



OIL TANK WEATHERING



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In this step-by-step we will demonstrate the techniques used to recreate the fuel and oil spills down the sides of railway fuel and oil tank wagons along with the distinctive orange/brown grime that coats almost all freight wagons, carriages and locomotives on modern railways.



For this article we will be using a couple of Bachmann 00 gauge 45-ton TTA Tank Wagons. Although these wagons are beautifully detailed and painted they are just too clean to look real. Some of these model companies now offer locomotives and rolling stock, that are pre-weathered, but these don't look very realistic either, as they have simply been misted over with grainy brown paint using an airbrush! Let's now show you how to do it properly.



1 / 1a



1/ 1a For this guide we will be using two identical Bachmann wagons. To one of them we did add some graffiti decals from Uschi van der Rosten



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2 The first step is to mix Humbrol Enamel Khaki 26 and Olive Drab 66 with enamel thinners.



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3 This mix is sprayed onto the wheels, axles and lower framework.



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4 Once the framework is painted, we can now add grime effects to the tank including the edges of the weld seams.



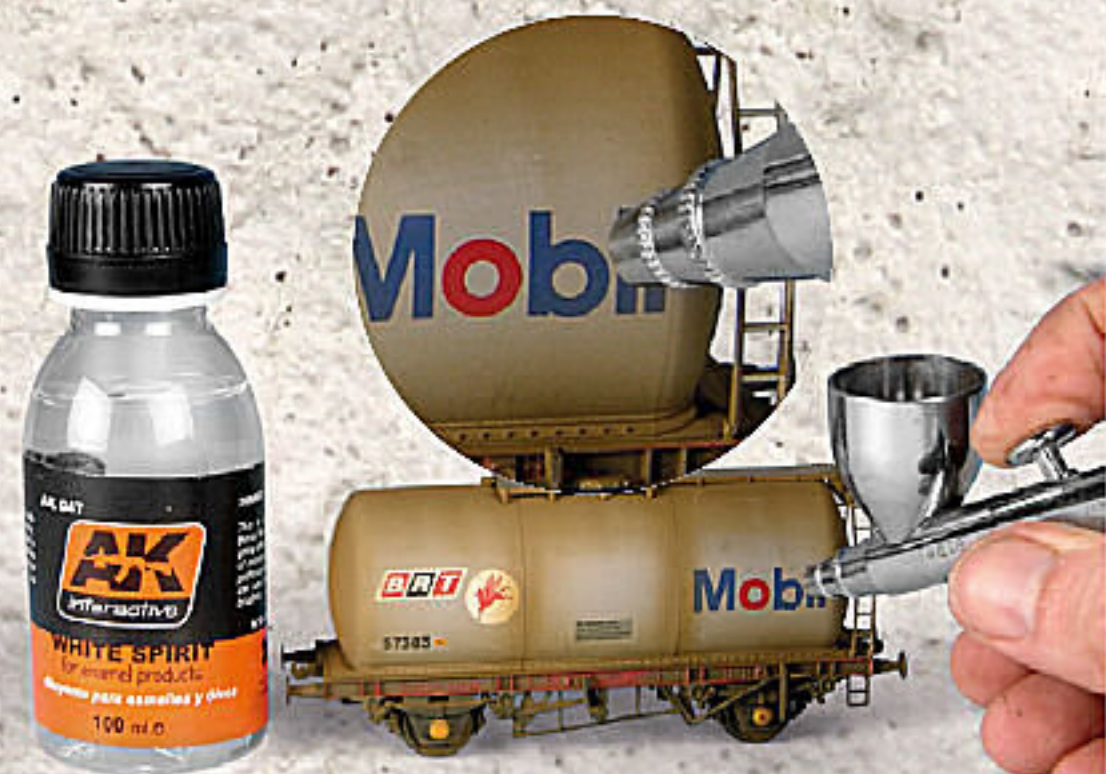
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5 Using white spirit and an old brush used for dry-brushing, we remove the excess paint from the framework.



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6 In this close-up we can see that the aim is to leave some of the grime colour around raised details, such as rivets and along recessed edges.



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7 We can now start weathering the grime colour on the tank. We start by airbrushing white spirit onto the tank to soften the enamel grime paint.



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8 Next we gently and repeatedly drag a piece of Scotchbrite along the sides of the tank. This is to simulate the distinctive scratches often seen on these wagons.



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9 Here we can see the effect of the enamel grime now the excess has been removed from both wagons. Note the left-hand one has been wiped over with a cloth rather than Scotchbrite.



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10 On the cleaner wagon, we now add softer tones of the orange/brown, this time using acrylics. Here we have used a mix of Lifecolor Israeli Sandgrey 1982 and Wood (warm light shade).



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11 The paint is heavily thinned and concentrated along the top and in the form of streaks down over the sides.

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12 A common feature on these wagons is that the wagon number and any warning or information labels are constantly wiped clean. We can do this with white spirit and a cotton bud Q-tip.



13 The grime weathering is now complete on both wagons.



14 The first step for adding the fuel/oil effect, is to airbrush on AK's Engine Oil, this was thinned with a small amount of cellulose thinners.



15 As can be seen here, the Engine Oil dries to a high gloss finish, which can be toned down with some satin enamel varnish.



16 On the second tank wagon we want to simulate thicker oil spills down the sides, so to do this, we airbrush a mix of the original AK Engine Oil mixed with Humbrol Satin Black Enamel. Again this mix was thinned with Cellulose thinners.

17 The finished wagons complete with some subtle chipping and rust staining. Some further oil stains were added around the axles to replicate lubricating grease.



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1 Here is a classic example of the oil staining on the side of one of these oiltanks. Notice how clean the wheel hub covers are.



2 This wagon shows perfectly all the scratches in the grime along the sides of the tank.



3 In this example we can see how all the information and warning labels have been kept clean and free from grime.



4 More scratches along the sides. The spilled oil on this wagon has run down the sides in thin lines instead of large stains.