

Demonstration: Dust Washes

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This can be considered an alternative to using the traditional dark washes followed by light drybrushing. The goal is to simulate a dusty finish, one that has accumulated around surface details. You can use this in just about any theater of operation, but it excels in moderately dry to very dry climates. Tabb demonstrated two methods, the first uses artists' oil paints, the second pigments. Here are the notes from Tabb's demo, first up, the artists' oil paint:

- Unbleached Titanium is a good, all around color to use. It looks similar to Tamiya Buff. One tube is about \$8, but it lasts for many years. MIG Productions also make suitable colors. You can also mix your own if you prefer. Sometimes Tabb adds Raw Umber for a less bright color.
- Use Turpenoid with the Blue label only--the green label stuff is a different formula and it will not completely dry.
- Put a dab of oil paint on a piece of cardboard; it wicks away the Linseed oil in the paint, which lessens the glossiness and allows it to dry faster.
- Make your mixture of oil paint and Turpenoid in a cup or well and mix thoroughly until it's very thin. It is better to mix thin than thick, because the effects can be built up using thin layers but a thick layer is hard to recover from.
- Model parts are best if they have a matte or satin finish. A glossy finish will just encourage the paint to run too much.

- Once dry, the effect can be sealed with clear and redone to add intensity or different colors.
- Simply brush on the mixture and push it around the surface details. It will pool around the details, which is what you want. If it strays to places you don't want, clean it up while wet.
- Use a hair dryer to speed the drying time.
- Keep clean Turpenoid handy with a clean brush to wipe away areas that need refining.
- Let dry one day if you can afford the time.
- Return and add a dark color to simulate grease stains.

Using Pigments:

- Very similar method, but uses water and dry pigments.
- Add one speck of dish detergent to the mix--it helps it flow better.
- As with the other method, start with a thin consistency and build up if necessary.
- Pigments look more like real dust because of their texture.
- Do not seal with a clear or most of the effect will be lost. Unfortunately, the dry pigments will pick up fingerprints easily, so do not touch after applying the effect.
- A dark wash can be applied on top to simulate grease stains.

