



San Antonio

N-TRAK

Association

Model Railroading: Introduction to Weathering Part 1a – Basics

Fred Bock, MMR

SANTRAK:

the San Antonio N-Trak Association

27 February 2010



What is Weathering?

- Weathering starts with a brand new car
- Uses artists' media and physical modification
- To simulate normal wear and tear on the car
- Due to lading, routing, usage, and age.



Covered Hopper – Builder's Photo





Covered Hopper – Weathered





Weathering -- caused by:

- What type of car is it?
- What does it carry? (lading)
- Where is its home road located?
- Where does it run? (normal route)
- What's the environment in those places like?
- What kind of wear or damage?
- How old is it? (age) → new / used / old / worn-out
- → (in what era is your railroad set?)



Media used for weathering:

- Physical distress or damage – e.g. decks
- Baby Powder -- dust / talc / chemicals
- Artists' Chalk – dust, grime, mud, soot,
- Weathering Powders (powdered “chalk”)
- Artists' Colored Pencils -- highlights
- India ink & alcohol – general soot & grunge
- Shoe leather dye & alcohol -- same
- Paint – solvent or acrylic -- many uses
- Paint Washes -- general grunge
- Wood stains – e.g. Minwax – flatcar decks
- Ground foam -- spilled lading
- Real rust -- debris in gondola cars
- Other natural materials -- various uses



Light, Dark, Colored

- On dark cars, weathering looks like light colors (white, tan, cream, bright rust)
- On light-colored cars, it looks like dark colors (soot, rust, mud, earth, dirt)
- On colored cars, use varying shades of the same color (e.g. use reds on red cars) to simulate faded paint.



Black Wash

- Used for smoke stain, soot, stains, shadows, highlights, general grunge
- Receipe: two (2) teaspoons of BLACK India Ink in one (1) pint of 70% alcohol.
- Apply with a wide brush; let wash flow into crevices; let dry.



End of Part 1a

- Continue with Part 1b – boxcars
- Photos of prototype and models with weathering