

Weathered Tank Wagon

By Robert Deak

Hello friends,
I have planned for a while to make a railway model, and I am especially drawn to wagons left to sit on an abandoned siding.



- 1 The wagon I have chosen for this demonstration is in HO Scale (1/87), manufactured by TILLIG Modellbahnen. Out of the box this is a nice looking model, but it certainly looks too new for my taste – but it is the perfect subject to add a bit of harsh weathering.





2 The first painting step is the priming as usual, using AMMO rust colored surface primer – A.MIG-2006. It has 2 main tasks now: i.) give an ideal surface for the colors applied on the primer surface and ii.) give us a nice basic rust tone. I prefer to dilute the primer in 3:1 thinner:primer ratio and apply it with several very thin layers.



3 Since the car comes as an assembled model, my first task is to disassemble the parts so as to aid in painting. The molding on this car is quite nice, however, every part is checked and all visible seam lines are removed.



4 Applications of various rusty colors are applied in a somewhat random cloud pattern onto the tank in order to provide interesting tonal variations using A.MIG-7106 set. A light stippling, using the same rust colors, was applied over top the rust colored base using the sponge technique. This step provides an additional level of variation and texture to the surfaces. Finally, a highly diluted wash (again using the same acrylic colors) was applied in order to unify the previous applications.



5 Over the rust base color I applied 3 thin layers of A.MIG-2010 Scratches Effects. I let the effect dry for approximately 10 minutes and then airbrushed A.MIG-934 light green color, using a highly diluted mix (3:1 thinner:color). My imagination was a very rusty wagon so I used very thin layer of light green to achieve a faded and worn final appearance. This green color is built up layer-by-layer, carefully checking for the point when the coverage was good enough to give some greenish appearance, but allowing the rusty colors to still show through. The same green color was also applied by sponge technique to increase variation and texture.

6 The green color was allowed to dry for 40 minutes and then the surface was moistened with tap water and gently rubbed with brush in order to activate the Scratches Effects. At some parts the whole green was removed while it was left almost intact at other parts. The lower part of the wagon had the same process but there I applied first a very light coat of A.MIG-032 – Satin black followed by layers of highly diluted A.MIG-033 – Rubber & Tires color. The wooden parts were painted with A.MIG-038 – Light Wood but first I created some wood texture with my modelling knife since these parts had flat plastic surface.



7 Now I added some dark grey color at the bottom of the tank. Before the A.MIG-033 color I airbrushed again the Scratches Effects then the grey. This color was left for 40 minutes to dry then moistened with tap water to activate the Scratches Effects. Since we used the Scratches Effects before this step it is important to leave 2 days between the 2 steps of applying the Scratches Effects otherwise we might be able to activate the first layer of Scratches Effects when we work with the second and it would ruin the result of our multilayer chipping.

8 I intended to do a Hungarian wagon so I created a mask for the logo of the Hungarian Railway Company. Masking for the markings was accomplished using both tape and AMMO masking putty (A.MIG-8012 - the black material). The design was carefully cut out with tape and the inner small part of mask was formed from AMMO masking putty. I found that the AMMO Masking Putty was an ideal material to do this small piece of mask.



9 First I applied Scratches Effects again (remember to leave your painting to dry 2 days between the 2 steps using Scratches Effects) then I sprayed white mixed a little bit of grey. I created a heavily worn logo to emphasize the overall worn look.

10 I used a tan colored filter to unify the finishes overall, tying together the different colors and painting techniques. Now I left the surface to dry for 24 hours.



11 One of my favourite steps, and one that really makes the models come to life, is the application of Pin Washes. For this, I used Dark Brown on the green areas while NATO wash – a very dark grey wash - at the lower parts of the wagon where the black-grey color was used. These washes are applied at the panel lines and along the edges, allowed to dry for approximately 30 minutes, and then any excess removed with a flat brush dampened with odourless enamel thinner.

12 After 24 hours drying the streaking effects were created using 3 different enamel products. The process is easy; just draw vertical lines then blend them with flat brush dampened with odourless enamel thinner.

13 Now I added some more rust effects using 3 different rust tones of pigments. Dry pigments were applied with a fine round brush locally, adding only small rust details e.g. at the corners. I also flicked small pieces of the lightest coloured pigment to the upper part of the tank then I used dry flat brush to pull down the pigment - creating some intense rust streaks.



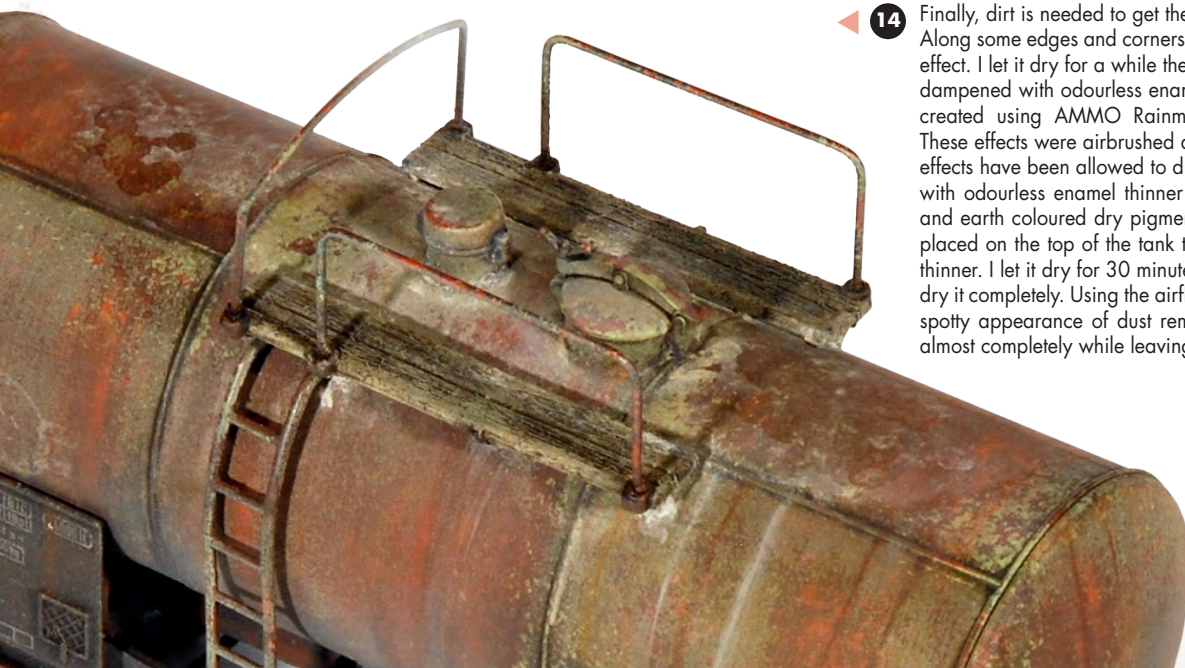
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14 Finally, dirt is needed to get the final appearance of the wagon. Along some edges and corners I applied A.MIG- 1403 enamel Earth effect. I let it dry for a while then this effect was blended with a brush dampened with odourless enamel thinner. Streaks of rainmarks were created using AMMO Rainmarks(A.MIG-1208) and Earth effect. These effects were airbrushed at the lower part of the tank. Once the effects have been allowed to dry for a short time, a brush dampened with odourless enamel thinner was used to create the streaks. Dust and earth coloured dry pigments (A.MIG-3002, A.MIG-3004) were placed on the top of the tank then moistened with odourless enamel thinner. I let it dry for 30 minutes then I used the air of my airbrush to dry it completely. Using the airflow of the airbrush resulted a very nice spotty appearance of dust removing the pigments from some spots almost completely while leaving it intact at other zones.

