

CONFESSIONS OF A NOVICE WEATHERER...

I'd never considered myself as anything other than an "Average" railway modeller with a wide range of modelling interests which have ranged from WDLR in 16mm, through HO scale New England and On30 narrowgauge to UK 7mm and 4mm in a range of post war époques. I did however decide that I needed to master the hidden art of weathering, particularly the airbrush. I had outsourced some of my models for weathering but I felt I really ought to do it myself.

I was aware that Missenden did offer a course that covered this and with very little knowledge of the "Missenden Experience", other than that the tutor was Tim Shackleton, I decided to book on a weekend course....

I won't go into details about the weekend experience but suffice to say I was one of a number of newcomers and novice weatherers but was made to feel welcome by all and I enjoyed a weekend of informal learning combined with a number of short demonstrations.

I went home with some plausibly weathered models and felt quite pleased with myself.

Some of my 7mm efforts from the first weekend are here. They are all a combination of airbrushed enamel paint, washes, pigments and stains.



I was very pleased with what I learnt and have since returned on a regular basis continuing to be enthused and educated by Mick Bonwick in the Weathering Room. This is now housed in a large and well ventilated hall – during my time the view and practice of safety,

ventilation and equipment have developed and I have been careful to invest in a good quality Benchvent Extractor unit to use with my old faithful Neo by Iwata TR2 airbrush.

My weathering lessons have been used in all of my areas of interest and I've set out a few examples of my projects here.





IN CONCLUSION

Apart from all the skills and techniques I've picked up from tutors and fellow course members the key message for anybody seeking to improve their weathering projects is simply to get a photograph of the subject or a near proxy.....research it as diligently as you would research a livery if you were painting your own model.

And if Mick or any of my fellow Missenden weatherers read this....."Thanks".

I've really enjoyed my Missenden experiences and in 2019 attended the Summer Retreat where I was able to make significant progress on a new layout...but that's another story.

Happy Weathering

Chris Hopper