



WEATHERING AND AIRBRUSHING

Recommended tool and equipment list – Autumn 2021

The key items you'll need to bring are:

- Suitable models to work with;
- Your choice of tools, paints, powders and other materials;
- Your own work light(s) and extension lead;
- Although we will provide table coverings, we suggest you bring a work board or mat;

All our weathering is based on observation of reality, so it's essential to bring along a selection of photographs showing your prototypes in the kind of condition you'd like to replicate. These pictures are invaluable as reference and inspiration while weathering your models. A little pre-course research always pays off.

You can achieve a good finish to a weathering project with just a few colours of paint and/or pigment but we've listed below some of the products we regularly use.

Weathering materials:

- Enamel paints (Humbrol or Revell are recommended). Essential colours are matt black, matt leather, matt orange and matt white. We also recommend a black tone such as anthracite (e.g. Revell no. 9);
- Acrylic paints. Andrew mainly makes use of Tamiya paints for his weathering projects – NATO Black is a favourite. Chris is a confirmed enamel user for Airbrushing but also regularly makes use of the Vallejo and Lifecolor ranges, especially the 'Rail Weathering' and 'Shades of Black' sets including UA 719 Frame dirt, UA 722 Roof dirt and UA 736 Burned Black.
- The MIG acrylic rust set of paints - a pack of six different shades – is also one of our favourites.
- You'll need the appropriate thinners for the paint you're using. Cheap DIY white spirit is ideal for enamel paints but acrylics may need a specific thinner. We recommend Ultimate Airbrush Thinner but you can use the paint manufacturers own if it's easier or cheaper;
- Weathering powders or pigments. These should be blacks, reddish browns and beiges. For our purposes we need shades like AK Interactive Track Rust, Black and European Earth. AMMO by Mig produce similar shades;

- We also recommend washes and filters by AK Interactive;
- IPA (Isopropyl Alcohol) is a useful cleaner to have on hand. We will have this available at the course;
- We will also have a selection of other weathering media available such as oils.

Tools etc

- Something to mix paint in, such as glass dishes (that aren't affected by solvents);
- Disposable pipettes are useful for transferring fluids from container to dish;
- A painting turntable is always useful (or look for cake-icing turntables);
- Paintbrushes – a good quality #2 round-pointed, #4 filbert, a half-inch flat shader and a #2 rigger are the essentials. Some older brushes in bad condition also have their uses.
- Masking materials such as tape and card, cotton buds, stirrers and cocktails sticks. We also recommend you have some kitchen towel to hand and a few basic tools to open pots, stir paint or cut cardboard for masking.
- Some weatherers also use disposable gloves to protect their hands from paints and cleaning materials.

Airbrushing

If you are bringing Airbrushing equipment to the Autumn weekend you will need to bring an airbrush, hanger, airbrush cleaning pot, a compressor and a spray booth along with airbrush cleaning materials. We recommend that the more expensive equipment items are sourced from a reliable supplier with after-sales and warranty support and a good supply of spare parts and consumables.

Spray Booths

Airbrushing produces atomised potentially harmful particles and these should not be getting into your lungs. This applies equally to enamels and acrylics.

Former Missenden tutors Mick Bonwick and Tim Shackleton carried out an excellent review of available spray booths in the November 2016 Hornby Magazine. If you can track down a copy it is a very useful article.

We recommend models such as the SB88 Hobby Spray Booth or the Graphic Air A300S-D/ Bench Vent BV300S-D.

Similar products - including self-contained air-recirculatory and larger versions of the A300 are also available.

Other spray booths are widely available such as the B400DC which comes in a number of versions but we do not consider this model suitable.

If you are particularly concerned about the potential impact of airbrushing on your health it is also possible to augment your precautions by using a Respirator type mask with replaceable filters such as the Force8 mask.