

# It's All In The Details – Bringing Your Model Scene To Life

## *1. Painting Brick Buildings;*

- First Spray paint the brick areas using rattle can paint;  
***Brick Red;***
  - Rustoleum: Terra Cotta, Adobe
  - Krylon: Bonfire
  - Valspar American Tradition: Brick Red
  - Rustoleum: America Accents Colonial Red
  - Rustoleum: America Accents Claret Wine
  - Rustoleum Premium Satin: Redwood
- ***Gray Brick;***
  - Rustoleum: Gray Stone
  - Krylon: Dove Grey
- ***Buff Brick;***
  - Rustoleum Clean Metal Primer
  - Rustoleum: America Accents: Nutmeg
- Next, Add Dark Patches. Dry Brush Random Patches With Grimy Black (or Equivalent).
- Then Wash With Alcohol/India Ink; 2 Tsp-4 Tsp. in 1 Pint.
- Spray with Model master “Lusterless” Flat Finish;
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- Then Fill Mortar lines with mix of Tan and Gray Latex Paint;
- Mortar paint 3 Parts Tan/2 Parts Gray.

## *2. Add Signs to Brick Walls;*

- First sand the back to make the sign as thin as possible,
- Then scuff the front with steel wool.
- Weather the front with vertical strokes of ink/etoh.
- Apply to the wall with full strength white glue covering the entire area.
- Use your fingernail to press the sign down into the mortar lines.
- Spray the wall with Testors “Lusterless” finish.
- Dry brush with full strength box car red (or matching brick color) to “pop out” the brick detail.
- Weather the front with vertical strokes of ink/etoh.
- Weather with Chalk, Grimy Black, vertical rust streaks, Dust Bowl Brown along the bottom edge.

### ***3. Adding Glazing, Blinds and Awnings;***

#### **Add Glazing;**

- I use microscope slides and microscope cover slips (Amazon.com) for glazing. There is nothing that can equal the flatness and reflectivity of real glass.
- I use a diamond scribe purchase from MicroMark to scribe and cut glass. I glue it in place with dabs of MicroMark PSA (Pressure Sensitive Adhesive). The PSA adhesive dries clear but remains tacky. It eliminates glue seeping onto the visible surface of the glazing.

#### **Add Blinds;**

- Manila or gray folders provide a cheap source of stock for creating blinds. Cut to size and glue to the back of the Windows at varying heights using PSA adhesive. Also curtains can be painted on the back of the glass.

#### **Add Awnings;**

- I create the awnings as drawings in my CAD program. You can create any size shape and color. Be sure to add attachment tabs to the upper edge and sides of the awning. I print them on card stock then fold them to shape and glue them over the Windows using PSA adhesive.

### ***4. Concrete Roads, Sidewalks Etc.;***

- First mark out the road and sidewalks on .040 sheet styrene. I use 2" x 2" sections for the road way.
- Mark cracks in the sections make sure they go all the way from an edge to another edge.
- Spray with two coats of Testor's Camouflage Gray.
- Wash with Blackahol.
- Weather with Bragdon Chalks. Grimy Black up the center of the roadway's and into the cracks and Dust Bowl Brown along both gutters.

### ***5. Asphalt Roads;***

- Prepare a base for the road using .040" she styrene pieces.
- I add .060" styrene strip of the center of the road and .040" styrene strip up the center of the roadway's two crown the surface of the road.
- Cover the strips with a second sheet of .040 styrene gluing it down at the edges only. Putting glue on the styrene strips can distort the surface of the road.

- Then cover with 3 mm self adhesive black craft foam. I used a product by Creatlogy from Michaels.
- Paint the phone medium gray using acrylic paint.
- Add stripes to the road using masking tape and off-white paint. Dab the color on with a very dry foam brush to simulate weathered stripes.
- Cut out square or rectangular sections using a knife or tear out your regular sections to create patches in the road.
- Paint the patches alternately light gray or dark gray and then glue them back in place. I used Walther's Goo.
- Weather the roadway using Bragdon chalks. Grimy Black up the center of each roadway and Dust Bowl Brown up each side.

## 6. *Wooden Fences;*

- Using Central Valley board fences, cut out boards here and there with a hobby knife (four cuts). More or less depending on the degree of decrepitude!
- Cut the tops off of random boards to make them uneven.
- Spray the back with light gray primer.
- Paint the front your desired color desired color. This could be oxide red, green or tan.
- Weather the back with India ink/alcohol. Use horizontal then vertical strokes. Weather the front with vertical strokes.
- Then come back and add additional ink to random boards on the front.
- Cut out and add signs for posters using white glue.
- Weather the posters with Blackahol.
- Whether the front of the fence with Bragdon chalks. Use Grimy Black ui vertical streaks and Dust Bowl Brown along the bottom edge.

## 7. *Tarpaper Roofing;*

- Cover roof with strips of black masking tape to represent tarpaper with patches applied.
- Then paint with grimy black (or equivalent) and spray with Model Master lusterless finish.
- Brush with India Ink 2 tsp/ETOH 1 Pint dipping brush in Raw Sienna Acrylic paint as needed. Work across roof brushing the mixture on.
- This can be done with Box Car Red or Dark Green roof paint.
- Finally weather with Grimy Black, Rust and Dust Bowl Brown chalk.

## 8. *Weathered Wood Siding;*

- Spray paint walls light gray primer.

- Brush thinned oxide red (or other color, your choice) using a soft 3/8” wide brush.
- Brush across the wall applying color in uneven horizontal bands.
- Create nail holes using a pounce wheel at appropriate locations (16” centers?).
- Use a single edge razor blade to “lift” boards here and there.
- Wash with Blackahol.
- Dry brush vertically down the sides with off-white acrylic paint. This highlights the edges of the clapboard which are more likely to weather.

## **9. *Corrugated Metal Siding;***

- Use Campbell’s or other corrugated metal strips.
- Run pounce wheel along the bottom edge to create nail holes.
- Cut into 5/16-3/8 wide pieces.
- Glue the pieces onto the wall with using Aliene’s tacky cement working up and across, overlapping the pieces and making the line uneven (nail holes at the bottom).
- Spray paint the wall with light gray primer.
- Mix 5 Tsp Water/1 Tsp White Glue. Brush on thinning with the Blackahol mixture.
- Mix in streaks of raw sienna/burnt umber chalk powder using a 1/2” wide soft brush.
- Streak down, remove large chunks.
- When dry 15 minutes, brush with Blackahol.
- Finally dry brush with Bragdon chalk powders, bright rust, dark rust, grimy black and will Brown.

## **10. *Yard Details – Scrap Wood;***

- Dip lengths of scale wood 1x3, 2x4 in black ink, break into pieces to create scrap wood.

## **11. *Yard Details – Newspaper Trash;***

- Create dirty paper by painting with white paper streaked black etoh. Looks dirty or like tiny writing. Also use yellow ocher to simulate aged newspaper (or both!). Cut into HO scale newspaper size pieces. Fold in crumple before gluing on the layout.

## **12. *Yard Details – Tie Plates;***

- Paint paper rail brown/rust both sides, cut into scale size tie plate pieces. Glue in a stack, weather with Blackahol.

### **13. Yard Details – Strapping Bands;**

- Strapping bands. Use brown colored construction paper weathered with Blackahol. Cut in strips, crinkle slightly and glue down.

### **14. Yard Details – Broken, Scrap Glass;**

- Spray .015 clear sheet styrene with Model Master Lusterless dull coat.
- When dry cut into jagged pieces.

### **15. Yard Details – Rotted Ties;**

- Take 3/32” square wood about 8” lengths.
- Scrape all four sides then all four corners with a razor saw to roughen up the surface.
- Paint with heavy raw sienna acrylic stain.
- Cut to scale 8 ½’ lengths.
- Dip in black Blackahol.
- Stack and glue on layout.

### **16. Yard Details – Spills;**

1. Don’t forget to add spilled coal, sand, grain, (with some Pigeons!) etc.

### **17. Yard Details – Track Painting Ala George Selios;**

- Once your track is laid wired and tested is time to begin finishing and weathering..
- Protect the movie parts of your turnouts by spraying silicone lubricant into the throw bar area.
- Protect the contact area of your turnouts by placing small pieces of strip wood between the stock rail and the points to keep spray paint out of that area.
- Spray paint track and rail *in place*, Use this Visqueen or masking tape to protect surrounding areas from overspray.
- For the mainline I used Floquil Rail Brown (or equivalent).
- For Yard a using Earth color.reats
- Lightly use rail can be sprayed Roof Brown color.
- Seldom used rail can be sprayed rust color.
- Paint ties with oak stain full strength up sides and down the middle.
- Come back and color occasional random ties with light gray and oak stains full strength, vary the color.
- For the mainline ballast with Woodland Scenic N Scale (fine) ballast mixing 2 Parts Gray to 1 Part Buff or mix rto suit your modeling area.
- Use real dirt on Spurs

- Use Woodland senices cinders in yards.
- I use a phone brush to paint full strength white glue up the slope sides of the roadbed where the ballast is prone to slide off.
- I then add ballast of the center of the track and brush this all in place using a soft brush. Try to make sure all of the ballast is off the top of the ties.
- I then lightly spray the ballast areas with wet water (water with a few drops of detergent added) and then spray with white glue diluted with water in a 1 to 4 ratio.
- When dry weather mainline track using Lamp Black Oil Paint and Turpenoid (no odor) up the center and raw sienna oil paint and turpenoid up sides (this simulates rust from the dripping of ice cooled refrigerator cars)
- Clean the ballast off the tops of the ties using a credit card.
- Clean the tops of the rails using an abrasive block
- Vacuum up any loose debris.
- The track is ready for service!

## ***18. Finally Don't Forget;***

- Other prototype details;
  - Mail boxes, city/rural
  - Police/Fire call boxes
  - Street signs
  - Highway signs
  - Trash cans
  - Man Hole Covers
  - Street Lamps
  - Fire Hydrants
- For vehicles;
  - Open windows
  - Open doors, hoods, trunks
  - White walls
  - License plates
  - Weather, rust, grime, dust bowl brown
- Figures;
  - Figures are more effective if placed in “social groups” that tell a story.