

# ***Weathering Steam Engines***

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## ***General Principles***



- Look at photographs - not models. Note the patterns and colors of the weathering. Historical Societies, libraries and internet sites are sources of photographs.
- Floquil Laquers applied with an airbrush are preferred. They can be removed easily (for up to three days) with thinner to correct over spray or mistakes.
- Weathering colors should be thinned more than base coat paint. Thin at least 50/50. Grimy Black used as an over spray can be thinned 40/60 or more. Other colors to use are Grime, Rust, Earth, Dirt, Sand, and other road dirt colors. The road dirt color to be used will depend upon geographic area.
- Use weathering colors in thin translucent coats. Do not try to completely cover the base coat with weathering.
- Use light quick puffs rather than continuous spraying.
- Real railroads didn't "dullcote" their engines. Engines that have been recently shopped should still have gloss showing.

## ***12 Steps to Basic Weathering***

1. Clean the model with Floquil Plastic Prep or similar. DONT TOUCH with bare fingers again! Wash latex gloves to remove powder. Weathering will highlight fingerprints!
2. Dry brush Rust on fittings, cleanouts, and around water hatch.
3. Place engine on track. Fix engine in place. Apply power and run at medium slow speed. Spray drivers while they are turning with Grime.



4. Spray Grime from below on pistons, firebox bottom, tender (especially leading edge). On the tender, spray Grime from a very low angle along tender side to highlight rivets.
5. Dust with Grime from above at low angle to highlight boiler details.
6. Use a stencil to apply Grime on pop-off valves, whistle, and clean-out plugs. The stencil can be made from styrene. Drill a small hole and cut a slit below. Move the stencil to increase the coverage area.
7. Spray Rust on front coupler and tender deck. Use a stencil to make rust stains on tender side. Slits cut in an index card makes a good stencil.
8. Place engine on track a spray Dirt on drivers. Keep angle low.
9. Spray Dirt from below on bottom details of engine & tender. Don't forget the pilot.
10. Place engine on track and spray drivers with Grimy Black.
11. Spray Grimy Black over entire engine to tone-down and blend all weathering.
12. Allow to dry a day or so. Remove over spray from driver treads, pick-ups, and the sliding faces of MTL couplers.