



Model built, Painted and Scratch-Brush Weathered by our gal Keren back in 1985, before she married Jimmy!

The "S" Scale Narrow Gauge "3000 Class" Box Car above exemplifies the capabilities of the "Scratch Brush Weathering" technique.. More photos of this and other contest quality models can be seen on our web site at www.p-b-l.com.. (Click on "Rolling Stock"..) STAR BRAND PAINTS lend themselves nicely to this technique because they are fast drying..

STAR BRAND PAINTS ARE SOLVENT BASED.

Whatever a label might say on it, you can bet that most paints are NOT environmentally friendly, so use adequate precautions with any of them!

STAR BRAND PAINTS are a "lacquer type" paint not unlike that used by automotive paint and body shops ever since automobiles came on the scene.. Paint and body guys use respirators and spray booths when spraying paints.. And while a decent spray booth might set you back a couple hundred bucks, when compared to the value of your LIFE, that's a pretty cheap investment.. Besides, it should last you a lifetime.. So the bottom line here is: **ALL PAINTS MUST BE USED AS DIRECTED!**

STAR BRAND PAINTS ARE COMPATIBLE WITH MOST PLASTICS.

However, before you rush right out and blow a bunch on that contest model you've spent months on, try spraying some on an area, or a piece of scrap of the same material.. There are, unfortunately, exceptions to most rules.. Better to be safe than sorry..

STAR BRAND PAINTS ARE FORMULATED FOR AIR BRUSHING.

They respond well to fast wet coats, although light misting works also. One coat will usually cover just fine.. They dry very quickly, yet by adding a small amount of retarder, will flow out nicely before drying, resulting in a smooth professional finish.. **And they don't obliterate fine details!**

STAR BRAND PAINTS REQUIRE THINNING

Though formulated for airbrush spraying, the paint is too thick for an airbrush as it comes in the jar.. The upside of this is twofold: 1.) You'll be able to "adjust" your paint to best suit your environment and circumstances and 2.) There's a lot more useable material in each jar! Not a bad trade off, eh?

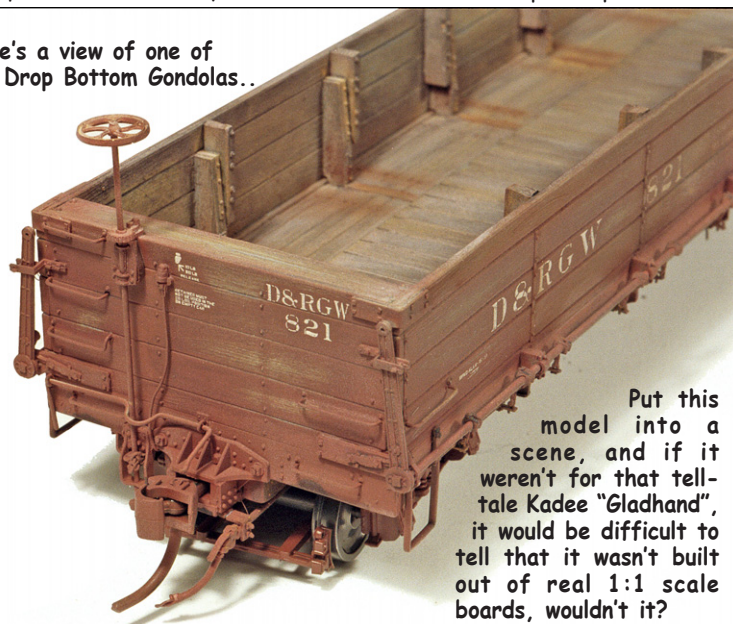
EXPERIMENT!

A safe place to start would be with a 70% paint, 30% thinner mix, and 18-20 psi at your airbrush.. Then, depending on the humidity in your area, the ambient temperature, and the type of airbrush you're using, you may or may not need to add more thinner, or a drop or two of retarder to the mix..

BUT REMEMBER: If you DO use Retarder, the more you use, the longer the paint will take before it's dry, and the more the paint will "flow out".. (This also affects the degree of "sheen" of the paint itself.. The "drier" it's applied, the flatter the finish will appear to the eye..)

Experiment on scrap material until you're comfortable with the technique you've developed..

Here's a view of one of our Drop Bottom Gondolas..



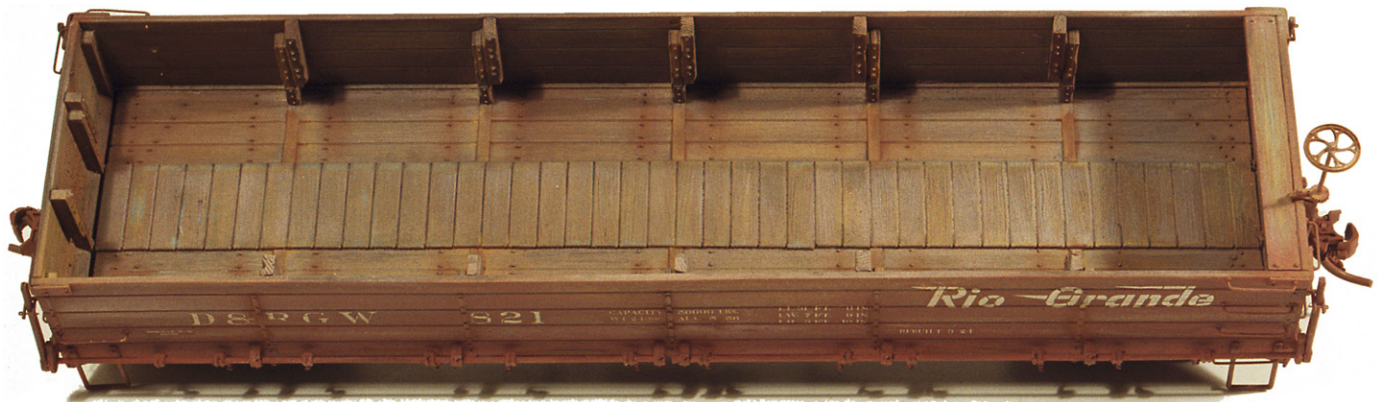
Put this model into a scene, and if it weren't for that tell-tale Kadee "Gladhand", it would be difficult to tell that it wasn't built out of real 1:1 scale boards, wouldn't it?

The "SCRATCH BRUSH" WEATHERING" Technique ...

Many modelers have had great success using Star Brand Paints along with our #810 Weathering Brush outfits.. A number of them have even won National Contests with entries using these techniques!

If you intend to "Scratch Brush Weather" your model, you'll want to peruse the steps that follow.. However, keep in mind that many times railroad cars appeared to be in tip top shape, with only slight surface weathering visible.. If this is the effect you're after, our first inclination would be to leave the bare (gray) plastic as it is, and just spray the proper topcoat color over it.. Then, any scratch brushing you do thereafter will net the appearance of weathered boards because of the grey plastic showing through. You can try that, or you can:





P-B-L "Drop Bottom Gon" - An injection moulded plastic model kit weathered using the "Scratch Brush" technique.

USING THE "WEATHERING BRUSH" TECHNIQUE:

This idea is based on an article that appeared in the 7/82 issue of Bob Brown's **NARROW GAUGE & SHORT LINE GAZETTE** which we have modified slightly for use with "STAR BRAND" paints..

The idea here is to "weather" your model using a small Fiberglass Brush or eraser. (We have a dandy "Weathering Brush Kit", our PBL-810 available on our website in Category 7, Tools-for-Serious-Modelers..) Here's how it's done:

- A. Spray entire Carbody a light coat of "Seasoned Wood"
- B. Second coat right away using "Natural Wood" this time.
- C. Then spray a nice even coat of "Freight Car Red", or your chosen final topcoat / color.
- D. We recommend you paint the Trucks too. However, if you're going to be operating the model, we do *not* recommend painting the wheel treads as the paint will chip off in time, making the treads blotchy appearing and dirtying up your track..
- E. Take a "coffee break" and allow that paint a while to set up nice and hard.. A good rule here is: If you can still smell paint odor, it's too "green" to be scratching around on!



PBL-810 Weathering Brush in action..

- F. Once the paint has thoroughly dried, hold your "Scratch Brush" (fiberglass eraser) at right angles to your carbody and rub lightly with the grain, just as you would with sandpaper. You will soon see minute amounts of paint come off just like dust! The brush can work around surface irregularities and details like miniature nuts and bolts, whereas sandpaper will simply sand them off...

As you work you will begin to see the different layers of paint begin to show, in much the same way real paint, unprotected, will oxidize and slough off..

Periodically dust off the debris.. The appearance will astound you!

- G. If you get too far into the paint layers, you can simply overspray the

area with a light coat of the appropriate topcoat and repeat the process!

In time you will likely develop your own techniques for reproducing the magical effects usually reserved for sun and rain!

We hope you'll enjoy using these techniques as much as we have!

Ol' Bill and the crew here at P-B-L...

D&RGW 5500 Class "Short" Stock Car

Model Built, Painted and Scratch-Brush Weathered by one of our long-time modeling friends, Ed Luczak - Isn't it great?

