

A detailed model of a train crossing a large, intricate steel truss bridge. The train is illuminated with bright yellow and orange lights, suggesting it is moving at speed. The bridge is set against a backdrop of dense, green foliage and trees, creating a naturalistic setting. The overall scene is captured in a low-angle, slightly elevated perspective, emphasizing the scale and complexity of the model.

Mountain Empire Modular Railroaders Clinic

Car Weathering With Acrylics

A detailed model train set featuring a yellow locomotive pulling several freight cars across a black metal trestle bridge. The scene is set against a backdrop of dense green foliage and a blue sky. The locomotive and cars are heavily weathered with white and grey acrylic paint, giving them a realistic, aged appearance. The bridge structure is intricate, with many vertical and diagonal supports.

One Approach to Aging Rolling Stock
Ted Bleck-Doran & Mary Doran-Bleck

Out of the Box...



Rolling stock can be too clean and new looking.

Weathering can help...



Age a car to show years of active service.

Weathering is important if...



- The car has seen heavy service
- The car is of another era (e.g., steam era car operating in the transition or diesel era)
- Or the car has sustained damage

Supplies Needed:



-Brushes

#0 pointed Brush

#3 Round Tip Brush

#7 Round Tip Brush

-Thinner

-Water

-Paints (Tamiya)

Rust

Flat Black

Red Brown

Deck Tan

-Paper Towels

Start with the roof and work down.



Steam and Transition Era cars were exposed to lots of coal soot and ash – here's where Flat Black comes in handy.

Apply wet washes in broad brush strokes from side to side...



Step 1 : Dilute the paint with thinner 4 parts paint : 1 part thinner

Apply wet washes in broad brush strokes from side to side...



Step 2 : Load the brush (#3 Round Tip) with paint

Step 3 : Dab excess paint on paper toweling

Apply wet washes in broad brush strokes from side to side...



Step 4 : If too much paint is applied or the color appears too dark lightly dip the brush in water and continue to work the paint onto the car body.

Apply wet washes in broad brush strokes from side to side...



Step 5 : Continue working the Flat Black wash over the entire car – again using broad brush strokes from the top of the car downwards.

Apply wet washes in broad brush strokes from side to side...



Step 6 : Don't forget to work the wash into all the nooks and crannies.

Begin detail effects...



Step 7 : Using the same wet wash technique with a #0 Pointed Tip Brush begin to streak the lettering using Deck Tan or another appropriate color.

Begin detail effects...



Step 8 : Use short vertical strokes

Added Wear And Tear...



Step 9 : Using a #7 Round Tip brush apply dry washes to the bottom half of the car – including the trucks!

Added Wear And Tear...



Step 10 : A “Dry Brush” technique is done by loading the brush and then working 75-80% of the paint off the brush onto the paper towel so that just a hint on paint transfers to the car.

Added Wear And Tear...



Step 11 – Mud splashes will be heavier toward the car ends

Added Wear And Tear...



Step 12 – A hint of Rust color can be added to the trucks and handrails again using the “dry brush” technique

With a little patience ...



A little practice ... and a little courage ... your fleet of cars can exhibit years of service for your railroad