

## Modelers Forum November 27, 2022

by Kent Waterson

The Modeler's Forum met again on October 27<sup>th</sup> with more sharing of ideas, projects and questions. Attending that night were Jamie Robinson, Dick Holman, Carter McNally, Kelly Noble, Carmen Anastase, Kent Waterson, Paul Lodge, Shawn & Bryn Doyle, John McMullen, and Jerry Grass.

The theme for the Forum that evening was weathering. We did our normal "around the table" updates, but it was more of a free-flowing discussion on the different ideas presented. A variety of different techniques were presented by different modelers.

Starting off the discussion was Dick with his method of making washes with craft paints. Often models come with a sheen on them, and a simple wash will help to dull down the finish. Dick thins the craft paints with blue windshield washer fluid and liberally applies the wash. Carmen mentioned his methods of using chalk and dry-brushing.

Kent followed this discussion with some general modeling items. A neighbor recently handed him a box of 3-Rail O-Scale track and a single locomotive. He brought the locomotive to the meeting, and it was placed on the O-Scale layout as a test – the locomotive ran fine. Some cleaning would probably improve the operation, but it was impressive that the locomotive still functioned after what appeared to be years of sitting idle.

Kent also presented some tools he's recently acquired. The first was a [Proxxon Pen Sander](#). The tips of the sander were a bit large for one task he tried, so a few minutes in Fusion 360 and over to the 3D printer produced some smaller tips which worked great. Also presented was a tip: when trying to sand in a very tight space, using a small piece of sanding sponge held in a pair of cross-locking tweezers makes great tool. Lastly was a [Dspiae Masking Tape Cutting Mat](#). These mats have a grid of varying widths with the grids being a very fine engraving. A pieces of masking tape is place on the mat and using a hobby knife various widths of masking tape can be produced similar to what could be done with piece of tape and a steel ruler.

Paul then returned us to the weathering clinic. Paul demonstrated using pastel chalks that he scraped with a hobby knife and then collected the shavings in old 35mm film canisters. The dust can then be applied with brushes or sponge pads. Paul showed the technique of cutting a small notch in a 3x5 card and using that notch to focus where the chalk is applied on a model. With chalks, the material needs to be secured to the model with some type of flat coat. Precautions were mentioned of spraying the seal coat from a distance such that the chalk is not blown off the model.

A discussion then broke out regarding the nature of weathering – it's random! Some general areas are constants such as wheel dirt and drip spots, but otherwise it can be anywhere.

John then gave an update on his building construction progress and showed a beautiful build coal mine that he had put numerous hours into.

Somehow at this point the discussion drifted to various roadbed materials. It was mentioned that the standard cork roadbed supply was stretched, and alternate proposals were discussed.

Jamie finished out the evening and the weathering clinic with his method of using various washing and weathering powders from [Vallejo](#), [MigAMMO](#), [AK Interactive](#) and [Doc O'Brien's](#). The pigments make good crusty deposits on freight cars. Application of the materials is done with cheap brushes, micro brushes, and cheap makeup brushes.

A lot of good information was shared and there are certainly more techniques that were left out. We welcome others who may have had success in their methods to come share those techniques; we will all be better modelers because of this sharing of knowledge. The next meeting is a combination November/December meeting on Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, we hope to see you there.