fuse1_T.bmp
FSD_337H/D_fuse2_T.bmp
FSD_337H/D_wing1_T.bmp
FSD_337H/D_wing2_T.bmp

It will recognize the folder as a new texture set, and copy the other textures from the primary texture folder automatically. If you do repaint an additional texture, such as FSD_337H_int3_T.bmp, the Load Manager **will** recognize it, and **will not** overwrite it. But from the standpoint of economizing on bandwidth, it is certainly wasteful to upload files unnecessarily. So give the folks who will be downloading this a break. Just upload the files you repainted, and let the Load Manager do the rest.



Zip It Up

The best way to do this is make a new folder on your hard drive, called "Upload", for example.



Inside that folder, create a sub-folder titled as you want it to appear inside the Flight Simulator 9\AIRCRAFT\FSD Piaggio P180 directory structure. Place your finished repainted * .bmp files, your Aircraft.bmp file, and your Paint.cfg file inside that sub-folder. We recommend you format your zip file according to the flightsim.com website's [Developer's Tips](#). This format will pretty much be suitable for wherever you want to upload. The FSD Development Team **highly** recommends the flightsim.com file library and the AVSIM library. You will want to put your zip file together like this:

File_ID.diz	Contains the text as you want it to appear in the file library description
..gif	Small screenshot of the aircraft with your paint scheme, as it will appear in the file library
Readme.txt	Some basic instructions for the user
Texture Folder	Named as above, like texture.jump_plane, etc. Contains your completed files.

So your Upload folder you created should look something like this:



Upload

Select an item to view its description.

See also:

- [My Documents](#)
- [My Network Places](#)
- [My Computer](#)

Name	Size	Type
texture.koreanAF		File Folder
File_ID.diz	1 KB	DIZ File
Mypaint.gif	35 KB	Paint Shop Pro 7 Image
Readme.txt	2 KB	TXT File

Then just zip this file up, using WinZip, or a comparable program, and you are set to go!

texture.koreanAF
 File_ID.diz
 Mypaint.gif
 Readme.txt

File Folder

1 KB DIZ File

35 KB Paint Shop Pro 7 Image

2 KB TXT File

Open

Print

Print To

CuteFTP upload

Scan with Norton AntiVirus

Open With

TextPad

UltraEdit-32

Add to Zip

Send To

Cut

Copy

Create Shortcut

Delete

Rename

Properties

Copyright and Distribution

The texture files being repainted remain the copyrighted property of FSD International. Repainting the Avanti is fine as long as appropriate reference is made in your uploaded file, referring to the original authors (FSD), and as long as you do not distribute copyrighted files other than the five files listed in this document.

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