

## RUSTED RAILS

In American culture there is a romantic notion around trains; a sense of freedom, of exploration and of adventure. While it's a nice ideal, the reality is that trains do a lot of heavy hauling, day after day, mile upon mile in all types of weather. Rust and stains are badges of honor for a long life of service on the rails. It is this combination of steel framed construction and extreme conditions that gives modelers a special notion about trains.



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HO scale train cars provide an excellent option for modelers looking for a quick and fairly inexpensive subject to practice rust and weathering techniques. The final choice of style was easy for me as the Southern Pacific line operates in my area.



2

The car arrives to my workbench in factory fresh paint. I mask off areas to paint in differing shades of the base color in order to provide a more interesting canvas to paint over.



3

I begin the rusting process on the roof by spraying rust colored acrylic paint that have been highly diluted. The thinned paints flow easily and pool on the surfaces in a natural way of providing the first steps for an interesting base.



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Deeper rust stains and corrosion are painted on the raised detail using a fine tipped brush.

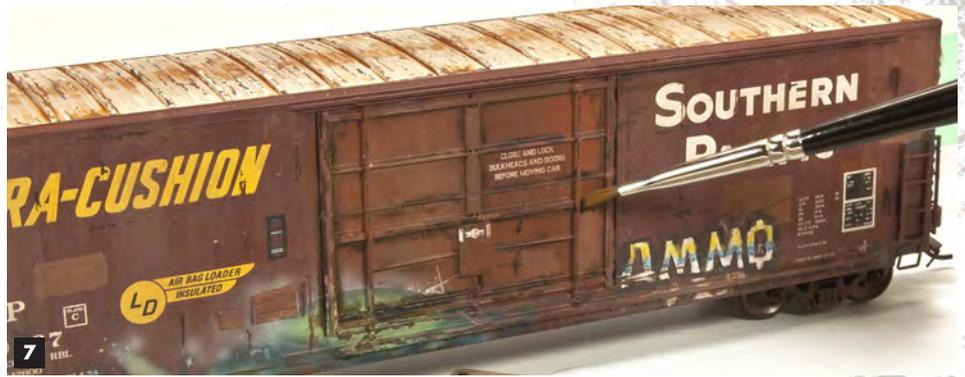


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References show many railcars with a distinctive rust stain running along the crown of the arched rooftop. An application of AMMO Streaking Rust and Light Rust Wash heavily diluted with thinners are applied to the center and allowed to flow outward to replicate this stain pattern.



It is rare to see an older railcar that hasn't been subject to graffiti and tags. A fine tipped brush and AMMO acrylic paints provide the tools for a quick splash of thematic vandalism.



Dark brown artists' oils are applied around the surface features to increase definition. The larger surface areas are also treated with applications of artist's oils to enhance color richness and achieve fading effects.



Using a toothpick as an applicator, very fine dots of dark brown and dark rust colored artist oils are applied replicate the small chips and pits often seen on older railcars.



The small dots of artist oils are drawn downward using a brush moistened with thinner to create stains so often seen washing down the sides. Vary the amount of thinner used and your brush stroke to create variety and realism.



Thank you for watch it!

Rick Lawler, AMMO Staff