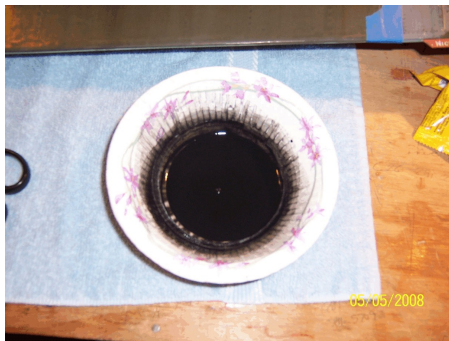


Written by Todd Burley

This is a short article on weathering a Warbird, or Civilian airplane for that matter. It is the method I used on my SisT FW D9. There are many different ways to do this, and everyone has their own way that works best for them. I have found a way that I like and works well for me.

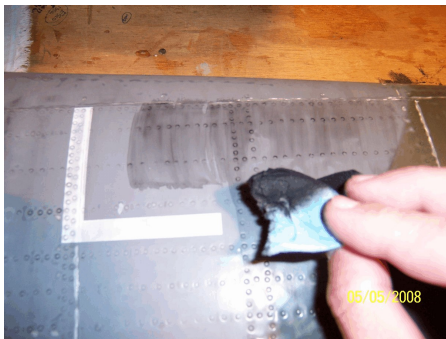
After the completion of your plane (glass, primer, details etc) I shoot the aircraft with an aluminum base coat and than the color coat over it. This way when I scuff down the color coat with either 000 steel wool, or 600 wet/dry sandpaper (I use windex as a lubricant for sanding) to bring out the affect of worn paint revealing the aluminum below..

Once you are happy with the worn effect from wet sanding, its time to add some dirt and or grime to the plane. I have found something that the model train guys have been using for sometime. Its called "Steam Power Black" by Poly Scale. The model number for this is



F414110 and can be either bought at your local hobby shop, or from Tower Hobbies. This paint is a water based paint, and therefor can be used inside the house with no worries of harmful smells.

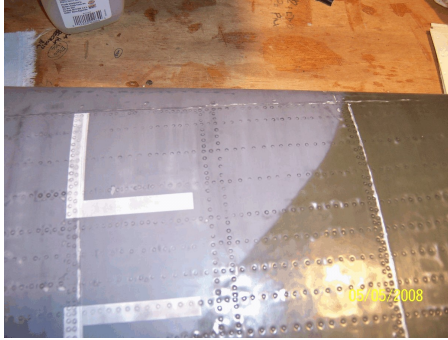
I thin the black with denatured alcohol. I use the alcohol as it mixes quite well with the black, and also "flashes" off the model quicker then using water as a thinning agent. I start with a mix ratio of about 10:1. I then take a piece of soft cloth, or shop paper towel and dip it in the mix. I test it on an area of the plane to see if its too black or not. Your looking for some color, but not too much color. If needed you can add some more alcohol to thin it more, or black to darken the mixture.



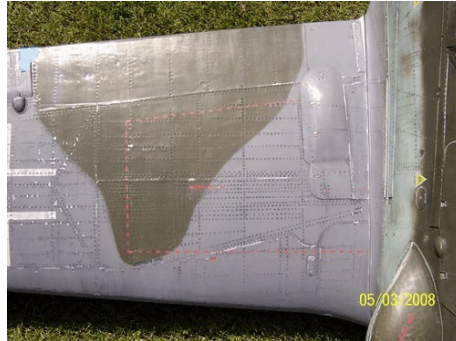
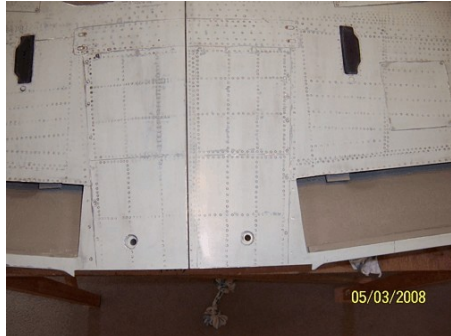
I then wipe this mixture on the entire aircraft. Front to back on the wings and stab, and top to bottom on the fuse and vertical fin. I don't do the entire plane at once, I will work in sections at a time. When wiping the black mixture on the plane, I will make sure I get it into all the rivet detail, hatches, panel lines etc that I want to highlight. After about a minute or less, you can then wipe the mixture off.



I will then take a clean rag, or shop towel and dip it in clean alcohol. I will then follow the above procedure on the wings and fuse wiping off the excess black. Doing so will leave the residue of the black in the rivets, panel lines and other details you have on the model. You can leave some of the residue as well streaked on the wing or fuse if you wish, or wipe it all off and leave only what is left in the rivets and panel lines etc.



Once done, I will then let the weathering I have applied set over night or a day. I will take it outside and look at what was done, and see if more needs applied, or in some cases removed. You can remove this material with alcohol up to a few days after you applied it. Also make sure to test using alcohol on whatever paint you are using. It is not aggressive as other thinners, but it can remove some paints. On my D9 as shown in the PICS, the alcohol did “thin out” the paint some, and actually worked to my benefit.



Weathering is time consuming, and can be overdone. It is best done to suit your needs of what you are modeling and your documentation thereof. Whether its for competition, or an everyday flyer is up to you on what you want your plane to look like. I used black here on my D9, but there are other colors that can be used to give different effects to the plane like using the base colors of your plane and thin them for your weathering. This will give an effect of the paint fading/streaking as well.