

Model Railroad Weathering Tips with Pan Pastel

NATIONAL TRAIN SHOW 2014 CLINIC

By Rob Manley © 2014

Thank you for attending my weathering clinic, here are some tips I want to share with you:

Surface Preparation & Finishing

- Flat finish pre-painted or decaled cars before weathering.
- A toothy, flat finish protective over-spray on the model will not lose color.
- Models don't always need to be flat over-coated, buildings, vehicles and things less handled are fine.
- What I recommend is PolyScale Flat, and Model Master's Flat Acrylic. Recommended thinning is about 50/50 or thinner, it should have the viscosity of 2% milk. Liquitex Acrylic Matte Medium found at art or craft stores will work too. (I am spraying at 35 PSI with a Paasche H brush and a #5 tip. This tip doesn't clog as often.)
- For correcting or removing previous airbrush weathering, scrub with a MR Clean white scrubbing pad.
- You may also use Krylon workable or final fixative in a large rattle can for those who do not possess an airbrush.

Applying PanPastel Colors

- When applying the colors you may need to put some light (finger) pressure on the Sofft Tools to push the pastel into the surface. If the color application looks too heavy you can tone it down or remove the color easily.
- Multiple colors can be loaded on one Sofft Sponge Tool, one side or the other or even the four points of the edges.
- Colors can be mixed on the model's surface or on the pan surface. (Pan surfaces can be cleaned with a clean sponge or paper towel).
- Light color can be laid on top of darker color.
- It's not necessary to push hard or "dig" when lifting color from the pan surface - you shouldn't be generating dust.
- You can hold the model in your hand when applying.
- PanPastel Colors are dry (pastel) color. So you don't have to wait for the colors to dry.

- To draw lines or highlight indents - Use the side of a Sofft Tool. You can twist the tip of the sponge to fill in tight areas. It is also great for highlighting rods and brake lines. Try **Burnt Sienna 740.5 or Red Iron Oxide Shade 380.3**
- Use **Burnt Sienna Tint 740.8** and **Raw Umber Tint 780.8** swipes on the lower edges of the ribs or frame rails. Military modelers use white on panel edges to bring out details or accent wear. White would be a useful color also because the Pan Pastels are mixable on the model.
- Brush paint truck side frames with a #2 artist watercolor brush. It's faster than masking and firing up the airbrush. Mix PolyScale Roof Brown with Loco Black. Put a few drops on a recycled lid and partially mix the paint. This gives more a random color. Don't sandblast the trucks, just wash in Dawn. The Poly levels quite well and doesn't obscure details.
- Try **Black** PanPastel to accent recessed panel lines. The residue is easier to polish off a shiny finish.
- **Burnt Sienna Shade 740.3, Burnt Sienna Extra Dark 740.1, Burnt Sienna 740.5 or Red Iron Oxide Shade 380.3** are great for large vertical streaks along the panels between ribs. **Raw Umber Tint 780.5** is useful for streaking the lettering. Running boards can be attacked with any of the grays,
- For unpainted galvanized roofs brush paint PolyScale New Gravel or Milwaukee Road Gray between the ribs and tone it rusty with any or all of the earth tones. Leave the ribs a dark or darker brown as they were steel and not galvanized. I don't start with a weathered Silver painted roof because it doesn't scale down to the look of a true galvanized finish. You can also tone the BCR roof with grays to show some paint fade rather than patches.
- Masking with Post-It notes, styrene shields or Blue tape for precise work.
- Add ladders, running boards and B end details after Pan Pastel-ing if possible.
- For getting into tight places on a fully built car, try an artist quality oil painters brush. It should be a small #1 or 2 natural bristle. Scrub color into the tight places.
- Other PanPastel colors can be used for weathering. Think of the too red Atlas SD-24. Now use an orangey Red to add fading to the paint on the body.
- When weathering wood running boards use an old business card to fit under the boards. You can get the narrow sides without getting unwanted gray on the roof.
- The small mini applicator should be used with care. There is a plastic frame inside the foam that can leave scratches if too much pressure is used on the tip.
- Keep the pan surface dry. Do not apply wet tools or fluids directly to the pan's surface.

Removing or Changing the Colors

- A clean Sofft Tool, and art erasers such as the Magic Rub® white art eraser, Papermate® Tuff Stuff eraser pen or some paper towel can remove or tone down the color. You can also clean up lettering with the white eraser.
- Don't be afraid to experiment and don't be afraid to start over. To start over, remove Pan Pastel with a toothbrush in a mild detergent (e.g. Dawn) and water.
- Windex works well with any mess left on the kitchen table.

PanPastel

PanPastel offers kits with colors specially selected for weathering & modeling techniques:

Rust & Earth (#30701)
Greys, Grime & Soot (#30702)
Scenery (#30703)

A list of hobby stores selling PanPastel can be found at: **modelingcolors.com**

Also, many art stores offer a full selection of PanPastel colors. They don't sell the hobby weathering kits, but the 10 color PanPastel Drawing set (#30102) also offers a selection of colors which are good for weathering:

Black 800.5	Burnt Sienna 740.5
Burnt Sienna Tint 740.8	Neutral Gray 820.5
Neutral Gray Tint 820.7	Paynes Gray 840.3
Raw Umber 780.5	Raw Umber Tint 780.8
Red Iron Oxide 380.5	Titanium White 100.5

PanPastel Color Range includes pure colors, tints, shades and extra darks. Indicated by item codes as follows:

Pure colors (xxx.5)
Tints (xxx.7 and xxx.8) are pure colors plus white
Shades (xxx.3) are pure colors plus black
Extra Darks (xxx.1 and xxx.2) are pure colors plus more black

*Great sources for weathering: Morning Sun or Four Ways West color books.
Google: Jack Delano, WW2 era color photos. Shorpy.com, Castlegraphics.com,
FallenFlags.com, your favorite RR historical society site, You TubeRR instructional films or
railfan videos.*

More info: modelingcolors.com