

## Weathering with Artist Powders

Recently there have been articles published about weathering rolling stock using artists' powders or chalks. The thrust of these articles has been related to the resulting ease and speed of using modern chalks in modelling. Artist chalks have always been available but a new process gives them great depth of colour and better fixing to substrates such as plastic, metal, card and wood commonly used by modellers.

One brand of fine chalks useful to modellers is Pan Pastels<sup>®</sup>. Available from various art supply businesses in Australia these fine chalks are supplied in a broad range of colours and many greys. They are also available in kits of earths and rust colours in the USA. They are packaged in small clear containers (pans) with threaded lids similar to flat cosmetic containers. There are a range of applicators of soft rubbery shapes for picking up chalk from the pan and strategically placing in situ.

Many of the colours are available in "shade" (dark or the pure colour + black) and "tint" (light or the pure colour + white) which increases the scope of weathering. (Purchasing a good artist's colour wheel also aids in the selection of the right colours for painting and weathering).

Weathering with these chalks is certainly fast. Knowledge of the colour of grime, road dust, rust and other paint impurities on rolling stock and structures is a helpful start to using the chalks. A good photo of a realistically dirty wagon or loco makes the placement of the chalk easier.

The chalks stick to the model by placing the fine powder in the right location. Too much powder in any location is rectified by simply wiping excess material off the model. It is possible to build up exact colours by repeated application of small quantities and varied colours of the powders.

Once completed the model should be finished with a matt or dull coat to "fix" the powder. I suspect that without this final clear coat, the powders will wipe from the model over time and may potentially dust track and scenery. For short term display of a model the powders can be used for weathering and wiped off after display.

Over-weathering with coloured powders is not a concern. Using a clear finish has the effect of making weathering with these powders duller than planned. Pictured are models at various stages that have been weathered using Pan Pastels.

There are many techniques for weathering; airbrushing, brushing with light washes, inking with pens, sandpapering etc. These powders are a welcome addition to finish rolling stock and structures. They produce a realistic end result for not much effort.

Graeme BARNES

## ORIGINAL MODEL



*The main part of the tank was initially sprayed with a flat black. Prior to weathering the tank and spout were lifeless and dull.*

## APPLICATION of WEATHERING POWDERS



*Application of grey powder for loco ash contamination and minor rusting around water joints and spouts, extending onto the chain.*

## FINISHED MODEL after DULL COAT



*After sealing the weathering powders there is not much visual difference but the clear coat seals the weathering from floating away.*



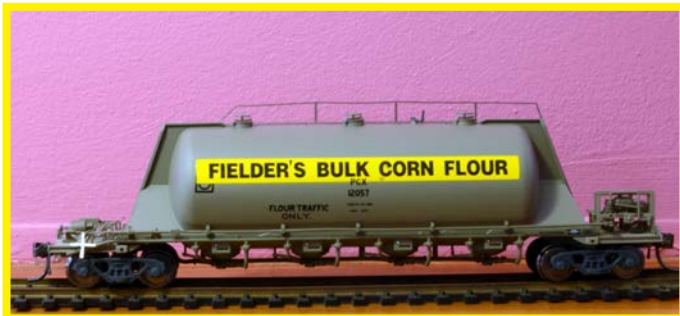
*Originally painted with NSW Wagon Grey (!) and sealed with a dull coat, the van presents as a lifeless form - too clean to be a working member of the NSWGR.*



*After applying road grime and rust to hinges and roof supports the model has ceased to be lifeless.*



*Sealing the van with a dull clear spray has created the image of a well travelled and hard working van.*



*Shiny and "new" plastic tank. Applying a pre weathering clear flat coat provides a better surface for powder adhesion.*



*After applying weathering powders, flour particles appear oversize. Powders have been liberally applied but are loose and prone to dusting off with handling and movement.*



*A sealing dull spray coat bonds the flour particles to the model giving the appearance of more realistic dustings from the tank filling process.*