



WEATHERING AND AIRBRUSHING

Recommended tool and equipment list

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/plug board(s);
- Although we try to provide table coverings, we suggest you bring a board or mat;
- And if you wish – airbrushing equipment – see the section below.

If you do want advice on any aspect of this information, 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.

It's very important to be aware that you can achieve a great finish to a weathering project with just a few basic colours of paint pigments and washes but we've listed below some of the products we regularly use. We will have limited quantities of most of the materials listed below for you to try if you prefer.

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 Hopper's airbrush workbench.
- **Acrylic paints.** Andrew Thompson 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). We recommend Ultimate Airbrush Thinner and 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 also have **other weathering media** such as oils and pan pastels.

Tools etc

- Something to mix paint in, such as glass dishes;

- 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;
- A work mat and even an additional table covering such as newspaper;
- Some course members like to bring a workshop apron or similar.

Airbrushing

If you are bringing your own Airbrushing equipment 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.

If you do not yet own an airbrush, we recommend you book one of our slots with equipment provided – please contact us at the time of booking - and only then decide what kit to purchase. We also 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. **We are happy to provide advice both before and after the course.**

Spray Booths

Airbrushing produces atomised and potentially harmful particles and these should not be getting into your lungs. This applies equally to enamels and acrylics. In addition, enamel-based paints also have potentially harmful fumes and are flammable.

We recommend that you do your own research and check supplier websites – much useful information is available on the internet including the latest reviews of equipment and discussions of risk. As with any tools or materials it is important that you assess your own risks in your usual modelling setting with the type and amount of material you use.

The **Graphic Air A300S-D/ Bench Vent BV300S-D** spray booth is recommended by suppliers for solvent-based paints such as enamels as well as water-based paints such as acrylics. Similar products - including self-contained air-recirculatory and larger versions of the **A300** are also available and we use these for our courses.

Former Missenden tutors Mick Bonwick and Tim Shackleton carried out an interesting review of spray booths in the November 2016 Hornby Magazine. When written the **SB88 Hobby Spray Booth** was recommended for all paints but product information from suppliers now states that it is only suitable for use with acrylic paints. The slightly smaller **Aircom 17W** is not reviewed in the article but will also be fine for small to medium scale work but again - based on supplier information - using acrylics only

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.

If in doubt please contact us prior to the course.