

WEATHERING

by

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In this article I will endeavour to explain the processes I use to weather a model using oil paints and low odor thinners.

Please note, if you paint your models with ENAMEL paints you will need to ensure the painted surface is completely sealed with a WATER based clearcoat (such as Future) before attempting this method. Even then, test on a less obvious area of the model first.

THE TOOLS



Note that I use LOW ODOR thinners. This is less aggressive than the standard paint thinners and is less likely to affect the kit plastic.

Oil paint colors I generally use are

Lamp Black, Burnt Umber, Burnt Sienna, Yellow Ochre, Paynes Grey, Olive Green and White.

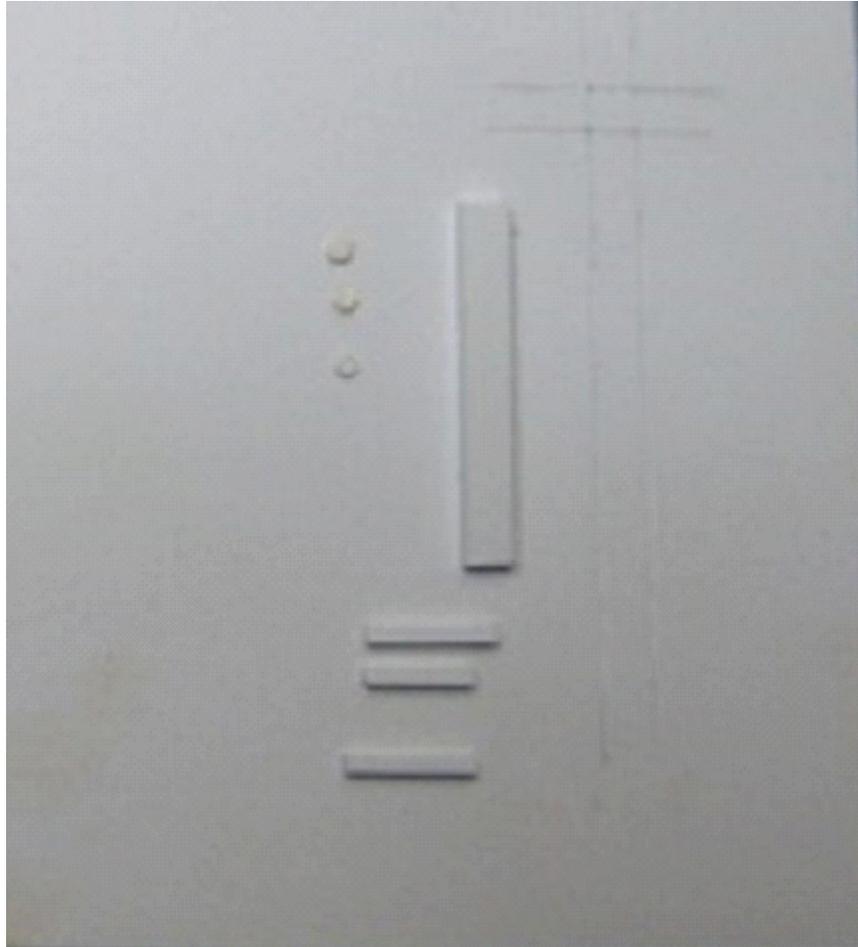
The ratio of paint to thinners is really a personal preference but I usually go for about 85% thinners to 15% paint and have a number of shades ready mixed and stored in GLASS jars. (Hobby Lobby sell Paasche glass jars with metal lids that are ideal)



The red dots on the tops are an indicator that the jars have glass beads inside as an aid to mixing.

I use fairly cheap brushes, they don't last long so it's not worth paying a lot for them. Generally about a size 4 to 6 for general washes and a size 0 or 1 for pin washes. Also, the cheaper cotton buds work better as they are less tightly wound than the expensive ones. You'll notice some Tamiya cotton buds too, they are good for getting in to corners or other tight spots.

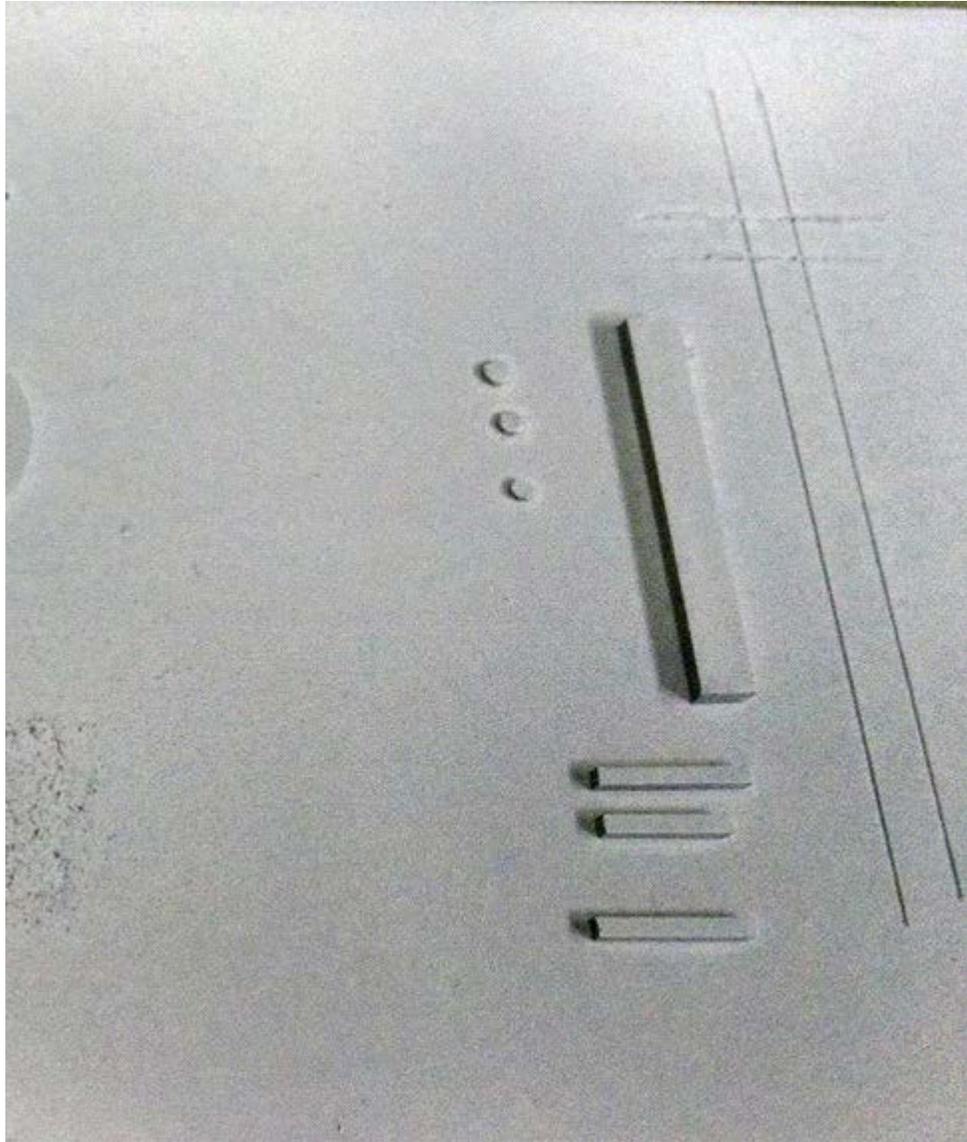
To show the effects that can be achieved I have prepared a sheet of Evergreen with various details added.



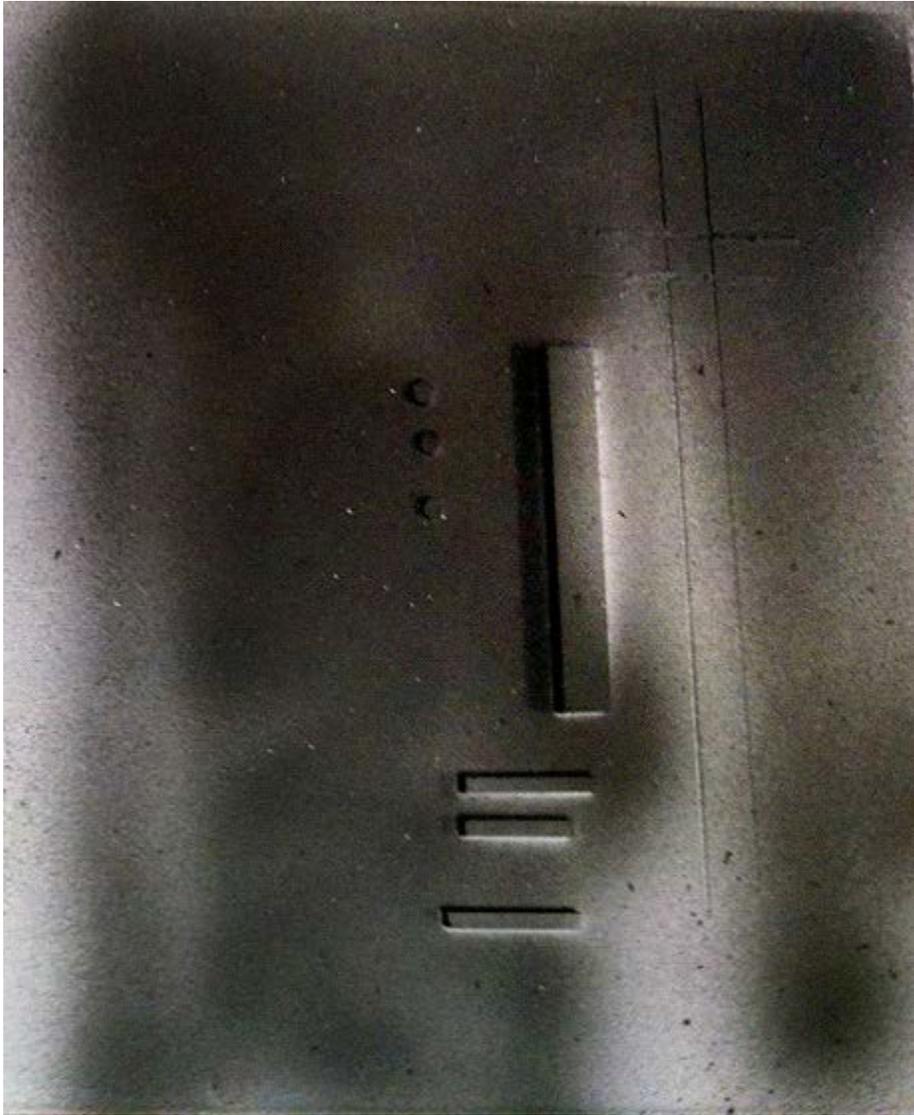
I will use Modelmaster Acrylic primer and paints plus a sealing coat of Future floor polish
I believe Future is now called 'Pledge' but I'm not certain that the ingredients are exactly
the same.



The first step is to prime the plastic with model master primer. It comes in white or light grey and either works fine.



My next step is to add some shading

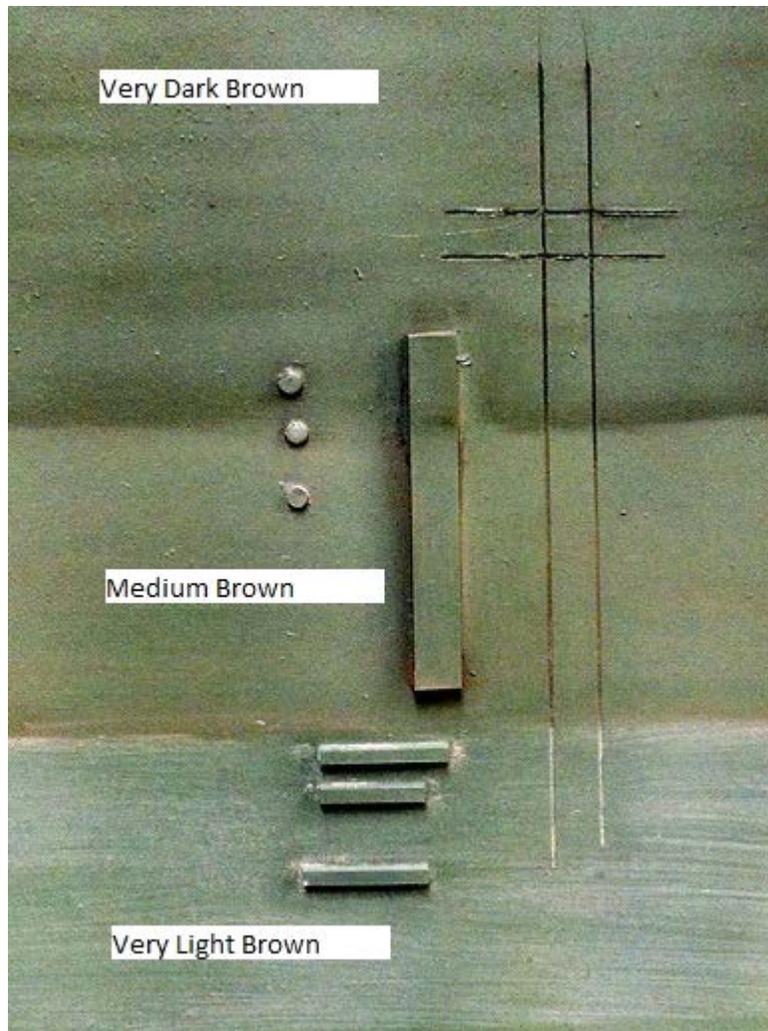


and then the final color.



The preshading gives the final color some variation.

The surface is then sealed with a coat of Future and allowed to dry for a couple of days before applying a wash. The different shades of wash have a dramatic effect on the color as can be seen in the next photo.



The washes were applied and then the sheet was placed in front of a fan to speed up the evaporation of the thinners. It's not a good idea to let it sit on a model for too long. Once most of the thinners has gone I begin to wipe off the oil paint using cotton buds. The trick is to replace the cotton buds regularly otherwise all you are doing is moving the oil paint around rather than removing it altogether. I rotate the head of the bud as I work and will get through about 100 of them on a 1/35th scale tank.

Notice how recessed lines retain the wash (very useful for aircraft panel lines) and that swiping the buds continuously in one direction will give the appearance of mud or oil streaks. If the result is darker than you wanted it is easy to remove more of the oil paint using a bud dipped in clean thinners but again, dry the surface quickly to avoid damage to the paint/plastic.

Once you are happy with how things look leave the model for 24 hours or so to let the oil paint dry and then, if required, seal the whole thing with gloss or flat ACRYLIC varnish. DO NOT use glosscote, dullcote or any other alcohol based varnish.

The last two photos show my Chieftain hull with the wash applied and then after being worked on with cotton buds.



As with all these methods practice on an old model or scrap plastic first !!!!

Any questions, feel free to ask at a meeting or e mail me.

