

HOW TO:

Weathering With An AirBrush

For most, turning those nice new highly detailed models into dirty, been on the road everyday models can make us cringe. But adding just a light coat of weathering is just another step of super detailing and makes our models look even more real.

In this article, I will show you how I weather my freight cars with an airbrush. Some of you may already use an air brush for weathering, but if you like me, you always look at how someone else does something to see if you can make your ways better or easier. If you are just getting to the stage of wanting to weather your models then this article can give you the knowledge to start out on a basic level.

For my weathering I use a Badger #150 airbrush. It's a dual action, internal mix airbrush. You can just about any type of airbrush as long as you get the most narrow spray pattern that you can.

As for paint and mixture, I am using Badgers acrylic, water based paints. I am using for this article a mixture of weathered black, flat black, and grimy black. I suggest that you tinker around with the mixtures and your airbrush together before starting on a prized model to get the look and color that you want. Also practice the motions first so that you don't end up with a blob of paint in the middle of your model. I will actually use various colors and mixtures of paint to achieve different weathering looks. I look at it as the real rail cars all have different weathering and color so why shouldn't our models.

Follow along as I explain step by step with pictures on how I weather with an airbrush.

Step 1:



Spray the bottom of the car first as this will simulate dirt, dust, and road grime that has collected.

Step 2:



Spray the trucks and couplers from the side to give them that on the road look. This too will give them the look of being on the road for a while.

Step 3:



Spray the ends of the car. When spraying the ends, I always spray from the bottom of the car up. This will help the look of the dirt and grime splashing up from the wheels.

Step 4:



Next I spray the sides. I usually stay about 8 inches or so away from the car depending on the look I am going for. I spray from one end of the car to the other then back the opposite way using verticle strokes to simulate dirt and grime that has taken part of the side from running down the tracks and from rail washing dirt down the sides.

Step 5:



Now I spray the top lengthwise. I go from one end to the other then back. This again I will usually stay about 6-8 inches away depending on how I want the car to look. I normally do not get to heavy on the tops, because they usually sort of a wash whenever it rains.

Step 6:



The last step is to add those lines that are created when rain runs down the side in certain areas and the grime collects in those spots. The areas are usually from the top track of the doors at the ends, on top loaded cars like covered hoppers and such, you will see lines from the fill holes. I also try to make the bottom track of the door a little more dirty as they will sometimes put grease there to help the doors slide freely.



Before



After



Here are a few more picture of the car that I weathered.



Here are some Covered hoppers that are weathered. Like I talked about in step 6, Take note to the lines on the sides as that is were the fill hatches are. I did not put lines where every hatch was because they sometimes do not spill out of all the hatches, and depending on where the car is at when it rains, the water will run down at different places.



One last note:

1. When airbrushing, keep in mind that with lighter colored cars use a lighter color of weathering paint. You can use a lighter colored paint or a more thinned out solution of the color you are using.
2. With Darker colored cars, use a darker color for weathering. Use a little less thinner or a darker paint.

If you have any questions or ideas on this subject please email me with them at fireman2176@earthlink.net