

Weathering Techniques from the OGR Forum Members

Compiled by Mario Scalzo

Part 1: Wowak's Super-Looking Rust

Part 2: LaidOffSick's Realistic Wheels & Trucks

Part 3: CentralFan1976's Pastel Weathering



[Wowak](#)

PART 1: Wowak's super-looking rust



Revision 2

I start with a coat of matte clear spray.



Revision 2

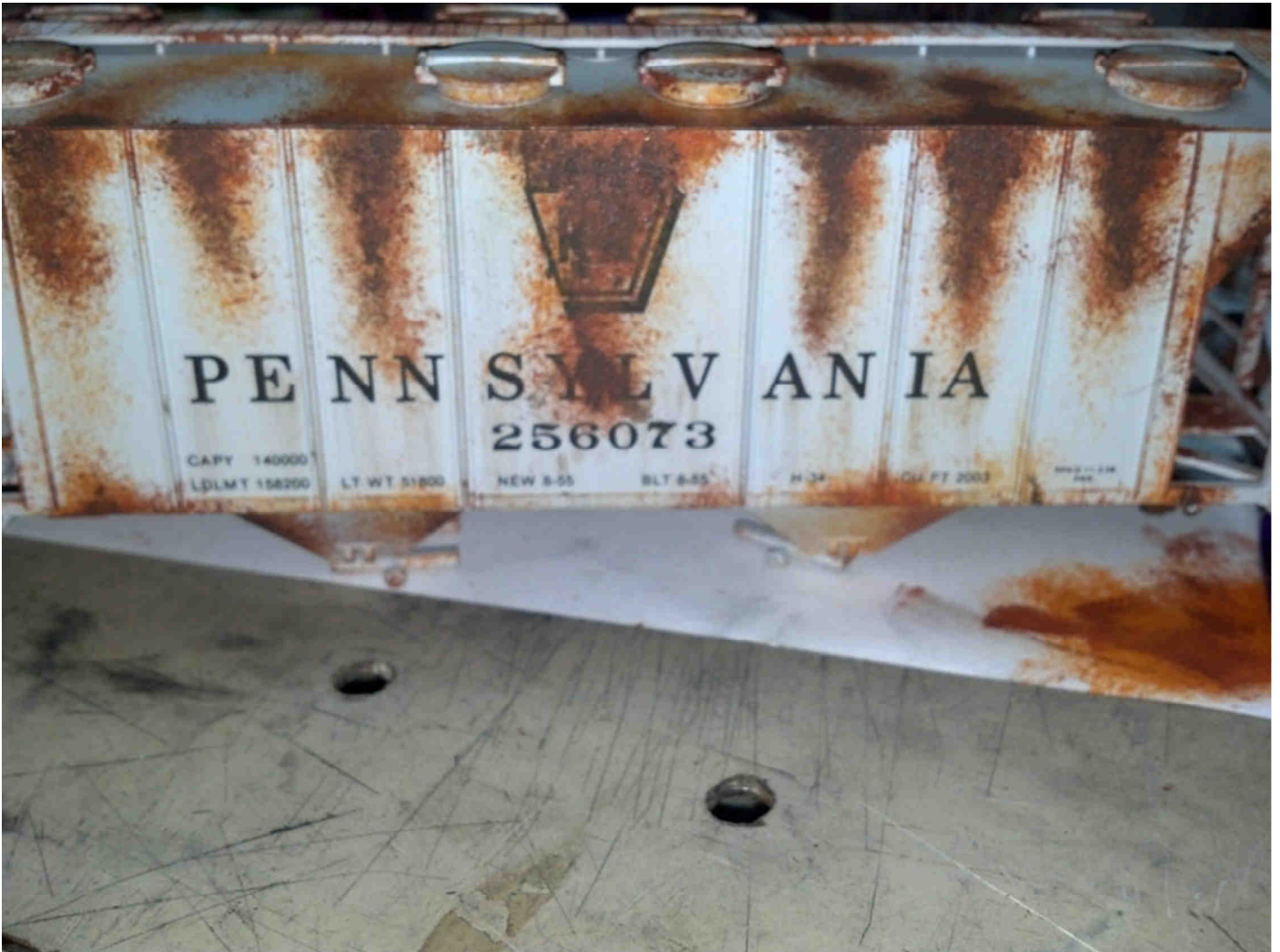
The first step in the rust is the orange craft acrylic. It's a dry-stipple brush technique.



The second step is Burnt Sienna craft acrylic. It's a little more wet, and it doesn't completely cover the orange. You want it darker towards the center of the rust spot, or the edge as rust seems to build more on corners. You want the stipple technique to start building up texture.



Third step is burnt umber craft acrylic. Again it's a little wetter to build texture, but it's only in the center of the rusty spots. If it gets too dark you can go back and add more burnt sienna on top to get the look you want.



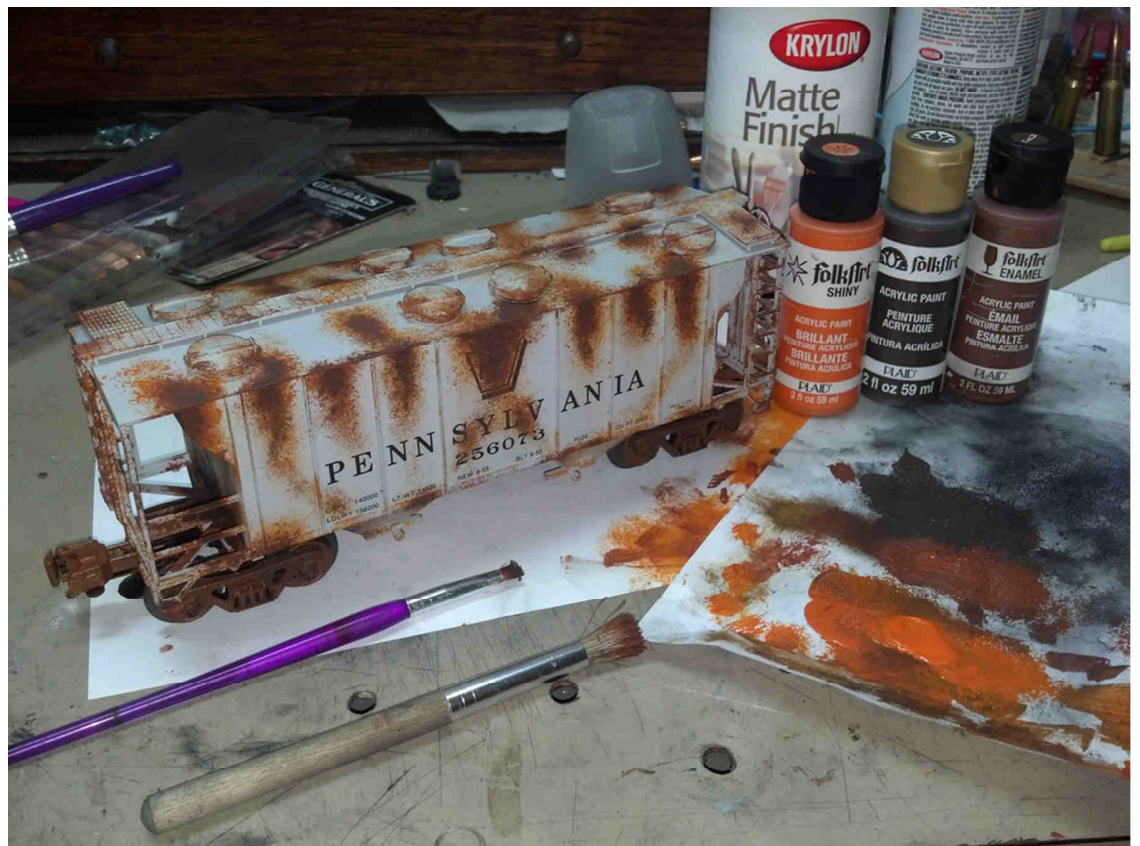
For the trucks, couplers and wheels it's the same order, but you can lay the orange first coat on a little thicker.



There's the burnt sienna added. Don't lay it on too thick in the working surfaces of the coupler (although in my experience the acrylic paint will just flake off before it fouls the operation of the coupler. Obviously you don't want to paint the flanges of the wheels, either. (A lot of people are squeamish about paint on wheelsets but it's never caused me any problems.)

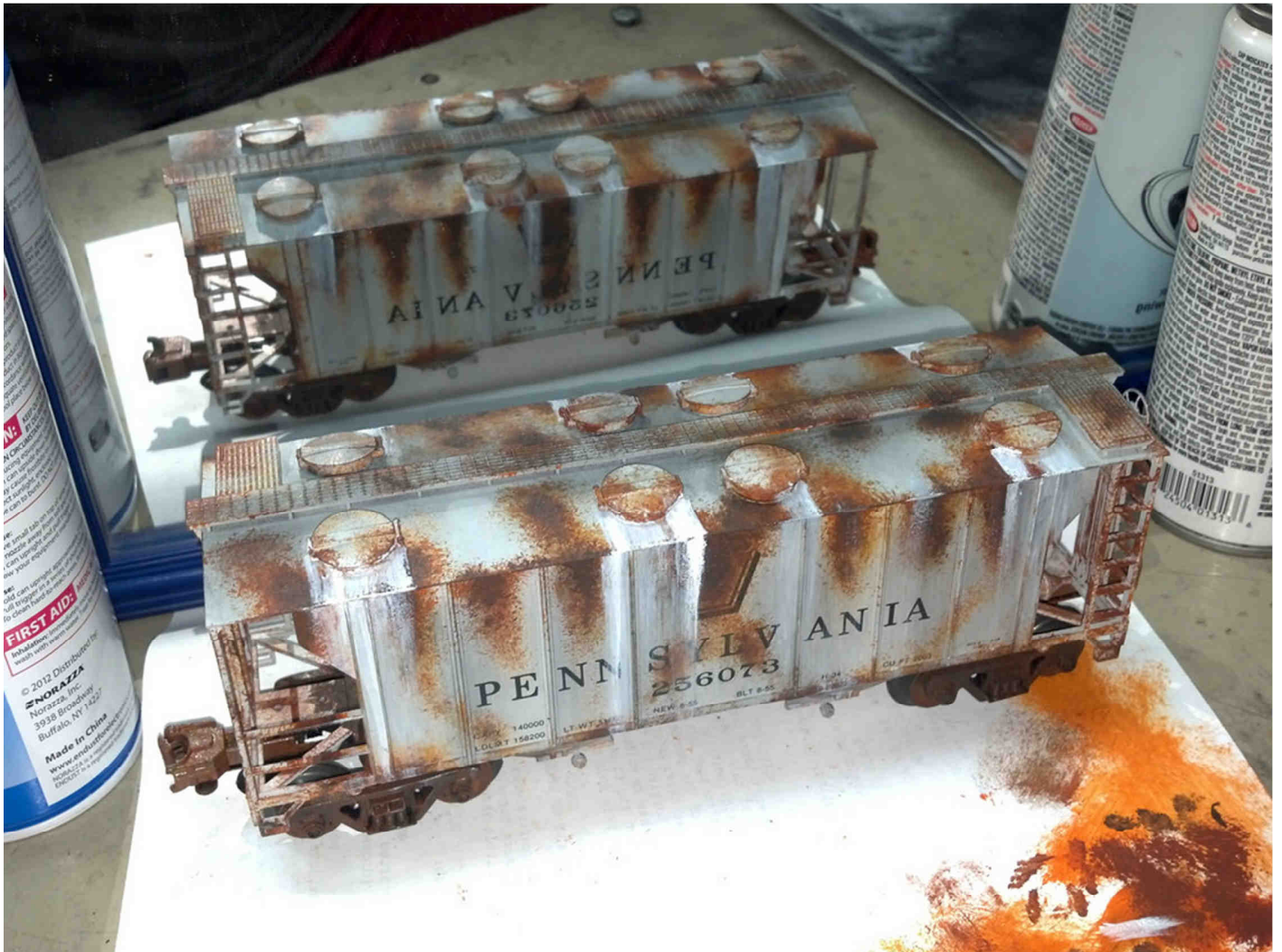


And there's the burnt umber.



Revision 2

The next step is powders. I didn't take separate pictures, but I did a wash of black chalk then added more white acrylic as concrete streaks.



Revision 2

The last thing I did (that in retrospect I would have done first) was white powder over the lettering to wash it out.



Revision 2

Part 2: LaidOffSick's Realistic Wheels & Trucks



These are 2R trucks/wheels but you can do the same with 3R trucks/wheels.

Adding texture:

1. Spray paint the entire truck assembly (I leave the wheels in) with flat black or brown depending on the type of truck, friction bearing or roller bearing. I do black for friction and brown for modern roller bearing. My pet peeve on trucks is silver axles... because they stick out like a sore thumb when you watch a cut of cars roll by.

2. Then stipple on some artist oil to the side frames and wheel faces. I normally use a raw umber to somewhat match the flat Camo earth brown. Because this is an oil, it takes a while to dry, and needs to be completely dry before the next step. I normally let them set 24 hours before touching them.

3. Highlight the texture from the stippled oil paint with powder; your choice here. Dust the entire trucks with the color you choose. I normally use a light grey and it really makes the texture pop. Almost like dry brushing with paint.

4. I go back with different powders for specific details like rust, mud, or more dust only in certain areas of the side frames. Usually some rust (light or dark) on the wheel faces, and don't forget the back of the wheel.

5. Flat finish.... I clear coat all my weathering with an airbrush. 50/50 Dull-Cote and Lacquer thinner. Just my choice, been doing it for years.

6. Clean wheel threads.....Dremel and a wire wheel, swab with paint stripper, or if you take some time at the home improvement store, you can find something to slip over the wheel tread to mask it off when you spray paint, but then you have to take the trucks apart....your choice, and some people just leave the paint on the tread, and let it wear off. Then it's all over the track, but most clean their track regularly anyway.





Revision 2

Part 3: CentralFan1976's Pastel Weathering



BEFORE: Stock Lionel MDT Michigan Central Reefer.



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STEP 1: Krylon Camouflage Ultra-Flat Brown: Trucks, roof and under frame.

I use this paint to dirty the under frame and centerline of the roof, and its "ultra flat", so there is no sheen whatsoever. I loosely mask off the car sides; I say "loosely" because overspray isn't necessarily a bad thing.



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After spraying:



Tape removed:

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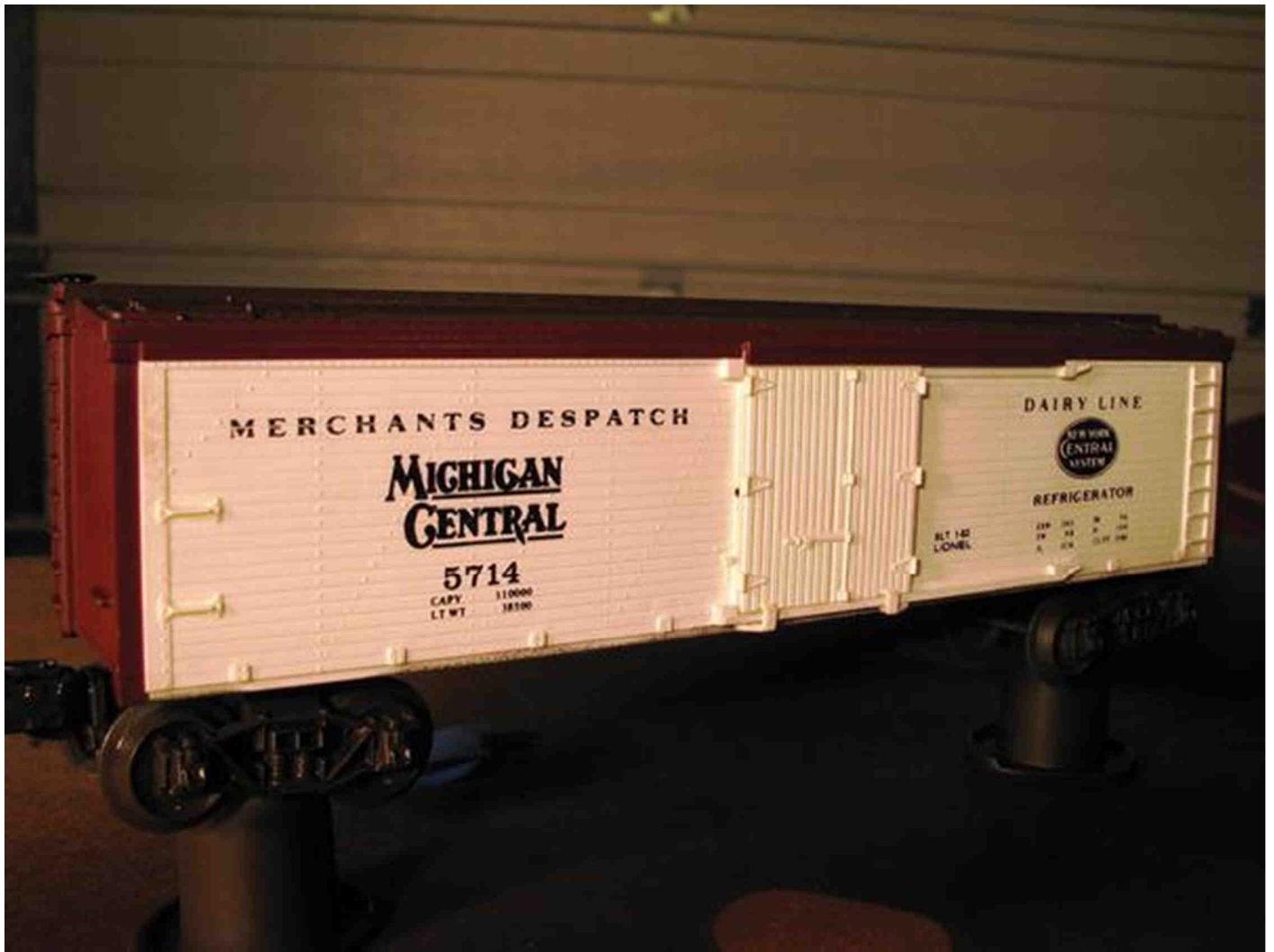


Revision 2



STEP 2: Testor's Dullcote: Entire car.

This is a critical step, as its the dull coat that provides the "tooth" for the pastels to stick. I've tried others, including acrylics, but they provide a too smooth a surface.



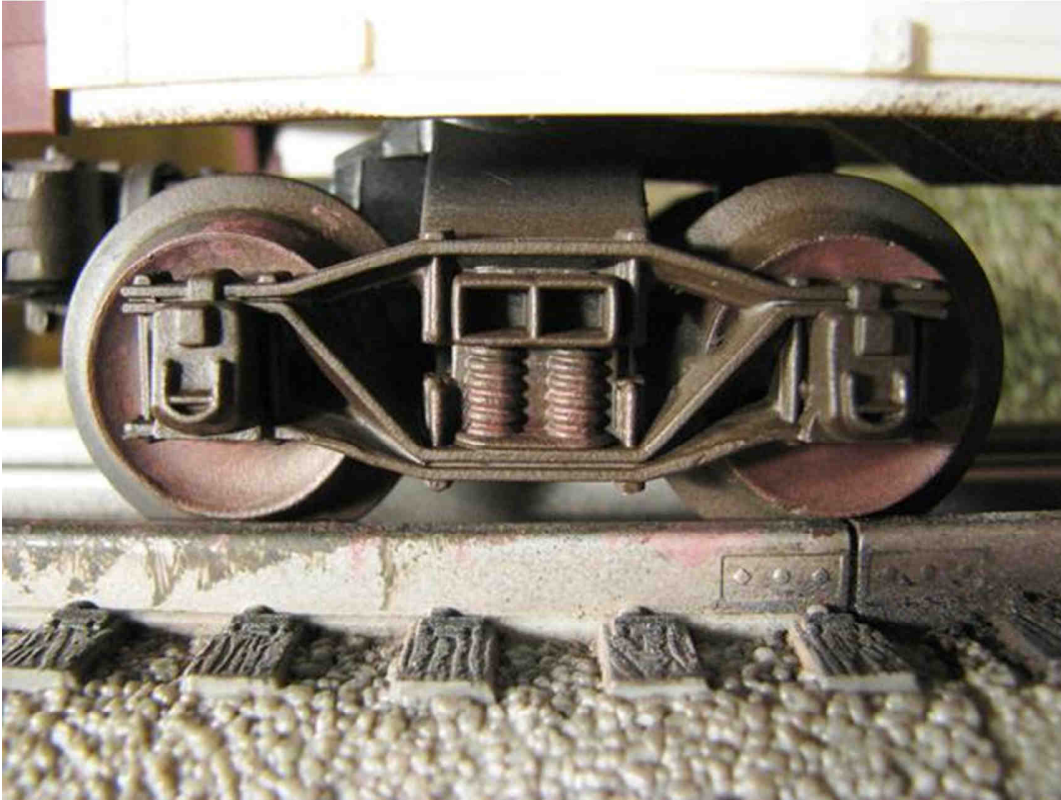
STEP 3: Layout your tools: Brushes, makeup sponges, paints, pastels and small dish of water.

Here we have multiple size brushes for getting the pastels in the tight corners and details, the bottles of paints for dry brushing: PRR Tuscan Red (old rust), Oily Black and Chevy Engine Red (fresh rust), the PanPastels and the most importantly, makeup sponge for covering large areas.



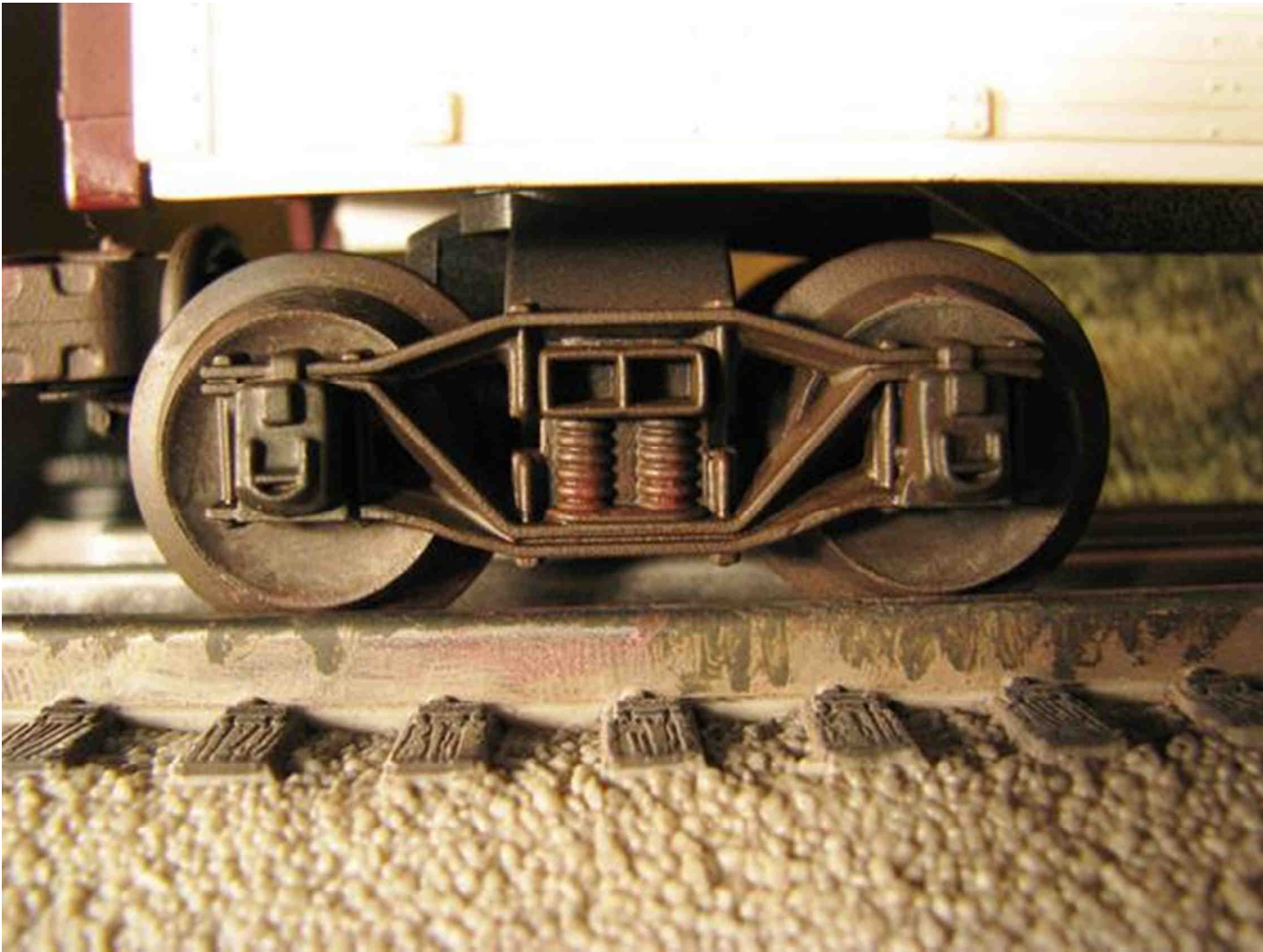
STEP 4: Tuscan Red & Oily Black: Brush paint the wheel, dry brushing and in multiple layers.

Don't forget the couplers...





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STEP 5: Body-color pastel: Off white to tone down the lettering.

The first part of putting actual color on the car is easy, and one of my favorite step... using the pastel closest to the body color and cover the sides to fade the lettering.



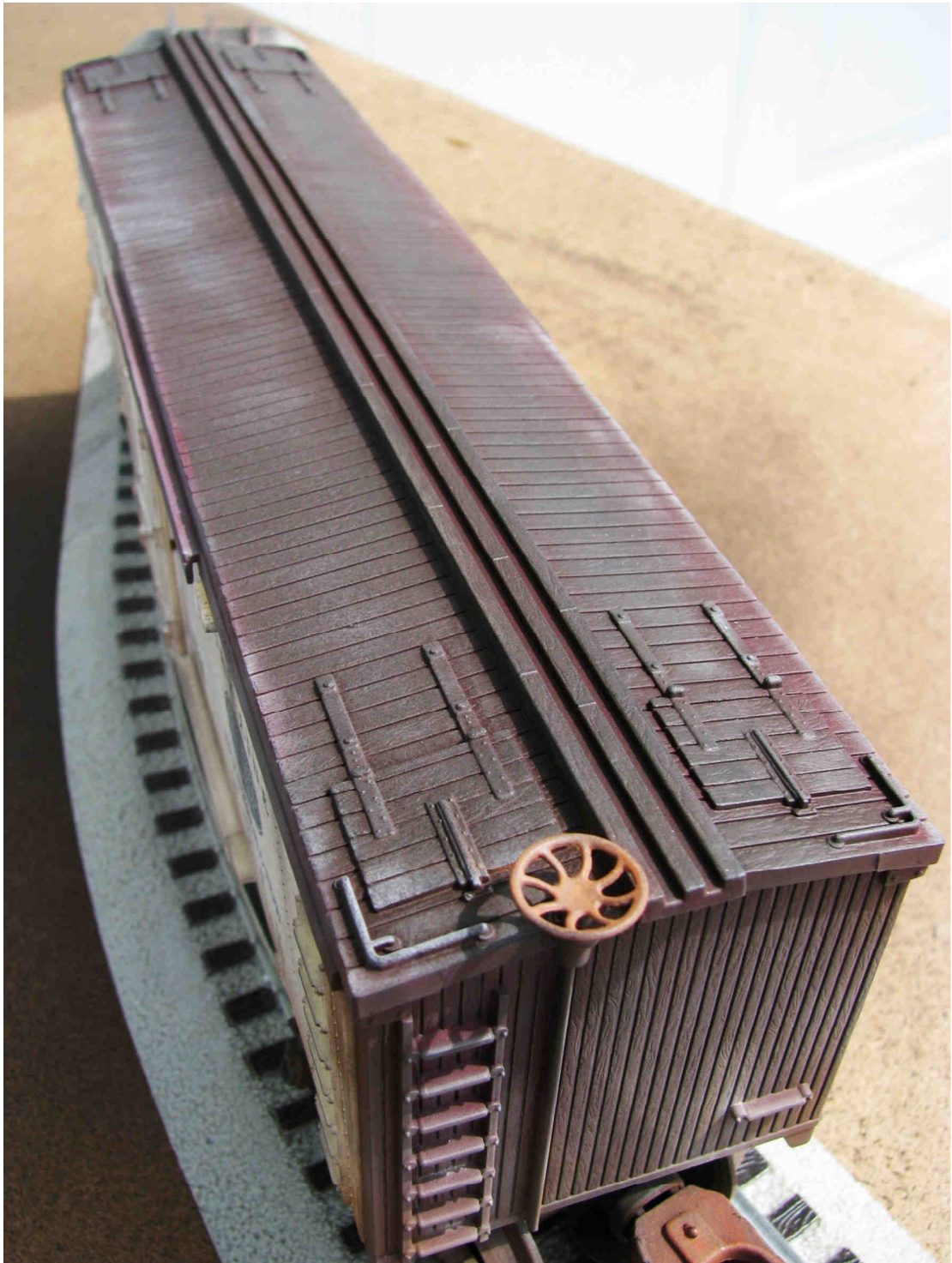




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STEP 6: Soot the rook: dark colors on the roof and top of the sides on down.

In the era I model (1947-1957), there was plenty of Mikes, Mohawks and Niagara-class power roaming the Water Level Route, so soot on the roof is a must! And, with rain, it washes down the sides. Use a pencil to highlight each individual board (Left side with pencil, right without)



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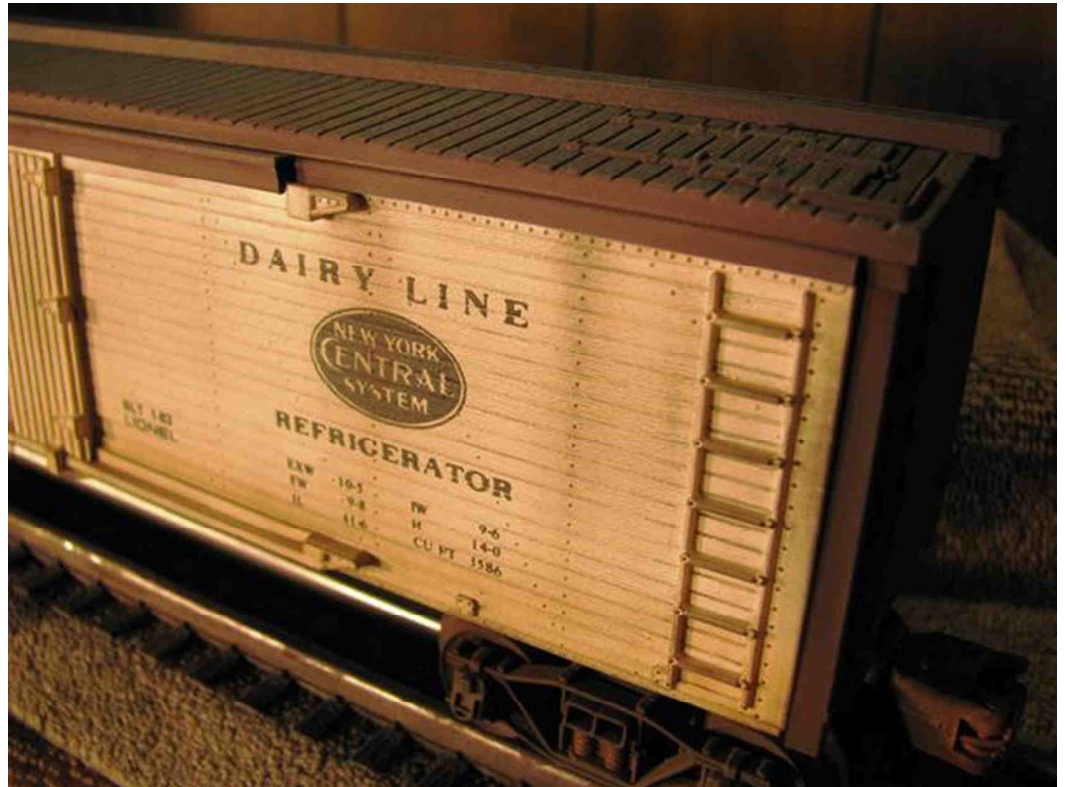


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STEP 7: Dust, dirt, mug & grime: grays and browns from the bottom up.

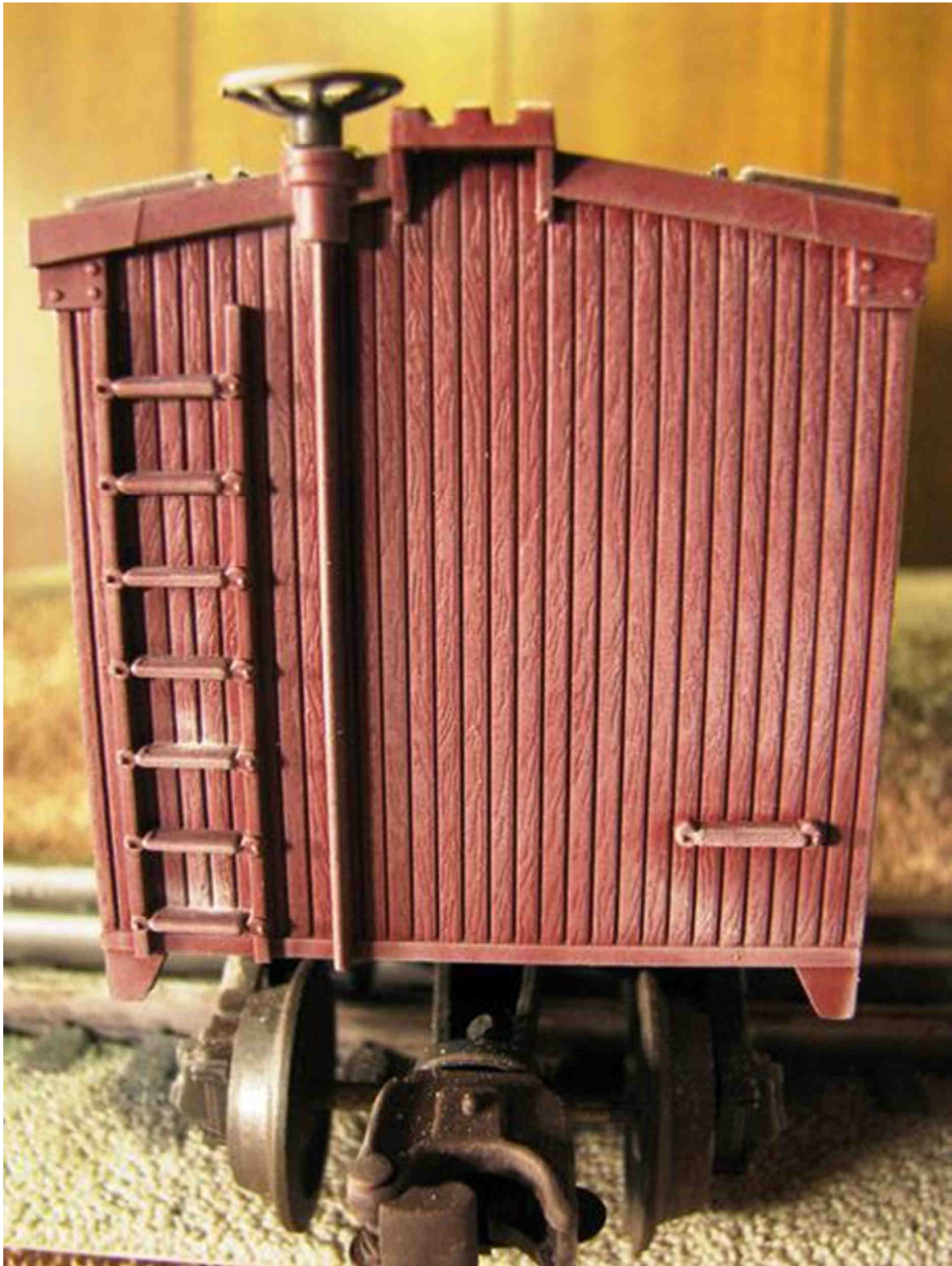
I use lots of layers of lighter colored grays, off-whites, and light browns to add dust and mud that kicks up from the wheels, and the sand dust from the engine. Pencil marks up close... Brush off excess with makeup sponge.





STEP 8: Car ends: Soot down from the top and mud up from the bottom.

One of my favorite weathering details is the mud and dirt spray up from the wheels, adding vertical streaks of light-colored grime the same width as the wheels. Pencil the vertical boards, as well.

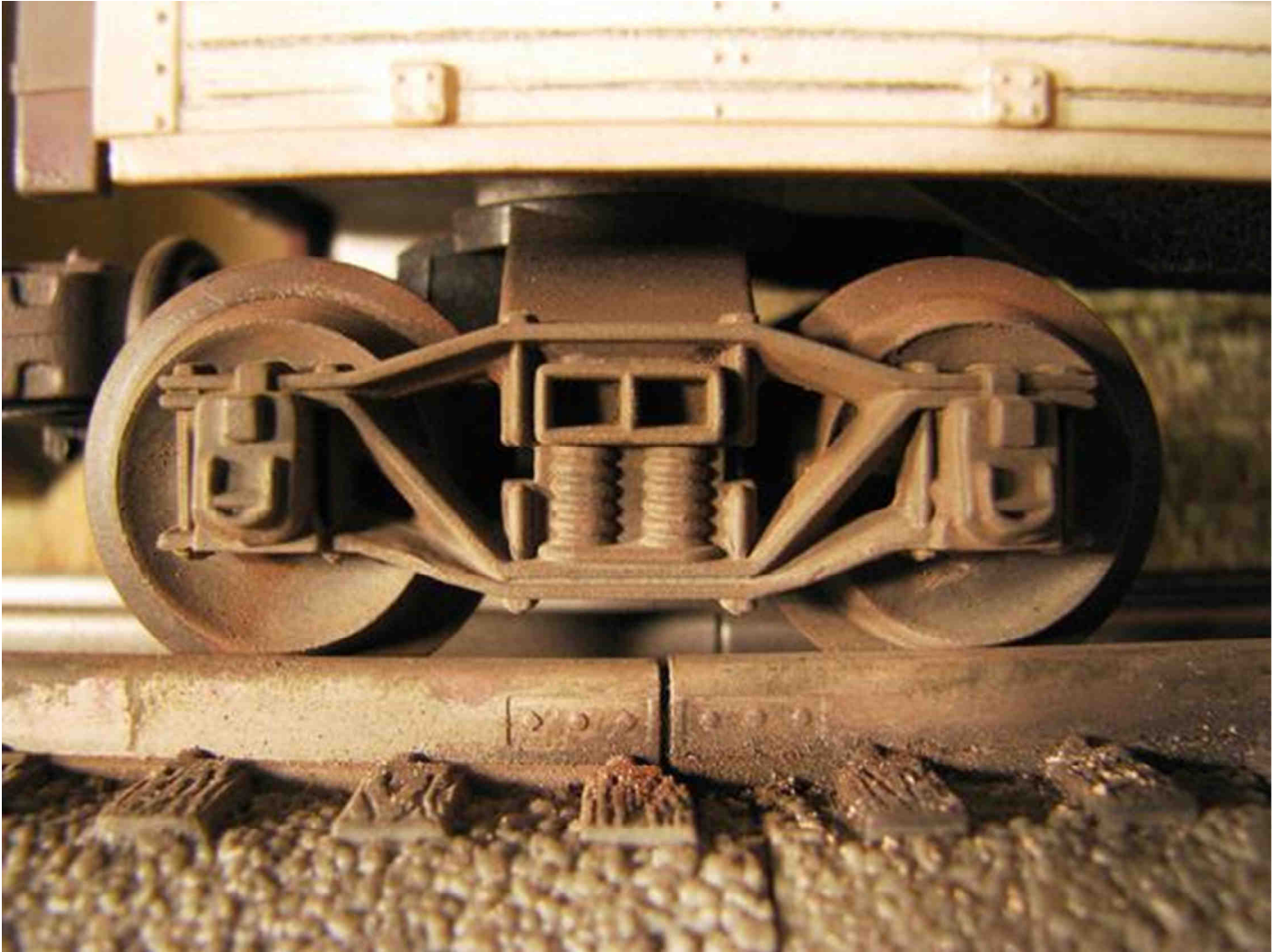


STEP 9: Trucks! Layers of grease, grime, dust, mud, dirt, grease, mud, dirt and yuck!

Trucks are my forte! Just pile on layers of grease and grime, I love the green and brown and black pastels for this... then use the khaki to add dust

Revision 2

along the bottom. Really get in there, inside the arches, with some rusty browns and then dry brush the springs with the Chevy Engine Red, and while wet, brush in some dry rust pastel.





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STEP 10: Rust! Do the same on the couplers!

Adding layers of dry brushed paint / wet pastel / dry pastels really builds up the layers of rust, especially on the couplers. It looks almost three-dimensional. So cool.



STEP 11: Enjoy!

Put it on the layout, take it outside, get up close with "macro" or "super macro" on the camera and get up into that dirt and grime!





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