



WEATHERING AND AIRBRUSHING

Recommended tool and equipment list – Spring 2022

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(s);
- Although we will provide table coverings, we suggest you bring a work board or mat;
- If you wish – airbrushing equipment – see the section below.

If you do want advice on any aspect of this information do please contact us and feel free to make suggestions.

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 and Revell are recommended by both tutors). 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); The sets of enamel weathering colours from Railmatch are now also regulars on Chris's airbrush workbench.
- **Acrylic paints.** Andrew mainly uses Tamiya and Ammo acrylic paints for his weathering projects – NATO Black is a favourite. Chris makes occasional 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 a favourite.
- 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 (although water is sometimes OK – it's worth testing). Chris recommends

Ultimate Airbrush Thinner and Andrew uses thinners by Ammo. You can use a specific paint manufacturer's own if it's your preference;

- **Weathering powders or pigments.** These should be blacks, reddish browns and beiges. For our purposes we need shades like AK Interactive Track Rust, Black, Vietnam Earth, Track Brown 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 cocktail 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;
- A work mat and even an additional table covering such as newspaper:

Airbrushing

If you are bringing your own Airbrushing equipment to the Spring weekend you will need to bring an airbrush, hanger, airbrush cleaning pot, a compressor and a spray booth along with **airbrush cleaning materials and tools**. A turntable and cradles to hold models are also particularly useful when airbrushing.

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. If in doubt please contact us prior to the course.

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.