

The mission to enjoy painting tanks again?

So what is this all about? Well to be honest I have always had a bit of a well phobia of painting large vehicles, it was not as though I was scared of it but knew that the end result would not be something I would be totally happy with no matter how many techniques with different paints, filters, inks, washes, or weathering powders I threw at it. To be honest I just didn't want to bother.

Some of you may be like me in that your painting standard is as high as its going to get and you don't really have the skill set to push it on.

You don't want, can't afford to invest, or have the space at home to set up a proper painting and modelling area with all the airbrushes and modelling doodads that you think that you will need.

Then couple with this some of the amazing work that people put out and it just make you sometimes a little disheartened with the whole look of what you put on the table.

Now rule number one should always be that at the end of the day as long as your happy with the look of what you put out then that should be the only defining factor and you should never compare to what someone else can produce as there will always be someone who is better at it than you.

Even the top guys say this so you will never reach the perfect output and why should you have to.

I am going to preface this run down by saying all the techniques used in this write up are nicked off of other guys out there, and special kudos has to be given to Patch Adams from the Bolt Action Alliance as I think I have plagiarised him the most! (Thanks Patch ☺)



Recently I managed to pick up a pair of Die Waffenkammer Panzer 3s. Now these models are awesome and to be honest I thought that if I was ever to enjoy painting a tank again it would be one of these. So I researched the priming technique for these models as the Die Waffenkammer need special considerations than your standard models, and it was during Patch's video on the subject that he advised the use of the product we are going to use below and this is how it comes out.

This is a cheating technique, I will say that now, it will never win you any best painted awards or anything like that but it is so easy that anyone could be able to get results from it even a ham fisted bludgeoner like me. There are 4 stages to it and it does not require any specialist equipment and just a small price of the paint needed is the only outlay. Now I will say this will not be shown on the Panzer 3s as it was not till I had done them using this technique and had posted pictures that people asked how I had done it and so I decided to put this little guide together, so it will be shown using a bit of surplus plastic building that I had laying about and we shall do each side a different colour and see what we get.



1) Base Colour.

I had primed the model and have given half a coat of Vallejo Green Ochre and the other Vallejo German Field Grey.



2) Wash. For this I have given it a wash using army painter dark tone. Honestly neatness is not an issue as you're using it more for darkening the base colour rather than anything.



3) Patch's Tip 1. Sponging.

Now what I have done here is I had a bit of foam from an army tray laying about ever since Patch had explained about the use for this in doing chipping on your models. But what you can also do is build up a set of dappled highlights for the washed base colour.

So first dip the sponge in some of the original base colour, make sure you blot off the sponge on a cloth or on the board you are working on as you don't want it full of paint, (you can see evidence of me blotting of the sponge on the work board in the photo below)



The best way to get this to the point you want is not to try and do it on one pass. It is better to lightly dab the sponge on the model and work the highlight up going over it as many times until you are happy.

Now there is no reason why the highlight coat should not end there but if you want to do it mix a little white in with the base colour and just lightly go over the model again maybe spending more time at the high areas on the model. Don't worry if you put too much white in for the second highlight also as the last stage will help bring this back so it is a bit forgiving that way.

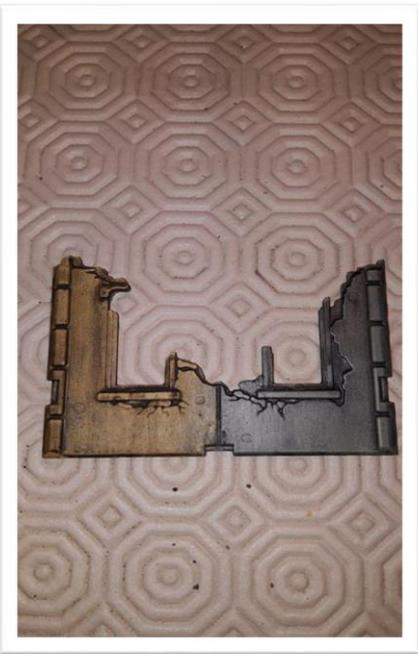
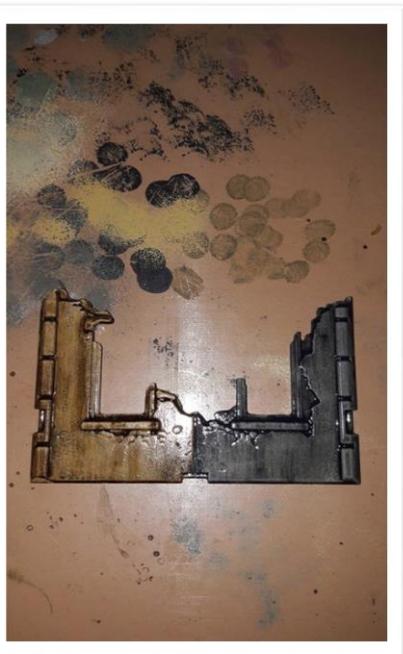
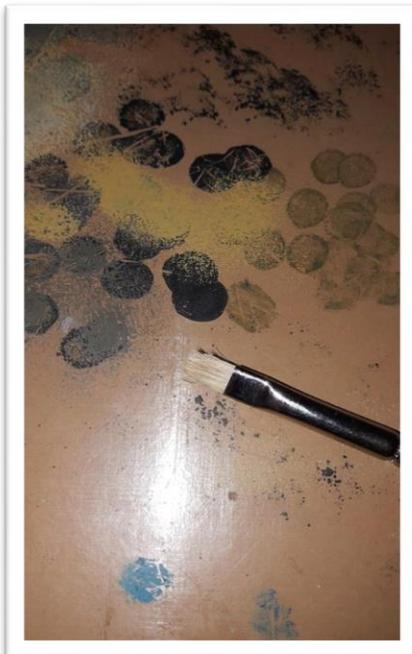
4) Patch's Tip 2. The Oil Wash.



Now this is the new technique that I have used on these vehicles and the one that has given the effect that the people who have asked wanted to know. Basically it's an oil paint available from any good stationers or art shop. For this demo we will be using a dark brown on the Green Ochre side and very dark grey for the German Grey.

Get a pallet, mixing bowl, or just a paper plate as I have here. Squeeze a tiny amount of paint out then using an odourless solvent (again should be in the same place in the store you get the paint from) dilute it down to a thick wash consistency. Now for this sometimes it may be better to work in small areas of the models but for this we will do the whole thing. So apply the diluted oil paint all over the respective colour, it doesn't have to be too neat at this point as that will be sorted below.

Using a flat head brush get a little of the solvent on it, the less the better, then in long strokes start going over the areas. Make sure you try and do long strokes evenly on the surface as this helps the finish to the model. Keep making passes over each area and what you will do is a) start removing the excess oil, b) dilute the oil to a thinner wash, and c) leave streaks of the darker colour on the surface.



The final bit and this is really important because the paint is an oil it will take a period to dry. I recommend at least 24 hours. Do not be tempted think it looks dry to try it with you finger only to leave finger prints in it (yes I found that out the hard way)

Once fully dry it will be ok to handle without effect but if you find that you have left too much of the oil on the model you can quite easily give it another pass with the solvent and it will remove more of the paint so you can do it in little stages if you want. Also if you do too much and are not happy with it you can dampen a cloth with the solvent and remove it all and start again so it's a bit of a forgiving technique until you get your eye in with it.

I have used this on the tanks as shown below and you can see the finished item. By no means is this going to be the super top level finish that guys get with all the different products they can use but if like me you are not fully confident to use those then this is a great substitute.

Pretty much what you have done with this is apply a filter, a wash, and a streaking effect all in one and I know I will be using this technique a lot going forward with different projects. So have fun with it! Mess about and see what different colours give you on different vehicles. If you so wanted if you apply a satin varnish once you have done one colour there is no reason why you could not try another colour over the top and see what effects you can build up.

I hope this has been useful for anyone out there like me and again I must pay homage to Patch for the simple and easy way he explained it in the first place and gave the confidence to give it a go so I hope this helps you do that too.

Cheers, Kieran.

