

The Many Uses for Pan Pastels

I have found that Pan Pastels have many applications useful in building our models. The many colors available can be combined to match almost any desired effect. In addition to being used dry to weather Rolling Stock and Structures, I have found them the ideal replacement for several of the paints we have used in the past that are no longer being produced. Below I will touch on six areas which I have found Pan Pastels to be the ideal medium to achieve realistic results, replicating what we see in the full-size world we model in miniature.

1. Basic Weathering.

Pan Pastels can be used straight from the container to add rust, grime, mud, mold, sun bleaching, weather effects or highlights to our models. On structures and scenery, the colors should be permanent without sealing. On Rolling stock or anything that may be handled a lot you may want to seal the model. Do Not Use Dullcote! I have found good results using Vallejo Matt Varnish that I found at Hobby Lobby. I thin this with 91% alcohol to spray. Use a ratio that you find works for you; I normally use 9 parts alcohol to 1 part varnish. I have also found this product good to brush on Dry Transfers to protect them from getting rubbed off.

Weather Effects

580.1 Turquoise Extra Dark

Rust

380.3 Red Iron Oxide Shade



Textured Rust

380.1 Red Iron Oxide Ex. Dark

Grime

780.7 Raw Umber Light

Mud

280.1 Orange Extra Dark

Mold

680.3 Bright Yel. Green Shade

Sun Bleaching

820.5 Neutral Grey



2. Stone and Brick.

I have found that coloring stone, concrete and brick are great candidates for the use of Pan Pastels. They will go on plaster cast walls with no prep needed. On stone walls I take a micro brush and work a dark color, either black or gray, into the mortar joints and then color each stone with dry color making sure to use three or four different colors randomly across the wall. I use an old, stiff, flat brush to apply the colors dry making no effort to clean the brush between colors. Use colors that match the stone used in the area that you model. Pictures of buildings or retaining walls are good modeling tools. Brick walls are done the same way as stone. The technique can also be used on plastic structures, but the walls need to be primed first. I use Tamiya primer for its ability to lay down and not hide details. Pricy, but a great product.

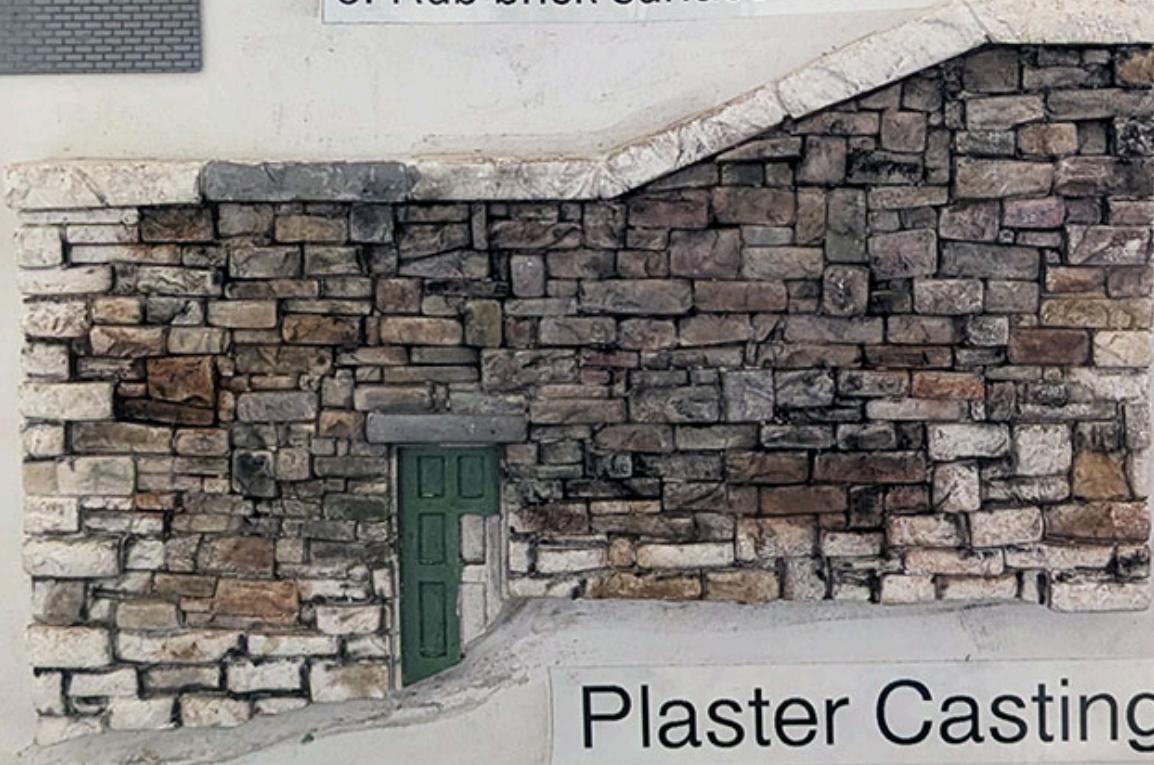
3. Staining Wood.

In building Craftsman type kits, or Scratch Building you will usually have wood components requiring some paint or coloring. If you are looking for an aged look, depending on your scale, you will want to distress the wood before applying color. I will then apply dry Pan Pastels with either a stiff brush or a Sofit Tool rubbed on the wood in the direction of the grain. I will try to do several pieces of wood before going back for more pigment. This gives some individuality to each piece. I will sometimes follow this step with a wash



Plastic Brick Sheet

1. Prime with TAMIYA gray
2. Apply 380.3 Red Iron Oxide Shade
3. Seal with Acrylic Poly
4. Apply 580.1 Turquoise Extra Dark for shadows.
5. Apply 820.5 Neutral Grey
6. Rub brick surface with Art Eraser.



Plaster Casting

Staining Wood

Textured

Pan Pastels applied with sponge

Thined Hunterline Stain applied to enhance grain

of diluted Hunterline Stain. Cordovan Brown is a good color for this to bring out the graining that was done prior to adding color.

4. Painting Details.

Painting detail castings is where I have found the use of Pan Pastels to be a great replacement for the model paints that are no longer made. Using them is quite simple. Add Alcohol. I use 91% alcohol from the drug store. It is readily available (except for the early days of Covid), relatively cheap, and dries in seconds. The colors can be applied to resin, white metal, 3D printed or plastic parts, just prime all parts first. Painting is not limited to castings. You can also paint vehicles, figures etc. Colors can be mixed to make touch up paint for rolling stock or structures.

5. Metal Roofs and Siding.

Some of the best roof coloring results that I have obtained is using dry Pan Pastels and spraying the roof with a liberal coat of alcohol. This works well on shingle or tar paper roofs to indicate dirt and grime streaking. Where it really makes a stunning presentation is on an old, corrugated metal roof. Apply rust and black colors to the gray primed roof panels after they have been put on the building. Then spray with alcohol and watch the colors run into the seams between

Painting Details



Grant Line Plastic Windows



Plaster Casting



Resin Castings

Roofs



Old Metal Roof



Aged Metal Roof



Shingle Roof

Stencils

K & E V R Y

K & E V R Y



1 2 3

panels and onto the ground below. Let dry and do any touch up needed. This can also be done to panels on the sides of buildings.

6. Stencils.

Using Pan Pastels to create the lettering on the sides of buildings, storage tanks or even rolling stock is another use for this medium. I cut stencils on a Cricut Cutter, using their removable adhesive vinyl sheets. Apply the stencil to the area where the lettering is being applied, making sure to seal around the edges of each letter pressing down on the stencil with a stiff object. I then take a clean stiff brush and dab the Pan Pastel onto the area of the lettering, not in a side-to-side brushing but a straight on dabbing to keep from forcing any color under the stencil edges. Remove the stencil and apply any streaking you may want.

In conclusion, I hope that I have been able to introduce you to a very versatile product that you can add to your modeling arsenal. I have found that using Pan Pastels has speeded up and enhanced my model building. I hope that you will find the same and share your results with the modeling community. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the late Roger Malinowski of Stone Creek Designs for introducing me to Pan Pastels.

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