

Easy Weathering

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Goals for Clinic

- See prototype examples.
- See model examples of the above.
- Understand some of the techniques to achieve realistic results – not just weathering.
- Logical treatments – beyond just overall effect.
- Methods to speed things up and keep costs down!
- How to simply add:
 - Grain detail (Appropriate)
 - Peeling paint
 - Weathering – the silver gray look.
 - Interior wood –
 - Effects of elements – where you would see it – sun, water, dirt, wind etc. to your models.
 - Rotting wood – yes it does.
 - Bleached wood – from sun etc.
 - Weathering of stained wood. – different than painted wood.
 - Things that attack or attach to wood. Don't forget mold, plants, etc.
 - Where dirt, rust etc. attach to rolling stock and structures – just barely talk about that.
 - Dented wood – broken wood – burned wood.
 - Wood under water.
 - Doing all of this safely.

Before we get to detail

- Following are some very fast and simple ways to weather a few items. Later will touch on more advanced – and time consuming techniques.
- Start with freight cars.
- This can take less than 5 minutes per car.
- Go as far as you want.
- Use light colors on the underside to bring out the detail.
- Up front I have examples of the materials for you to look at.

- Freight cars.
 - Rust color running down the sides – any technique. Could also use Rust and Dust.
 - On ends same treatment.
 - Underside add some rust and some light colors (dust or dirt) keep it light. Will bring out detail on underbody and trucks. If using a black tone it down with some white mixed in!
 - This can be brushed on or use an airbrush – would not recommend a rattle can as you can't control it enough. If airbrush do a very light dusting only!

(next slide)

Freight Cars – Cont.

- With pastels, chalks, pan pastels, can be applied with a soft brush and rubbed in a bit. This gives you lots of control.
- Set with dull coat or hairspray – keep it away from wheels.
- Roof partly depends on the car and era – if steam you need some black for soot etc. But in all cases a bit of white to bring out the details.
- I will dry brush an off white on everything when done to bring out rivet detail etc.
- See examples at the front of the room.

Steam Engines

- Well here lots of white for the residue from water. It should run down in logical areas, by steam dome, around cylinders around the whistle, air pump, etc.
- Also on the wheels – they should be lightened up a bit.
- Rust will also appear but don't do too much for the most part railroads kept engines decent.
- For oil use a shiny black acrylic.
- Stains on the tender etc. Use a drop of water and then put in a gray or similar color just a drop in the center. Let it dry or for effect you can use air to move it around and let it dry. This also works great on tar paper roofs etc.

Steam Engines – Cont.

- Use the same (or similar materials as on freight cars).
- This is one place where I prefer an airbrush.
- Be sure to keep it off of the wheels or immediately after you apply the weathering wipe the wheels.
- Since these get handled quite a bit a clear mat coat over what you do is necessary!

Diesels and similar

- Same as freight cars in a way.
- There will be some dark streaks around the vents.
- Wheels should have some dirt coloring – underbody in general.
- Some streaks down the side – but not the water streaks and oil streaks as steam engines.

Passenger Cars

- In general these were kept pretty clean.
- But the undersides should have some dirt coloring or even some light rust.
- Roof could have water marks etc.
- Very light weathering on the sides and ends (usually).

Structures – my area

- I start before building but you can do after.
- For quick and dirty –
 - Start with a wash of India ink and Alcohol or Shoe Dye and Alcohol – very light.
 - Then use the techniques talked about earlier in freight cars.
 - Heaviest weathering towards the bottom of the structure.
 - For roof – similar for 1st step then dry brush on a light color (not pure white) and even some green to look like moss.

– In more detail – if starting before building.

Wipe driftwood stain or other stain method such as India Ink or leather dye on the wood

- Use a rag (Cut up T-Shirt), wear gloves.
- As an alternative use inexpensive paint brushes.
- Will demonstrate.
- Wipe 1 direction.
- Do not try to fully cover.
- Vary quite a bit!
- This must dry a few days!!!!
- I usually let it dry at least one week.

Next distress the wood

- Use distressing tool.
- E-Xato knife with #11 blade
- Wood burning tool for knot' s. I do this first.
- Dental tools – picks etc.
- Or even the file cleaner, or wire brush.

Mistakes

- You can learn from them!
- You can hide them.
- Don't be afraid.
- Get those kits out of the box or weather your ready to run items.

Handouts etc.

- There are handouts – consist of a packet of information including this presentation.
- At the end will be a list of sources for materials.
- This is a full update of another clinic given at the PCR in 2012. But this time with emphasis on easy!
- Goal here is for easy things to do and for the most part very inexpensive.
- Will pass models around. Please handle with care.

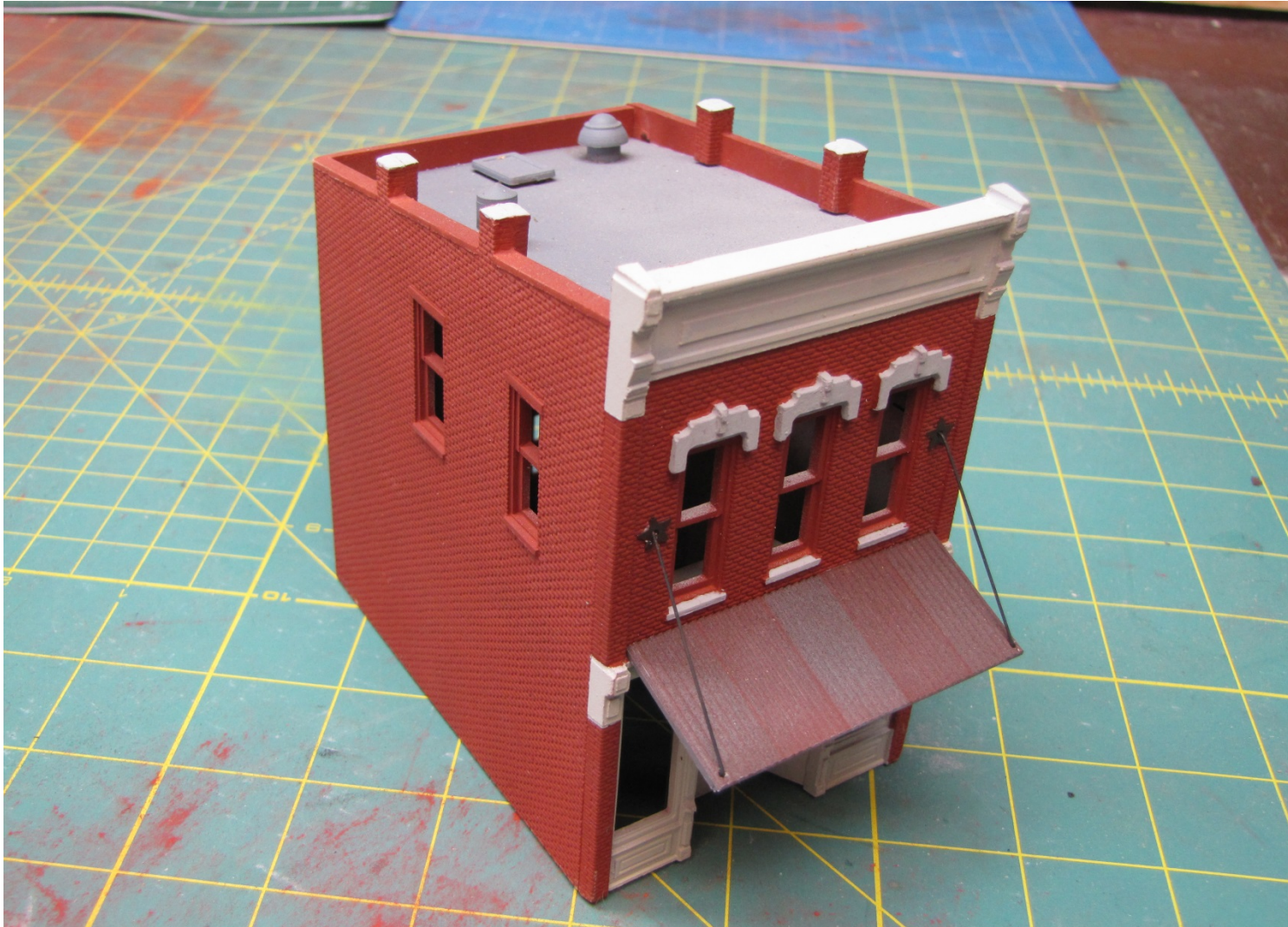
Overview

- Let me start by saying that 95% or more of what I am going to cover, I learned from others. Other 5% was learned from mistakes I made.
- Real wood doesn't just weather over time, there are dents, discoloration from water, wind etc., cracks, splits, rotting, attacks from plant life and fungus, paint chipping off, accidents breaking the wood etc.
- Special thanks to Mic Greenberg, the late Colin Emmerson (both close friends that showed me more than I could ever learn on my own), and the many weathering books and videos that I have taken information from.
- In all cases there are at least 2 references that I used for my techniques.
- Most of this is done before assembly of the model.
- I found what works for me but you may find what works best for you. Inspiration can be great! I will think up things to try at 2:00 AM.
- Most importantly have fun!!!!

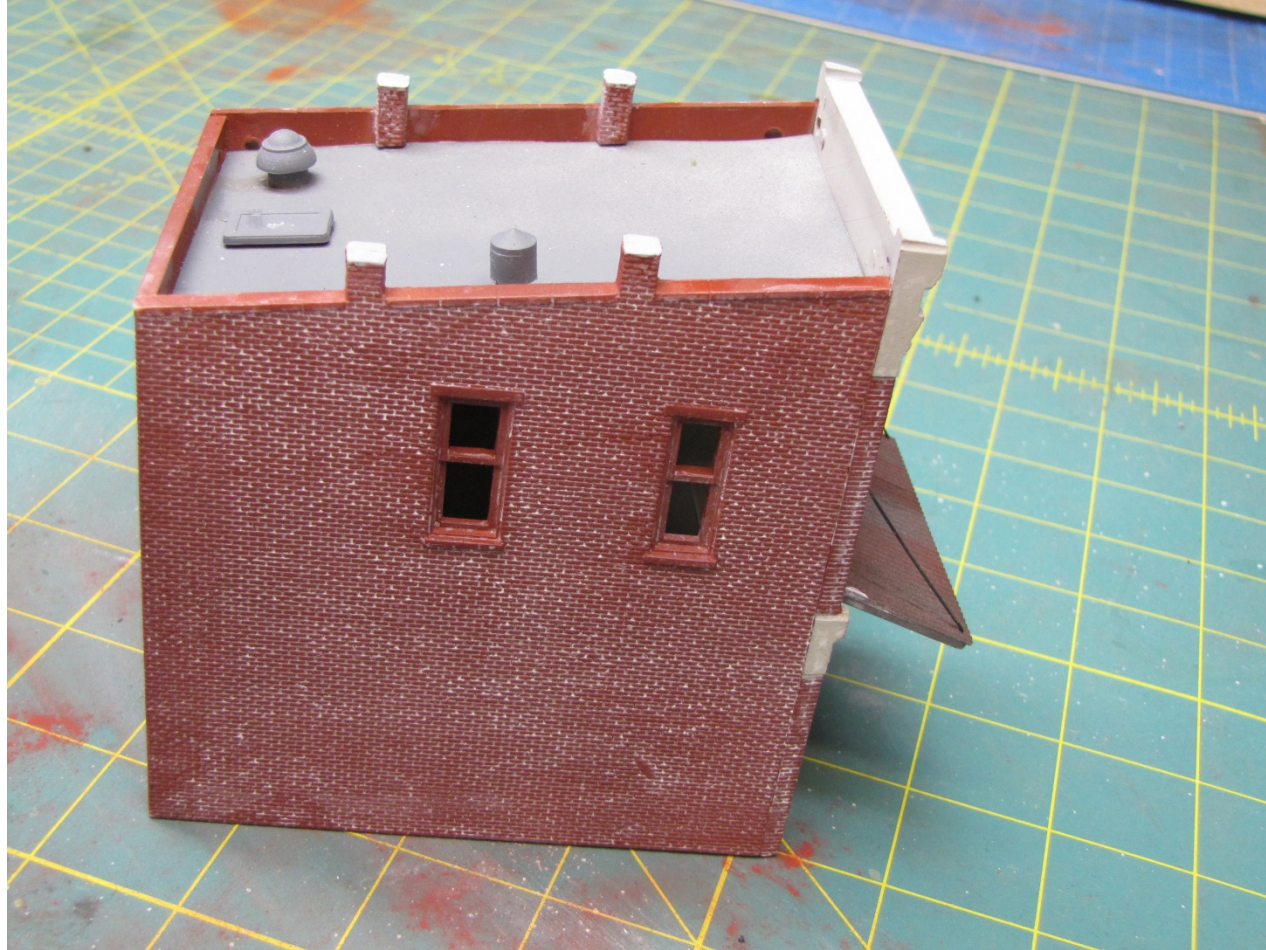
Samples

- During the clinic I will be passing around some samples.
- Please return them.
- I don't have samples of everything but a representative group.
- The following slides have examples in color of some of the techniques.

Some Pictures of Easy Weathering - plain



With Just Mortar added – After I would
do a wash of Alcohol and India Ink –
took 5 minutes



Boxcar – Pastels set with dullcoat 10 minutes



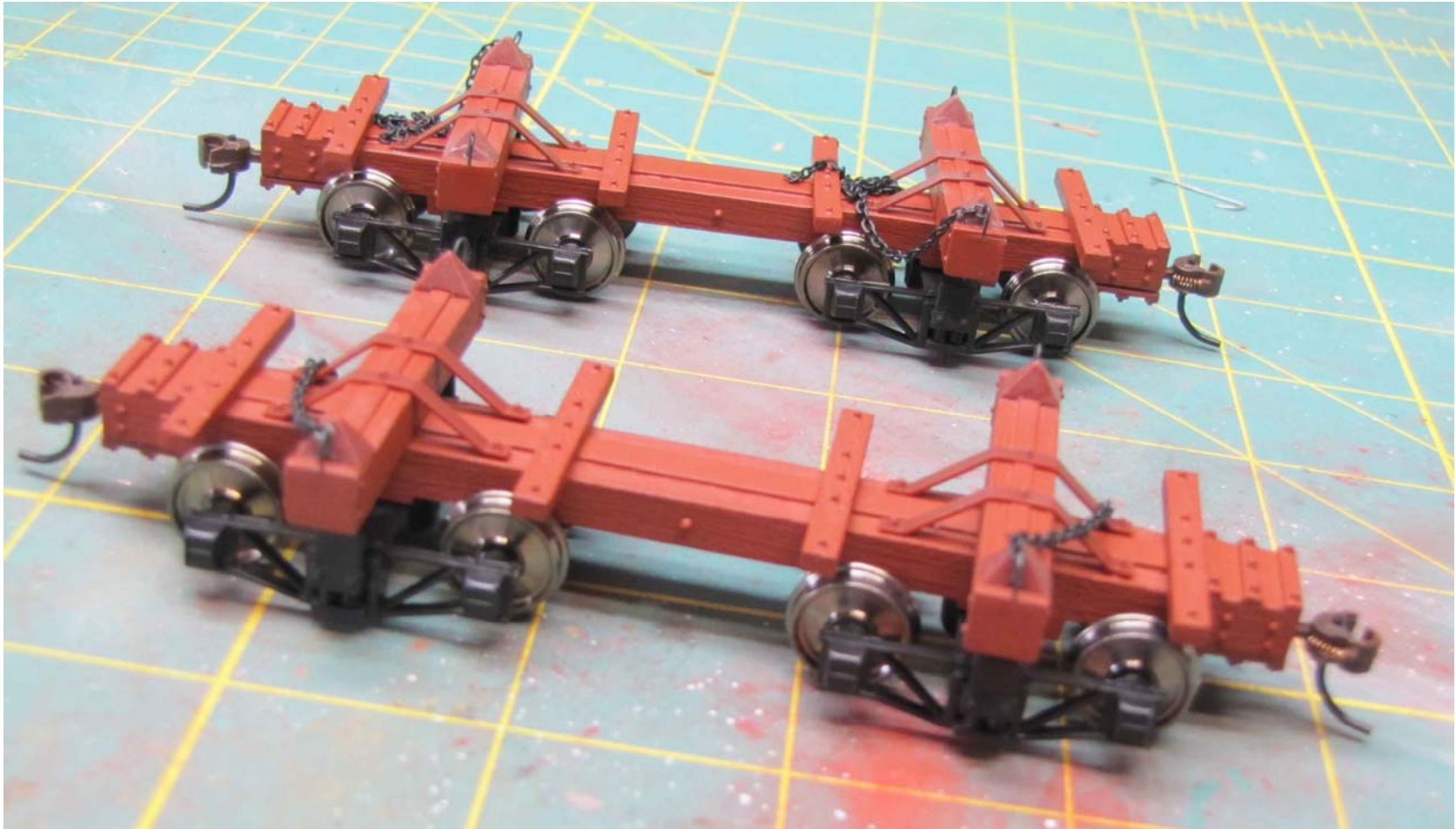
Trucks etc. Rust on the wheels
– brushed on – 10 min.



Front view



Out of box log cars – Bachmann On30



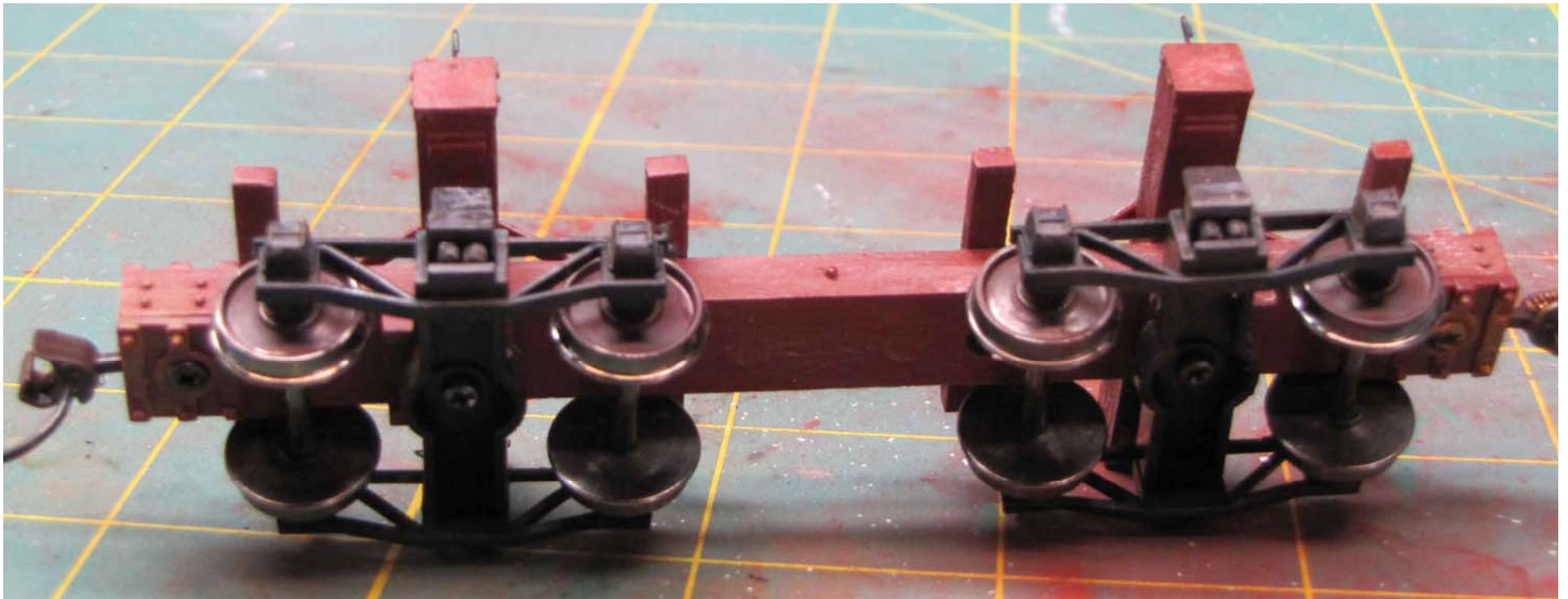
With Rust Pan Pastels 5 min –
set with hairspray



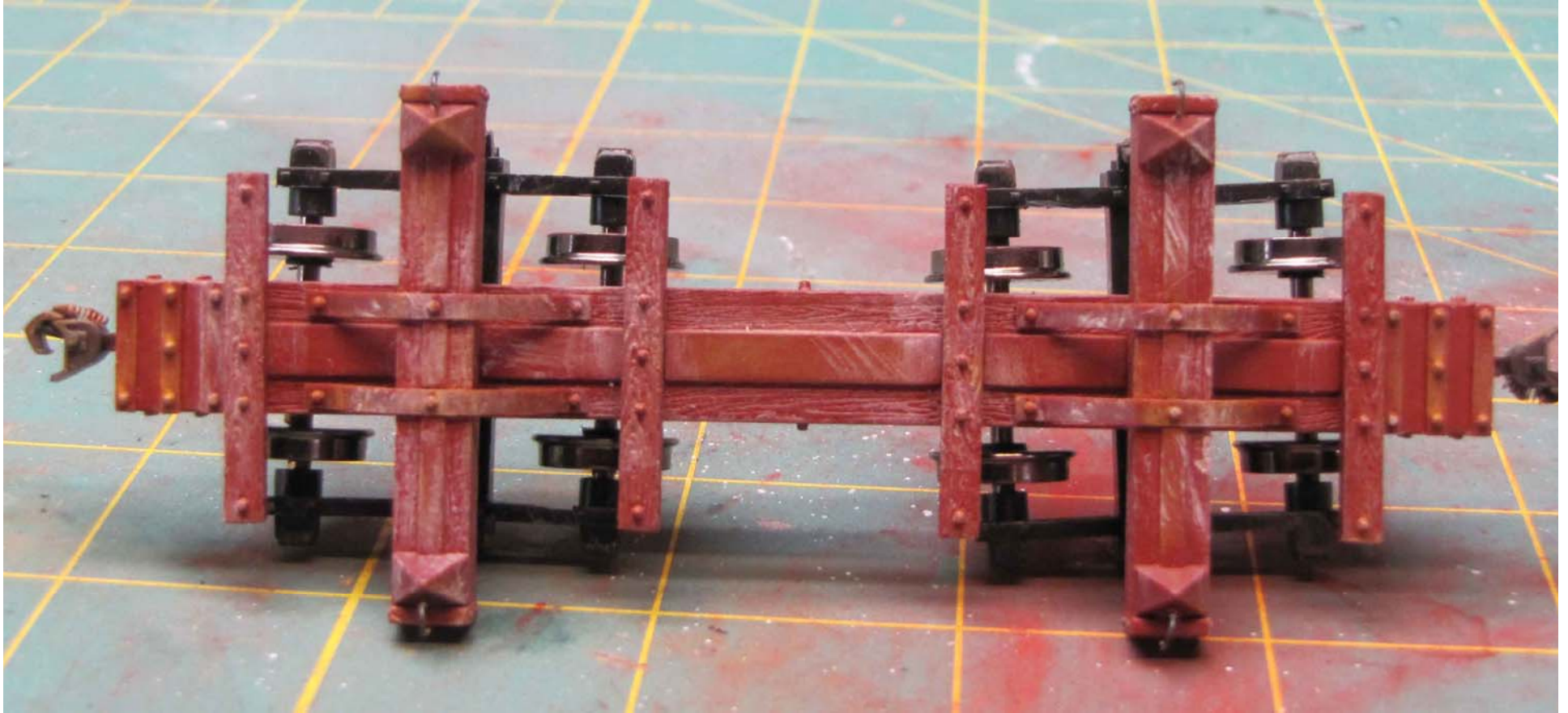
Darkened wheels – inexpensive
acrylics – mixed – 5 min



Underbody



Log Car top Weathered – added
in white drybrushing – 5 min.



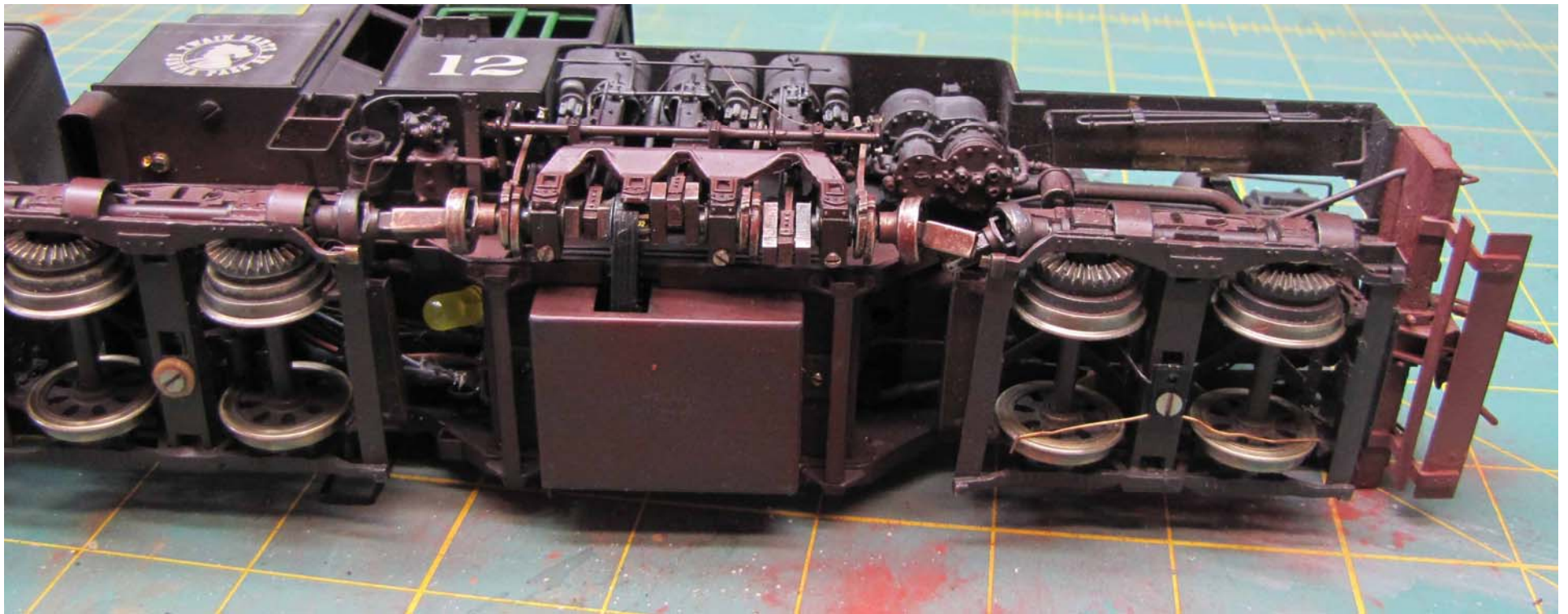
Airbrush White



Rust on side.



Underbody with rust.



Heisler Little Weathered



Dr. Bens White



Fully Weathered Chalks



Mack Truck – Rust & Peeling Paint

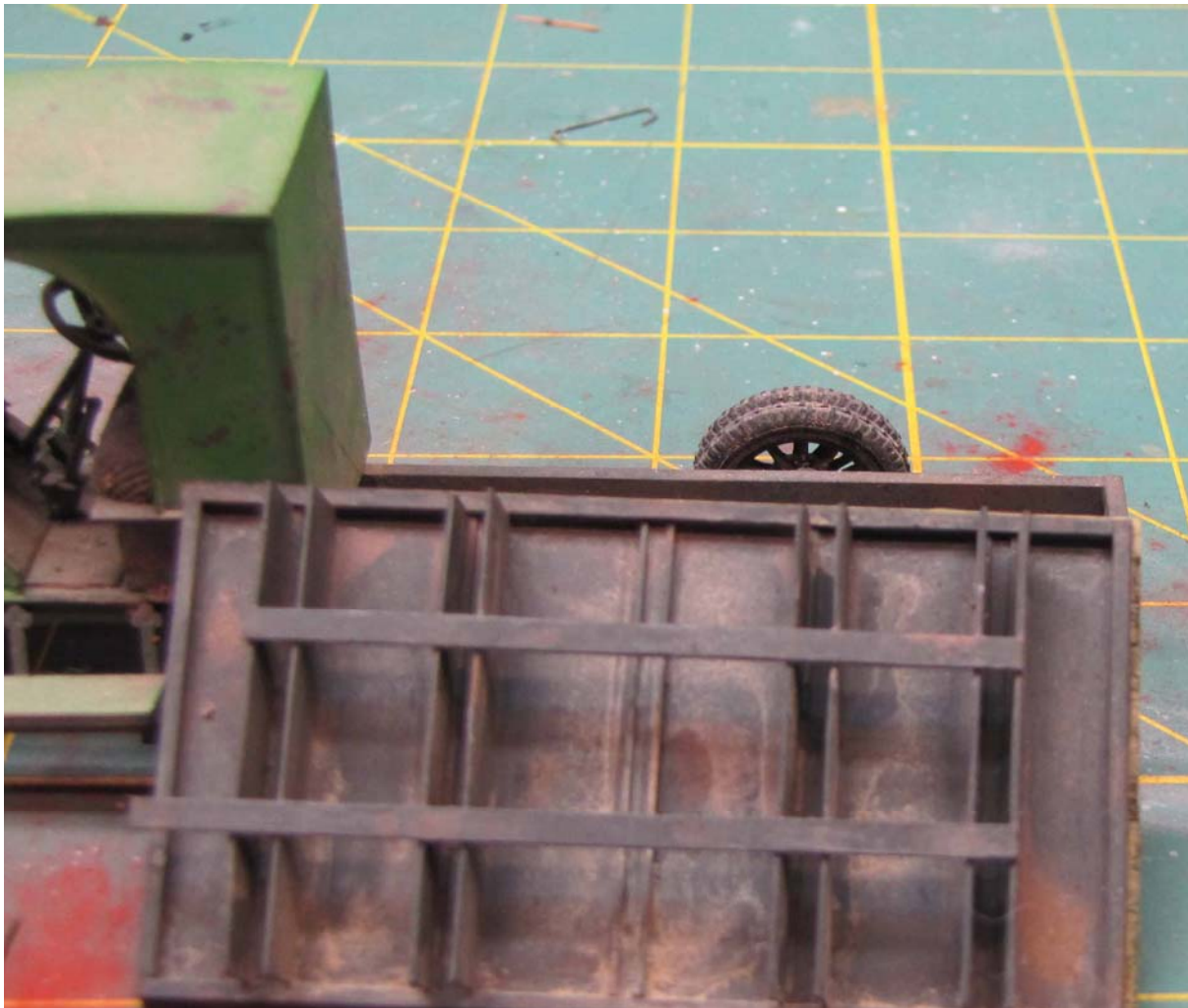




Can see grain detail on truck
bed



To get the rust running effect –
rubbing alcohol with a small drop of
acrylic rust – hit then with air.



Before weathering -



With just White Dry brushed.

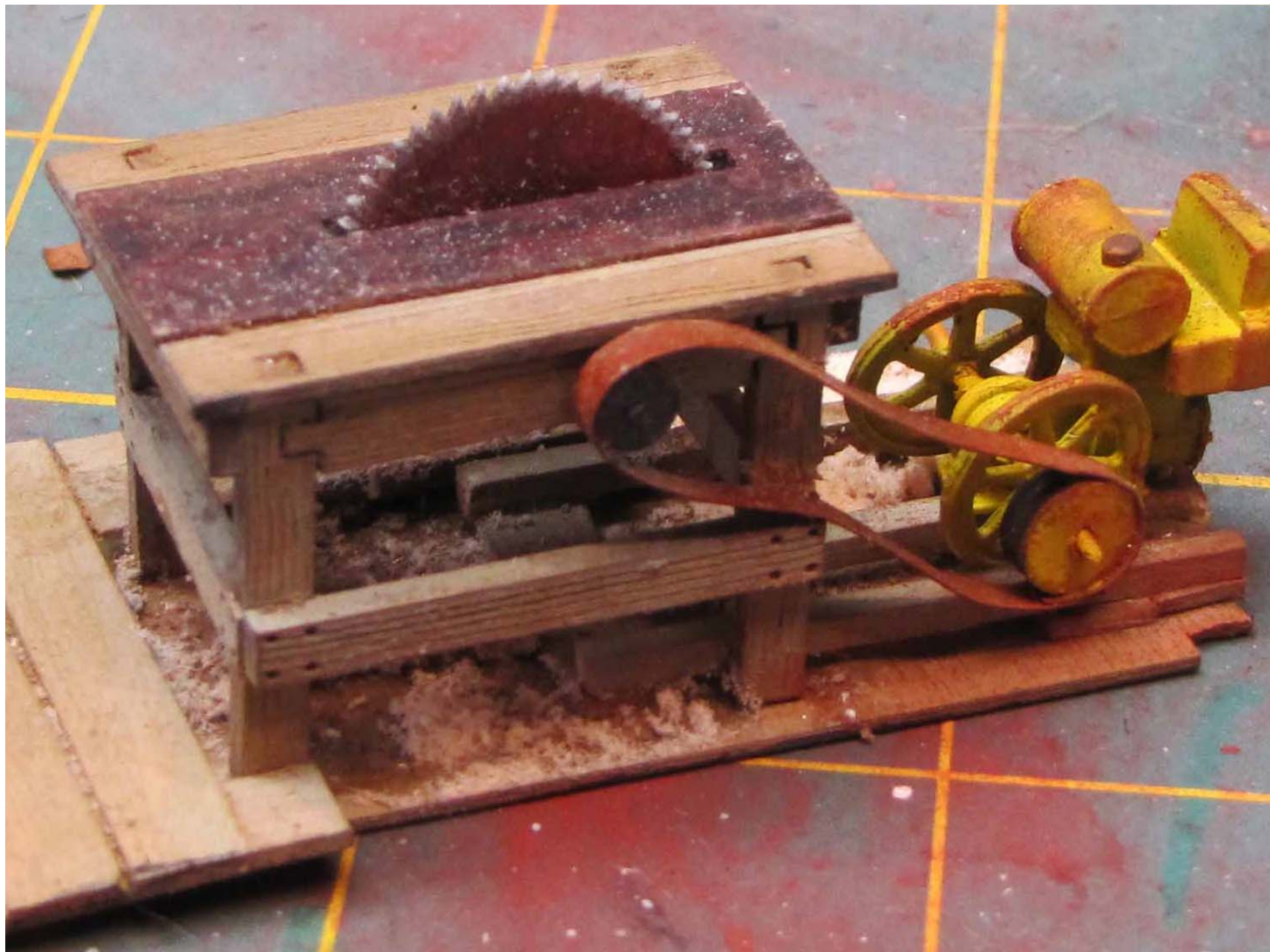


Rust and white – total time 5 minutes

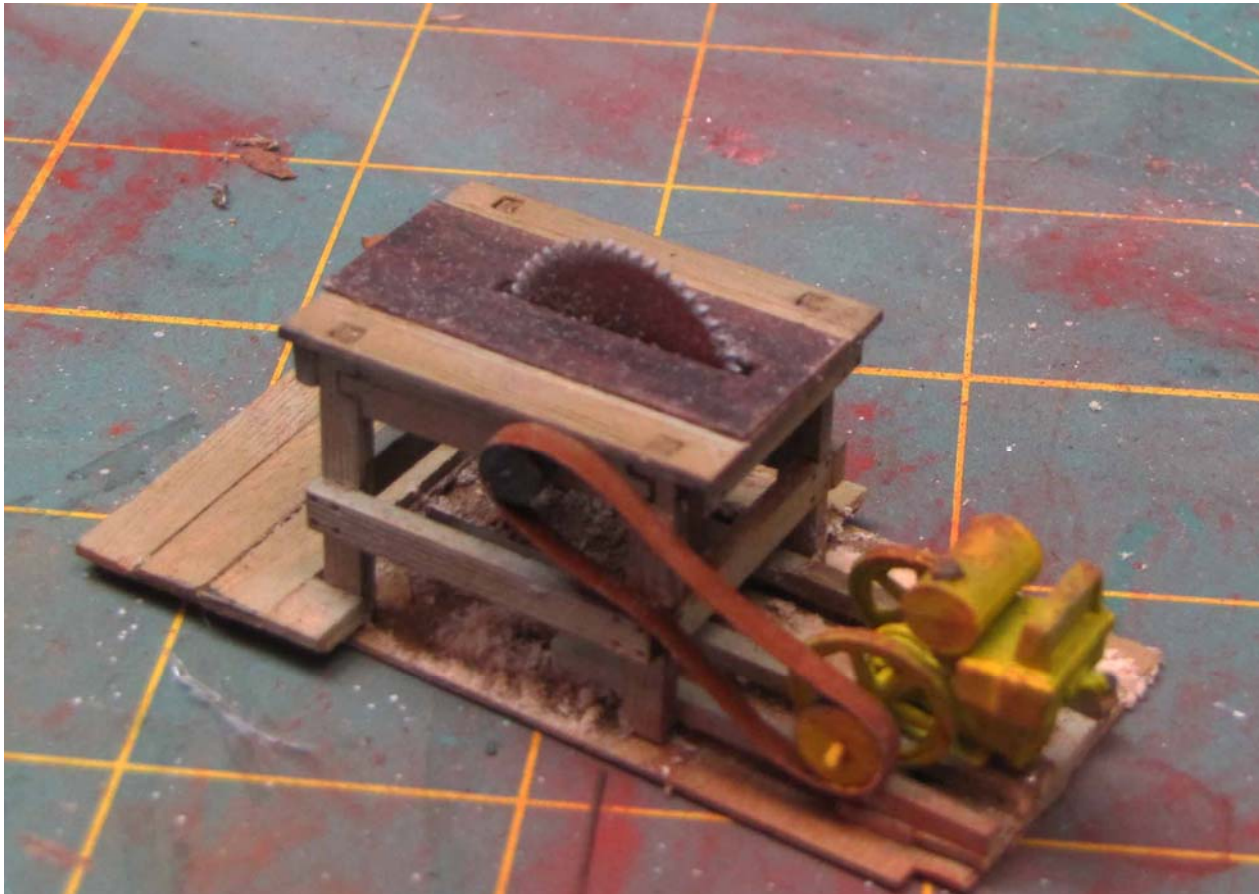


Simple 1 night project

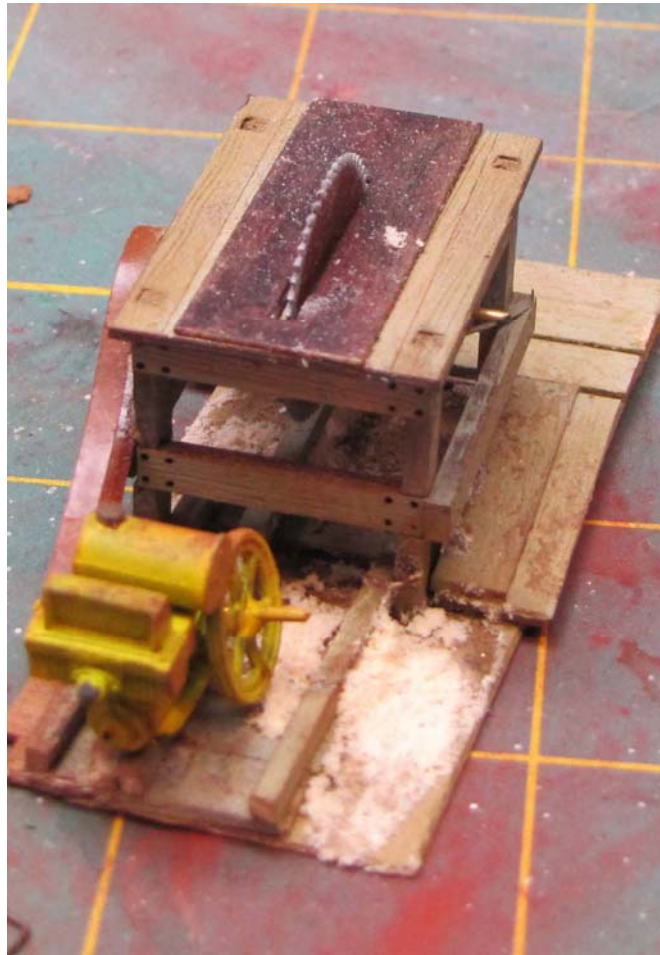




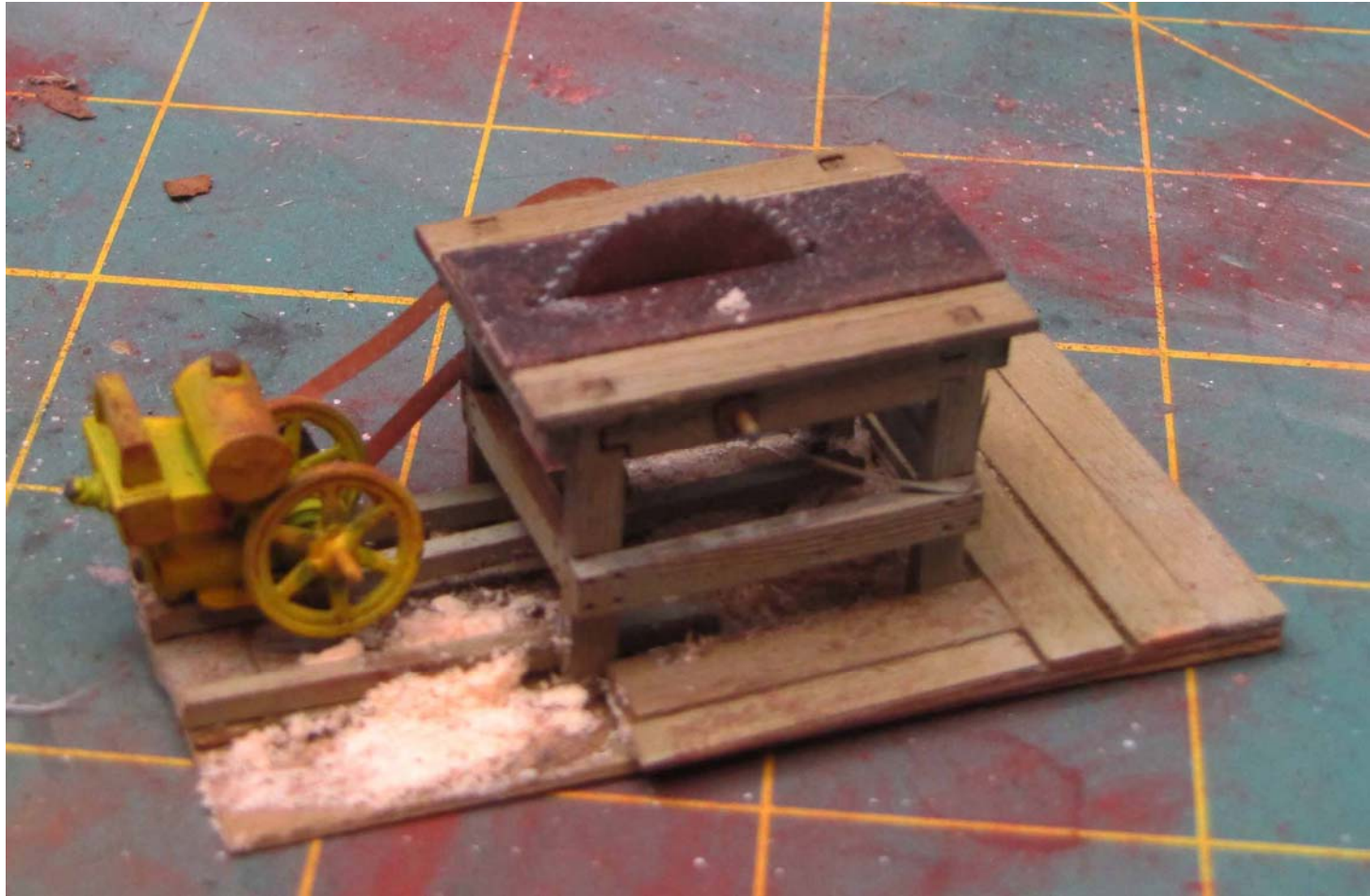
Sawdust from cutting wood to shape. Wood had distressing tool. Peeling paint – used hairspray method. Some Dry brushing.



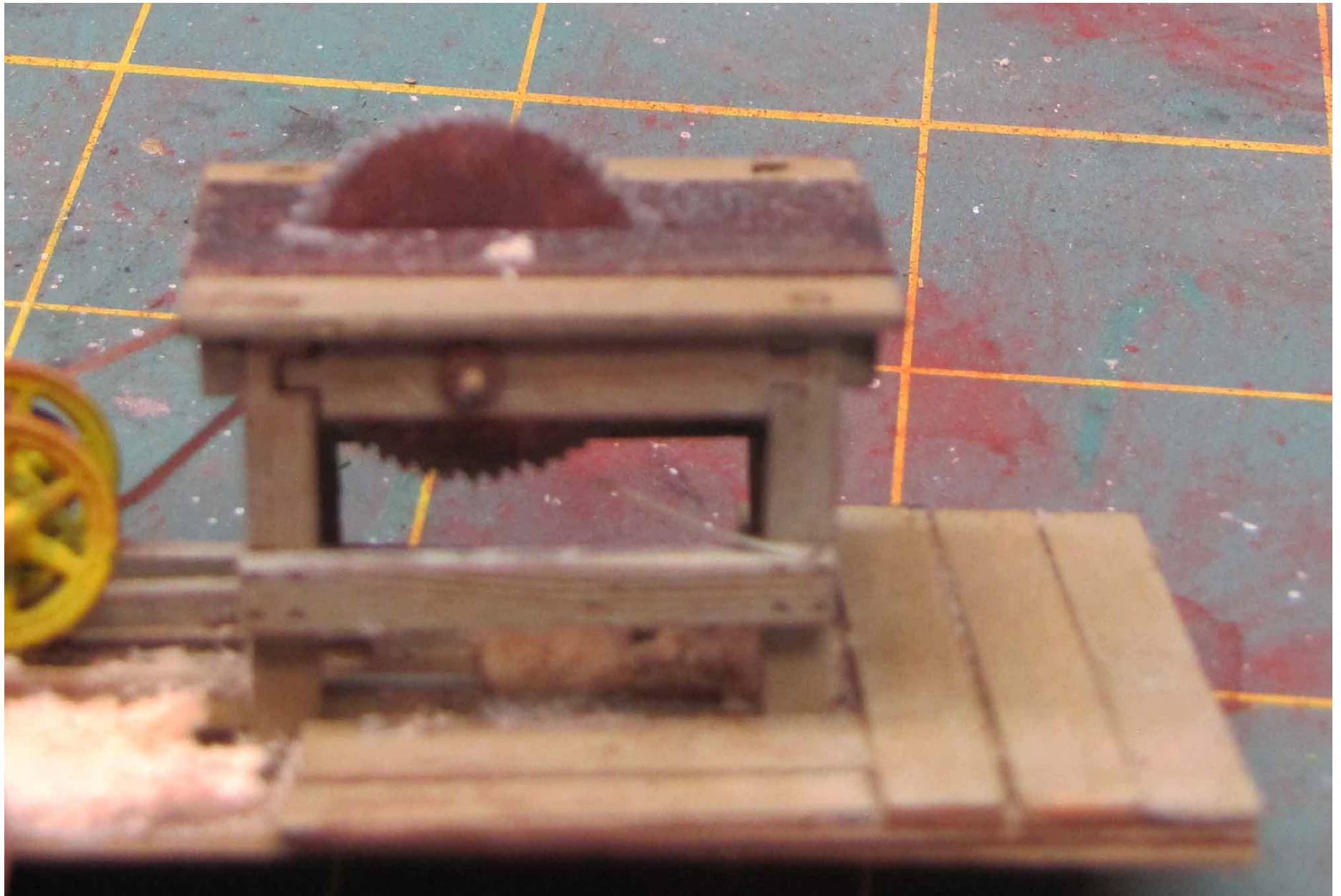
Notice grain detail – sawdust,
Rust, Peeling paint, Silver end of Saw,
Rusted bed and leather belt.

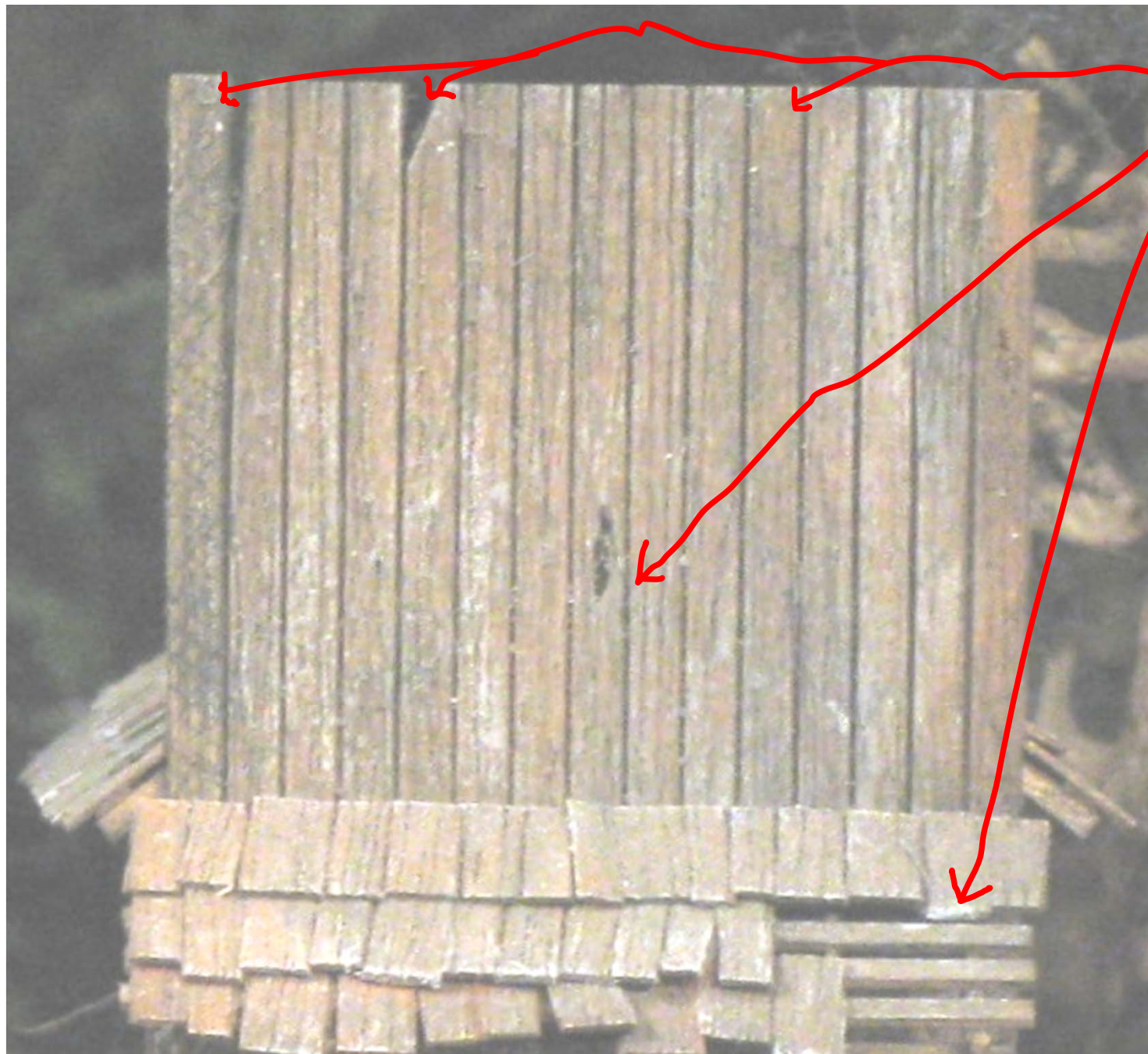












See splits.
Knot hole
Missing shingles
Lots of detail in
the wood and
texture. This is
an HO model.



Even nail
holes.



Dry brush
white as a
final step.
Did add in
some chalks
to highlight.



Picture rubbed into the side. Sanded on the back and worked in with knife and dental tool. Also missing boards and shingles show the interior framing. Offset boards to simulate too much use. Nail holes.

This structure done entirely with
Pastels!!! But not 5 min.



Following slide are more detail

- Please download the presentation for this.

Study the prototype!

- Go to the location.
 - Take pictures
 - Make notes
 - Colors
 - Weathering
 - Take measurements etc.
- If not possible then use references:
 - Books
 - Photographs
 - Videos – use them more and more now.
 - Internet – User groups really have helped me. Most of the prototype photos are from this source.
 - Museums
- Even eye witnesses if you can find them.
- This part can be a hobby itself or a hobby within a hobby.

Some examples

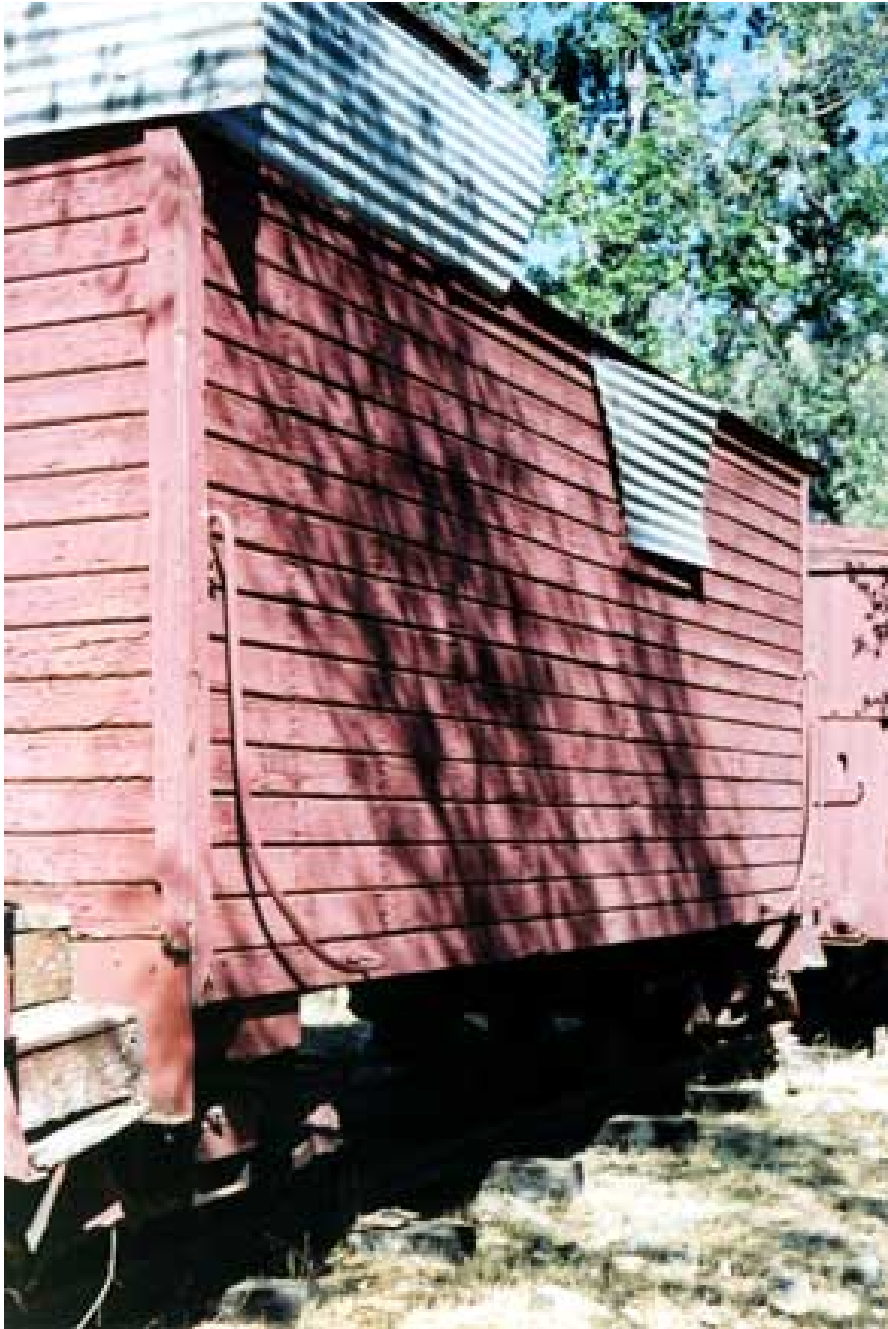
- These are from Westside lumber co.
- Notice the weathering over time.
- Would most likely not do as heavy but for some structures I might.
- First picture is the dispatchers office.
Notice the peeling paint and how the weathering is more towards the bottom of the building.
- Will go through the next few slides quickly to just talk about what I look for.
- I don't model WSLC but a private line (fictional) in the same geographic area.



Notice more weather effects towards bottom of building.
Peeling paint.



Notice grain on end beams. Weathered grey for fence and how rough cut the fence is.



Rotting wood on stair – rough wood on the end. Shades on the wood – paint missing in spots.



Look at the grain on the end board. Also notice missing paint on the sides and end.



Look at the end of beams on the plow – black color with grain.
Paint missing on the rest of the wood. Stains everywhere.



Look at the knots on the ends of this building. Also the foreground building the weathering towards the bottom.



Look at the color change from the top of the building to the bottom.



Water tank discoloration. You can get that with a white wash or even use bleach and a strong light source.

Make notes

- I suggest you write down everything.
- Now onto adding this detail in your modeling.

Lets start with Ready to Run

- This has become the main way most people model today.
- But the shinny rolling stock and engines just does not look real.
- Very easy to modify.
- Most of the time it takes less than 15 minutes per model to add in enough weathering to improve the look substantially!!!

Here are some methods

- Just washes – India Ink and alcohol or leather dye and alcohol. Higgins brand of ink works well – make sure it is the water soluble type.
- Pastels – can get these at any craft stores. I have some that have lasted 30 years. I use them quite a bit. Used to set with dullcoat – now use hair spray – works better and doesn't hide colors.
- Bragdon or other chalks – just like above.

Continued

- Pan pastels – used them on one building. Advantage is that they can be removed if you don't like it. Sealing again with either dull coat or with hairspray or other flat clear finish.
- Airbrush or thin washes of paint – almost a stain.

Some guidelines

- Go at least 2 shades lighter
- Don't do too much!!
- Use prototype as an example.

Specific items

- Freight cars.
 - Rust color running down the sides – any technique. Could also use Rust and Dust.
 - On ends same treatment.
 - Underside add some rust and some light colors (dust or dirt) keep it light. Will bring out detail on underbody and trucks. If using a black tone it down with some white mixed in!
 - This can be brushed on or (next slide)

Freight Cars – Cont.

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- Set with dull coat or hairspray – keep it away from wheels.
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Cars and trucks

- Should be similar to other items – but not too weathered unless abandoned.
- Just light weathering with airbrush or powders.

Rusted items

- This applies to even cars and truck that are abandoned.
- First paint a dark color such as weathered black or burnt umber.
- Then – one of the following:
 - Airbrush – a light rust – do not fully cover.
 - Use powders – pastels etc. lightly on item and seal.
 - Wet part of model – apply acrylic rust color – then hit with air. Do on a number of locations.
- Then do hairspray – rubber cement, salt, sifted dirt on model.
- Now apply the final color – very thin and remove as talked about before some of the paint.

Structures

- Following slides relate to structures.

Real wood

- While I have seen some very beautiful models made of other materials, for a wood structure, real wood to me still looks the best. But I have seen others do a great job with plastic or resin. Experiment.
- Some effects cannot be accomplished easily with other materials. Such as exposed wood, broken wood, lifted boards etc.
- Real wood takes stains well. I know others are able to simulate with various plastics but it just isn't the same look.
- For castings such as windows and doors I always paint them first with a raw wood color. Then continue from there. Floquil CN Grey is a good choice for the base coat.

Why detail wood?

- I like to see some depth in a wood building or rolling stock.
- If it looks too smooth it loses the real look and the feel.
- Even on freshly painted structures and rolling stock, variations can be seen. Nothing stays fresh looking in nature very long!
- It is fun and adds much to a model as long as it isn't overdone! That to me can be a huge mistake. And believe me I have made it more than once.

Some examples

- Both from the YSL – (I am a member) and from my own home layout.
- On the next slide – look closely at the wood detail – grain detail – variation in the paint etc.
- Board ends are fairly even but not perfect.
- Wood is worn in many places.
- It brings the flatcar to life!

Flatcar



Shacks

- Notice different colors and textures.
- Shingles are individual.
- Nail hole detail.
- Grain detail.
- Loose board modeled.
- Framework.
- Roof not complete.
- Windows open.
- Peeling Paint
- Knot Holes – now I do knots themselves – use a wood burning set for this or even an old soldering iron. For holes use a wood carving set and gouge out the wood – distress then use black and dark browns around it.
- Broken windows.



Open window and doors – peeling paint – These windows and doors work and are built of individual pieces.



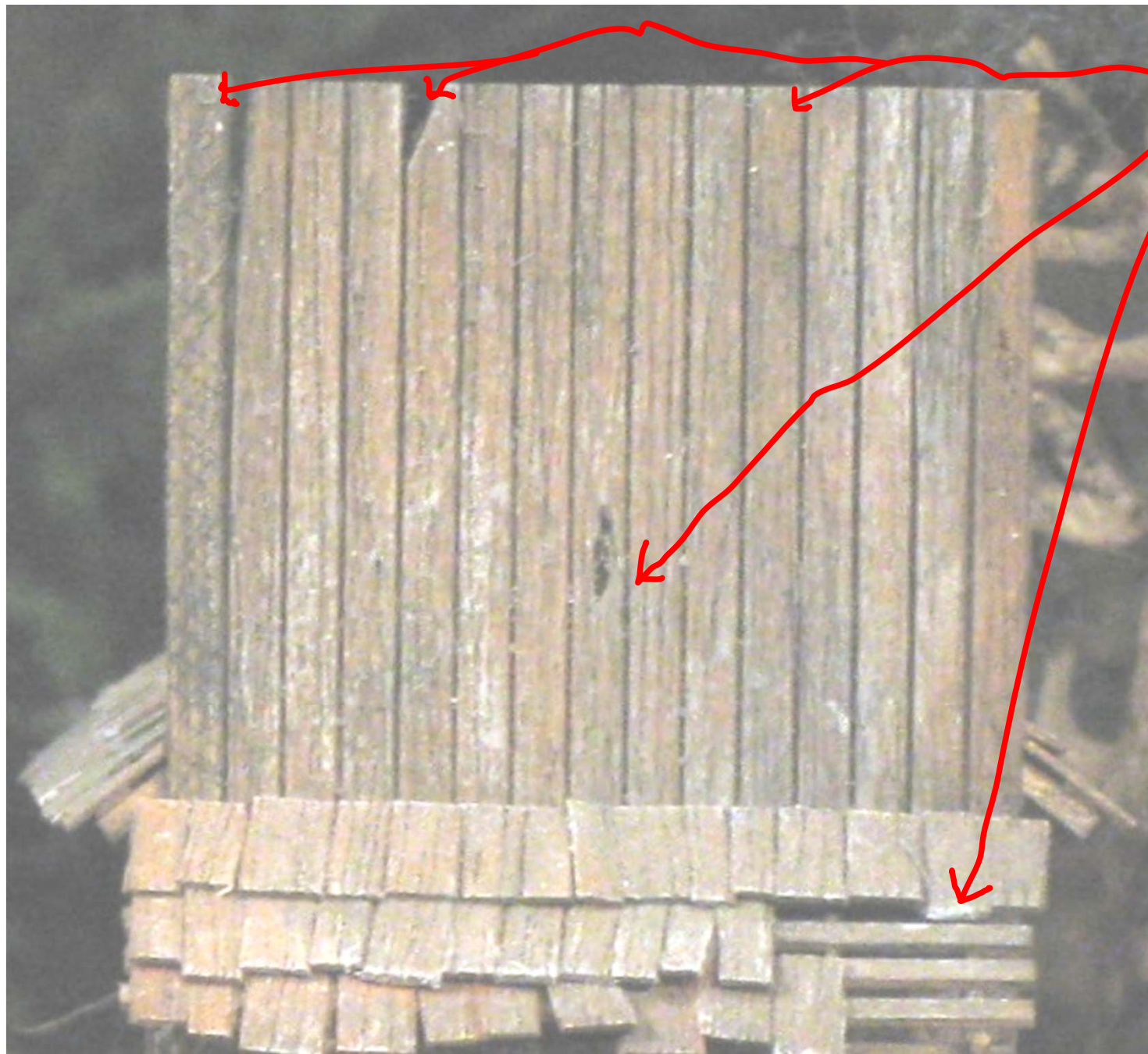


Overall effect of
rundown cabin.

Broken glass.

Interior framing

Broken boards.



See splits.
Knot hole
Missing shingles
Lots of detail in
the wood and
texture. This is
an HO model.



Even nail
holes.



Dry brush
white as a
final step.
Did add in
some chalks
to highlight.



Picture rubbed into the side. Sanded on the back and worked in with knife and dental tool. Also missing boards and shingles show the interior framing. Offset boards to simulate too much use. Nail holes.





Paint is there but more of a wash. Distressed quite a bit, nail holes, washes of thinned grimy black then dry brushing. All the detail adds to the effect even if viewers don't see it at first.



Next 4 slides

- Not my models but others and good examples.
- Notice peeling paint.
- White works well. Mic Greenberg used it quite a bit. One reason is that it shows up well.



Look at the broken boards. Your eyes go to that immediately. While this can be overdone on a door it looks right. Also lots of variation of the boards and grain detail.





Next slides are also on a display that I will pass around.



Raw Wood



Distressed Wood



Knot Hole 1 Wood



Knot Hole 2 Wood



Interior Wood



Interior Rotted



Black Dye Leather



Brown Dye Leather



India Ink Dye



Dirt Rubbed In with Chalks



Rotting bottom



Peeling paint on Peeling paint 1 - 3



Distressed Siding



Siding Peeling Paint

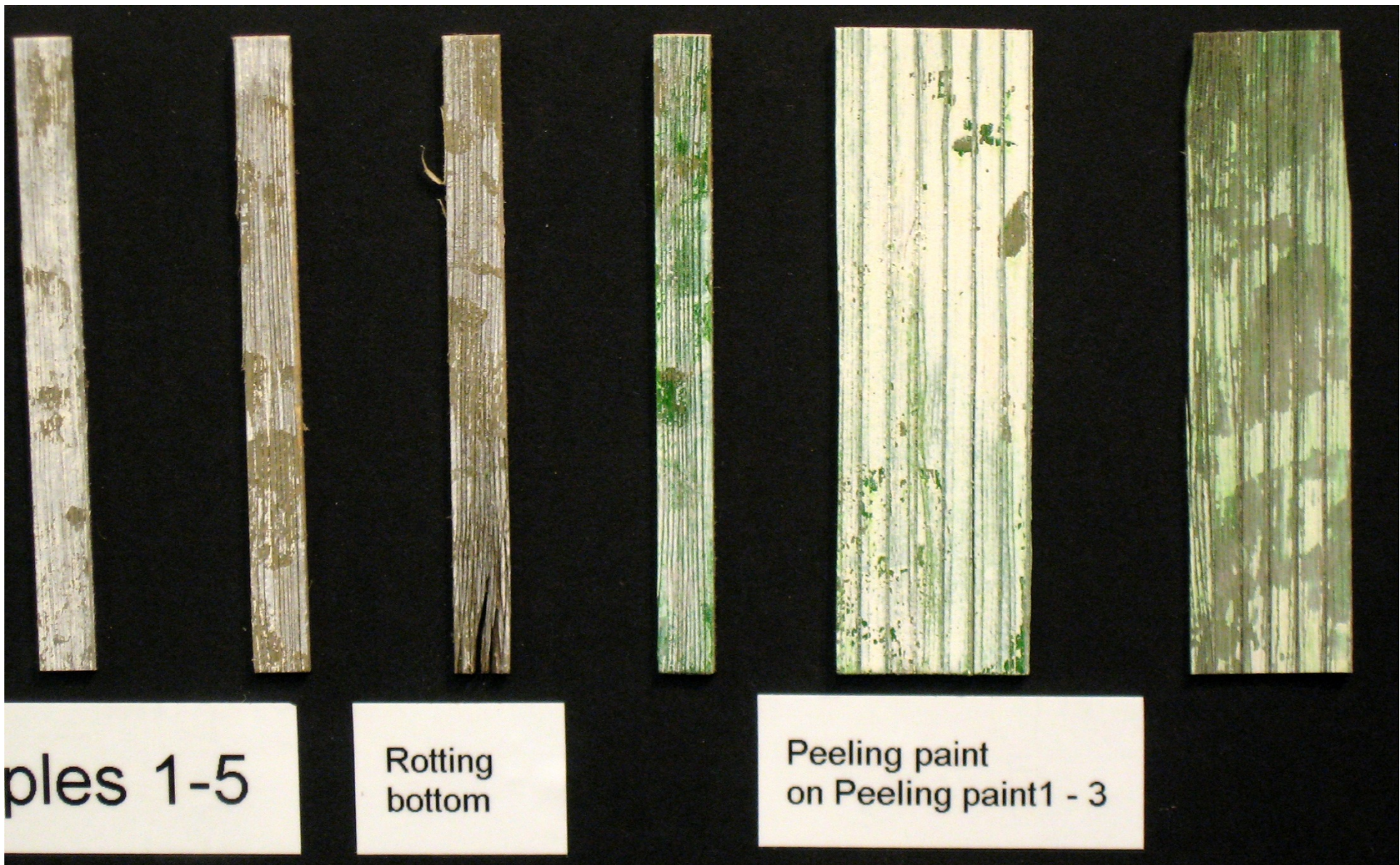


Nail Holes



Siding - Peeling paint on distressed - dirt and chalks rubbed in





ples 1-5

Rotting
bottom

Peeling paint
on Peeling paint1 - 3

Questions before starting

- Even with a kit there are a number of questions that need to be answered before starting your model.
 - New
 - Old –
 - Is it in disrepair?
 - How long has it been in use or service.
 - Has it been taken care of?
 - Era
 - Location (where prototype is located)
 - Climate (where prototype is located)
 - What is the purpose it was used for – rolling stock is obvious usually but buildings may not be. Make sure if you are building a structure that it fits your goals.
 - Will there be an interior – plan it right out. Much easier than later.
 - Framing – 16 inch or 24 inch centers for buildings.

Scale

- Plays a big role in this – smaller scales require much less detail.
 - Wood grain in Z would never be seen.
 - Wood grain in G scale would not only be seen but would look unrealistic if it were not there.
 - O scale, S scale would require a little more than HO scale.
 - But even N scale can use some to add character.

Must look real

- In order to do this, you must study to some extent rolling stock, structures etc. to get the correct effects that you want.
- While characterization might be ok for some it is not for me. That being said John Allen's work was superb.
- Just like in the movies or theater though you might want to exaggerate a little in order to bring out effects.
- Must fit into layout. For structures – work in real dirt and plants.
- Your layout or display is indoors (well most are) and the lighting is not as bright as outdoors. Always error on the side of too light!!

Planning

- Most important part.
- Answer the previous questions.
- Write out as much as you can for reference and to set a direction.
- Do not skip this step – even if building a kit.

Example of Planning

Tool shed goals

1. Must fit in a space no bigger than 4" by 6" – front long side. Includes any part of footprint. This includes deck etc.
2. Age – old 20 years or more. Very weather worn. Paint is beginning to wear out. Wood underneath split and showing lots of grain detail etc.
3. Board by board – with a full frame interior and floor. Floor will be scribed. Much easier and will look fine. Also unpainted but fully weathered – more weathered by the door.
4. Inside – no paint – will stain with walnut. Wipe stain.
5. Roof will be shingles – individual shingles. No gutters!
6. Windows and doors will be scratch-built. Large enough to see in.
7. Double wide doors – open – swing open not slide. Make them work.
8. Windows are double hung. Not working.
9. Outside color will be similar to Westside yellow with white trim. All peeling paint. More towards bottom of walls.
10. Peak on side.
11. Nails will show. 24 inch centers for studs.
12. Prototype built out of pine or fir. So knots are present.
13. Make roof removeable.
14. Interior with work benches etc. To be added after building is complete.
15. Framing 2 by 4's.
16. Siding 1 by 12's. Siding is horizontal.
17. Plans drawn in Visio.

Comments: inside wood and exterior different. Wipe them to get the effect.

Tools

- Most important tool for me is the X-Acto knife with a #11 blade. I get them by the box.
- File cleaner – for doing grain on large amounts of wood at one time.
- Wire brush for the same.
- A tool – will show you that puts a number of X-Acto blades (5 to 7) in at once. Easy to make. I have a number of these.
- Pounce tool (used in sewing) – also called tracing wheel.
- I use a drafting pencil for nail holes.
- Can make nail hole tools – will show.
- Various good paint brushes – and some inexpensive ones for dry brushing and other techniques that seem to eat brushes.
 - Good inexpensive collections can be had from Michael's Craft stores or Aaron Brothers. Get on both companies Email lists for sales and specials.
 - Even inexpensive foam brushes can be used.
- Hobby Ruler.
- Old T-Shirts – one way to apply paint quickly.
- Scales, squares, weights.
- Ruling pen – for applying super glue – drafting supply stores have this.
- T-pins for holding parts down.
- Glue applicators – work well.

Other materials & tools continued.

- Rubber cement
- Rubber cement pickup
- Chalks
- ACC – I use this very little but others use it quite a bit.
- For wood I prefer using carpenters glue or even white glue.
- Epoxy, goo, etc. can be used for special needs.
- Palettes for many items. I use tops of cottage cheese and other items. It is a type of recycling.
- Masking tape – can be used in place of rubber cement pickup.
- Blue tape for masking – don't use much but it does help
- Cutting mat – large one makes it easier. Good surface helps.
- Hairspray.
- Various brushes – some good some cheap!
- Blow dryer – for those in a hurry.

Paints etc.

- 99% Isopropyl alcohol with ~2 ounces of India Ink. Could also use 70% Isopropyl alcohol – I prefer 99% as less chance of warping the wood. Can vary this and I do.
- For interior wood use the same Isopropyl alcohol with brown India Ink (I found this recently – it works really well). The alcohol – India Ink mixture is really inexpensive - \$7 a pint. Goes a long way.
- If you can find it Floquil Driftwood stain – I have 2 pints left. Like gold to me.
- There are formulas for making it. Some better than others. My favorite is CN Gray with 2.5 parts thinner.
- Rubbing alcohol and leather dye. I have also used this – prefer India Ink.
- Various stains – I like maple, oak, etc. Can buy larger amounts of MinWax stains. Much less expensive than hobby stains – what Floquil used and rebottled.
- Floquil weathered black, cheery, maple, concrete, mud, etc.
- Grimy black – Floquil – thinned out considerably.
- Chalks – Bragdon.
- Powders
- Odd items around the house – salt, bleach, toothpicks (for knots and to apply cement etc. – be creative!
- Pan Pastels.

Acrylics

- The usual suspects are needed – some listed below:
 - Burnt Sienna
 - Raw Sienna
 - Burnt Umber
 - Raw Umber
 - Various yellows, greens etc.
 - White

You can buy sets of these from Michael's crafts – watch for sales and get on their email list.
- Floquil Poly S or other hobby paints:
 - Earth
 - Dirt
 - Mud
 - Others as needed.
- Tamiya
 - Love the line – too many to list!
 - Makes best primer (IMHO)

Petroleum based paints

- Testers
- Floquil – good for stains.
- Minwax – other stains
- Tamiya

Safety

- Wear safety glasses whenever working with tools, or with adhesives and paints.
- Work in a well ventilated area! A vented booth when spray painting. A mask at the very least!
- Wear gloves with any paints, solvents, glues etc.
- Keep cutters sharp! Dull blades are more dangerous than sharp ones. Discard worn blades properly.
- Cut away from you – not towards you.
- Work in a clean organized space. Use a healing mat to work on.
- Above all use common sense. If something doesn't feel or look right it probably isn't!

Experiment

- I am not the final expert.
- Try the various techniques, stains, paints etc. and find what works for you!
- Watch clinics on this topic. Lots of good DVD's out there on this. They will give you other ideas also. Darryl Huffington's are good as a start but also Paul Scoles etc.

Distressing tools

- I could go on for pages but here is a brief list:
 - Hobby knife with #11 Blades – other blades can be used for special effects.
 - Wood Distressor – how to build on next slides.
 - Dental Tools – dental picks can really work well.
 - Wood burning set with different points – great for knots.
 - File Cleaner – for files to take out the small filed items in the grooves.
 - Wire brush – don't go to cheap here.
 - BBQ brush – clean unused one.
 - Fine Toothed modelers saw blade – in handle.
 - Course sandpaper or emery board.
 - Other knives etc. I look for all sorts of unusual items.
 - Wood carving tools – I use these to gouge out for knot holes.

Wood Wrecker

- Have built one years ago. All use #11 blades.
- First experiment was to chuck 5 blades in a vice grip. This worked well as long as the grip was tightened up significantly.
- Then did something similar with 5 blades – bolted them together – epoxy over the none blade end. Modified a handle – wood handle drilled out to the size just over the end of the blades. Epoxy on the blades to handle.
- Used this for years – did every tie on my home layout with this.
- Handle was great as it allowed me to work very fast.
- Note – use safety glasses when doing this technique.
- I finally broke a blade – after doing the entire layout when working on an individual module.
- I have also modified an hobby knife tool to do the same. My son did this in school for a class invention project.
- Whatever you do dip the handle in something to provide a grip.
- The Maple Leaf Mafia Narrow Gauge modeling group in the Toronto area came up with a neat tool for scribing and distressing wood for structures and for railway ties. A description with my modifications is on the next slide.

Wood Wrecker pt. 2

BUILD YOUR OWN WOOD WRECKER –

Start with a 6 to 8 inch length of rectangular brass tubing by K&S or Special Shapes Co. It needs to measure 5/32" x 5/16" outside dimensions. Use #11 X-Acto knife blades. Some recommend using old blades – I have found that new blades really work best. You can buy blades in large quantities.

The shafts of exactly 6 blades will be an extremely tight fit inside the opening of the rectangular tubing. Use a block of wood or Masonite to force the blades inside the tubing, until they are firmly seated. I tape the ends together (point side). Be extremely careful - those blades are still sharp!! They can go flying so wear safety glasses when doing this!!!!

If you are nervous about the blades coming out, use a couple drops of ACC or epoxy to freeze them in the shaft. Now wrap the tubing with something to prevent the edges from hurting your hands. I dipped the handle in the rubber goop they sell at Home Depot for tool handles.

To use the tool, simply scribe in the direction of the grain. Because of the six blades, one pass will 'grain' an On3 tie, and the lines are perfectly parallel. Swerve the tool, or make a curved pass to get some variety. Around knot holes make sure that you swerve it appropriately.

Modify windows and doors

- If using castings – you can add lots of interest by modifying windows and doors.
- Have them open or cut out mullions.
- Even better scratch build doors and windows. I did this on the shack in the earlier picture. The windows and doors actually open and close. Subject of a NGSL article I did a few years ago

Bottom of walls

- Use the alcohol shoe dye starting at the bottom. Brown black mixture.
- Wet stiff brush – start at the bottom and work your way up the structure – be very random!
- Dry brush – well almost.
- Can then use chinks – again starting at the bottom.
- Start with a gray chalk (Bragdon enterprises).
- Then a rust or similar and lastly a black or brown
- I use a fan brush for this.
- Above anywhere that a engine would be running brush with mainly black going up.

Dry Brushing

- Use this quite a bit – really a lot on trees – will show 1 tree trunk.
- Get just a little paint on the brush. Rub most of it off on any porous surface – I use scrap paper and or a scrap rag.
- With most of the paint off go over the wood lightly getting just the highlights.
- Use mainly a white and then earth colors for this. White brings out detail on edges.

Other sources

- Magazines – NGSL Gazette my favorite but Model Railroader, Railroad Model Craftsman, and other outside MR such as Finescale Modeler.
- Books – Kalmbach and others.
- DVD's lots here, from Greenfrog, Brian Nolan, Scotty Mason, Dave Frary, Darryl Huffman, Paul Scoles etc.
- Magazines on railroading and structures – I even like to go through National Geographic.
- Use time while waiting in doctors and dentist offices etc. to go through magazines.
- Clinics
- Other modelers – my best source.

For interior wood

- Use a thin wash of walnut, cheery or other stain. Also can use a very thin wash of grimy black.
- The brown India Ink in Alcohol works really well. There is an example of that on the handout.
- Will also sometimes do light dry brushing of earth, mud and sometime roof brown. Very light. Make darker by the bottom.
- Anywhere above where loco's go use some grimy black.

Exterior wood

- Start with one of 3 silver effects:
 - Floquil driftwood – I still have 2 pints left – bought it when they announced they were discontinuing it.
 - There are online formulas for getting close to this.
 - Some using commercial paints some using existing model paints.
 - Or the India ink and rubbing alcohol. Vary the mixes.
 - Or the leather dye (black and brown) and rubbing alcohol
 - These last two – I have used but still prefer driftwood.
 - Following 2 pages show other formulas to get driftwood.

Driftwood formulas

- Thinned grime works well – experiment with thinner to grime – about 4 parts to 1.
- 2.5 parts Diosol, 1 part CN Gray with a little weathered black or grime. For closeness to Driftwood this really does work well. I also use this on castings for an undercoat – thinned just a bit not 2.5 to 1.

From another internet source – Maybe get together with others for this.

- Its supposed to be a dead ringer for Floquil driftwood!!!

Can you imagine 2.5 quarts (yes, i said quarts, not ounces) of Driftwood stain for under 20 bucks??

Start with 1 qt of Sherwin Williams "Pickled White" Interior Wood Oil Stain Wood Classic." Have the following tint added:

W1-20
B1-16
Y3-11
Y1-2

The only requirement is that the Sherwin Williams outlet you get this from must have the computerized mixing setup.

[This information originally appeared on the On30Conspiracy on August 7, 2000.]

In use, the stain needs to be thinned with approximately 1 1/2 quarts of Diosol.

Wipe driftwood stain or other stain method such as India Ink or leather dye on the wood

- Use a rag (Cut up T-Shirt), wear gloves.
- As an alternative use inexpensive paint brushes.
- Will demonstrate.
- Wipe 1 direction.
- Do not try to fully cover.
- Vary quite a bit!
- This must dry a few days!!!!
- I usually let it dry at least one week.

Next distress the wood

- Use distressing tool.
- E-Xato knife with #11 blade
- Wood burning tool for knot' s. I do this first.
- Dental tools – picks etc.
- Or even the file cleaner, or wire brush.

Wire brush technique

- Run a wire brush down the wood in one direction.
- Vary the angle etc. get variety.
- Could also use a file cleaner or BBQ brush.
- I like the file cleaner – but wear gloves. I have cut my fingers or hands more than once doing this.
- Good for lots of wood.

Distress tool

- I prefer this method.
- Again go down in 1 direction and move it around – will demonstrate.
- Can also do ends on flatcars to get grain detail.
- Works great to go around knots.

Add more detail

- I will not do all of the wood with the previous methods but will do some boards totally individually with an #11 blade. Put it knot holes etc.
- For knot holes can use the knife, other blades, dental picks, or wood burning technique – just started doing this and it looks great.

Wash of thinned grimy black

- This could be all you do to a model to tie it together!!
- To bring out grain detail. Very thin.
- May even use my paint thinner for cleaning brushes (this is what I and others use more often than not).
- Brush it on and wipe it off with a rag!!!
- Only want it in the grain.
- An alternative is to use the India Ink or Leather dye thinned with rubbing alcohol

Then add some color

- Using dry brush techniques.
- Poly S paints of Mud and Earth. Also some Roof Brown for variety.
- Don't overdo – just a little must be dry brushing.
- Again let this dry for some time.

Add in wood that is rotted

- Bottom of structure will be where this wood is located.
- Really distress quite a bit. Washes of Grimy black. I do in about 3 passes of distress and Grimy Black.

Old colors

- I actually start with rubber cement tapped on the wood. Let it dry.
- If the structure had another color or more of paint underneath wipe it on very thin. Or spray paint it. Don't fully cover!
- Then use rubber cement pickup, masking tape, your finger – or an eraser to lift the paint and rubber cement.
- I will distress again.
- Let this dry a few days.
- Then a wash of grimy black

Faster way for peeling paint

- Color the wood a driftwood or some other color.
- Use hairspray – let it dry.
- Put on final color (must be acrylic based).
- When dry to the touch but not set use masking tape, a knife or even some acrylic thinner. Will remove some paint. Looks great!!!
- This technique takes almost no time.
- See next slide for details.

- Preparing the Wood for Paint You can prepare your wood as you see fit, you can be as simple as just an Alcohol and India Ink wash.
- Steps with Hair spray.
 - 1. Apply a stain like Al or leather dye mixes Let dry
 - 2. Add wood grain a. Use the Dremel and soft wire brush to accomplish this, a wood wacker tool or X-Acto knife
 - 3. Final under wood color (optional)
 - 4. Apply another Leather Dye or Alcohol and India Ink wash
 - 5. Apply some light weathering powders (grays & browns) or some Pan Pastels
 - 6. Seal with Dullcoat or any flat finish.
 - 7. Adding the barrier, Apply the hairspray,. Make sure you apply enough, too light of a coat won't work ii. Too heavy and you get a "crackle" effect (which can be good. You can dry the hairspray with a blow dryer. Make sure it is dry to the touch Hairspray is water soluble, you will have more time to achieve this effect than if you used mineral spirits or paint thinner. You can also cover a whole wall at once with the hairspray.

- 8. Paint a. Apply paint.
- 9. Peel Paint - Once everything is dry and ready to be peeled, the first few minutes the paint will come off with ease... the longer you wait the harder it is to come off, eventually it stops (completely dry 8hrs) a. Use tape and Xacto blade to remove larger areas of paint. b. Once it seems dryer, and the paint doesn't come off as much, it is time to use the acrylic thinner and stiff brush i. Dip your brush into the thinner and start to rub off the paint. The harder you rub the more that comes off. ii. Once the paint is gone you can clearly see the work you did on the bare wood.

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Final steps

- Again India ink or grimy black wash over the whole structure.
- Then you can use powders for add color.
- I used to dry brush with white. I still do but do much less and try to get it so that the viewer doesn't even see the white. It is for highlighting.
- I lastly like putting moss or other plant type material on structures or mud on the underside of rolling stock

Final Touches

- More washes of both diluted black and diluted browns.
- Rubbing in real dirt towards bottom. Also underneath rolling stock but away from working parts.
- Weathering chinks – Bragdon and ones you get from powdered chinks.
- Put signs on the building. Rub them in and use a knife, dental tools etc. to work into the wood surface. Also, do washes over it like the siding. Want to make it all tie together.
- Plant material near the bottom of structures. Can even use to hide problems.
- Water tanks etc. Use bleach – spray it on – use high power light to get effect – or the sun.

Burnt buildings

- Use real fire. Be very careful. Scorch the edge of the wood.
- I have only done this one time.
- Then you can bleach it afterward for a great effect.
- Experiment with bleach – I used it on the roof on one of the samples.

Latest Technique

- Using pastels
- Use Pan Pastels. Great for undoing!
- Use high quality
- Powder and apply with soft brush.
- Fix with odor-less mineral spirits.
- Can build up.

Start with coloring base

- Rubbing alcohol with India Ink or Shoe Dye. Wear gloves!
- Let dry.
- Distress the wood.
- Add in nail holes like before.
- Then add powder to wood and use the mineral spirits to work it in.

Notice floor Variation



Knot Holes Etc.



Shading etc.









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