

“THE HAIRSPRAY TECHNIQUE”

Paint Chips & Worn Winter White Wash

Here we will explain the weathering method commonly known as the “hairspray technique”. The materials needed are acrylic paints, hairspray in an aerosol dispenser, a laquer based clear coat such as Testers dull coat, a variety of stiff brushes, and warm water. The photos below will demonstrate how the same technique can be used to create two of the many different effects that can be created once you have learned how to use this technique. It is important to study your reference photos in order to better understand where paint chipping and wear and tear occur on your vehicle. Here we will show worn winter white wash over earth tan on the left and chipping of primer over bare steel on the right. I have over exaggerated the removal of paint so that you can clearly see the way in which the paint comes up from the model.



Images 1 & 2 show step A, the application of base color, Step B, application of dull coat and Step C, the application hairspray. I have not shown pictures of step B & C because they are transparent and virtually invisible in photographs. Step A is to apply the base color that you would like to show through underneath the chipping and worn paint effects. In the case of a winter white wash, you should apply any chipping and weathering that you want to show through the winter white wash BEFORE proceeding to the next step. Step B is critical! Before applying hairspray you will need to apply laquer based clear coat. This will protect your base coat from the weathering process. Step C: After your clear coat has dried, you can apply your hairspray to the model. Be sure to apply the hairspray to all areas that you wish show wear when finished. Allow the hairspray 30 minutes to dry before applying your top paint color.



Images 3 & 4 shows step D, the weathered layer. The images show the application of the top layer of color that we want to show as chipped or worn away. In this case I chose Polly Scale Dirty White to represent winter white wash in the photo on the left and a mix of Tamiya's Hull Red and Flat Red to represent primer. It is important to allow this coat sufficient time to dry before beginning the following steps.



Images 5 & 6 show the results of the step E. In step E you will need a coarse paint brush, a tooth brush, and a container of warm water. The basic idea behind step E is to use the brush and warm water to desolve and remove the hairspray and the top layer of paint along with it. What we will do wet the brush and scrub the top layer away from the model. It is important to work in small areas and work your way from one area to the next. Be sure to clean each area as you go. This will enable you to remove the paint from the surface of the model. The results are stark in contrast and very dramatic at this stage. The subsequent application of filters, washes, and dusting will tone down this effect. For more information on this technique, please read Phil Stutscinkas article " KONRAD III" in issue #10 of Model Military International, February 2007.

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