



Chisholm Trail Division

“Weathering with Chalks and Alcohol”

If all of your rolling stock looks like it came out of the paint shop yesterday, it is time to learn how to weather with chalks!

Suggested items you’ll need to start weathering rolling stock:

- 1 – “Foam Car & Locomotive ‘Cradle”
- 1 – 10 Pack – Size Superfine – Microbrush MHS10
- 2 – Watercolor brushes (1 Med. & 1 Small size) with soft bristles.
- 1 – Bottle of 50% Isopropyl (**Alcohol 70% to 90% are too flammable!**)
- 1 - Weathering Kit that includes the following colors: light rust, medium rust, dark rust, soot, “Dust Bowl” yellow, and grimy gray.
- 1 - Paper Towel supply
- 1 – Box of tissues
- 1 – Box of cotton swabs (“Q-tips)
- 2 – Model Railroad Freight Cars – Preferences: one “tuscan red” boxcar and one black or white modern tank car. The first cars you weather should be inexpensive Athearn Blue Box models.

Learn to weather like “Mother Nature!” Natural weathering covers a railroad car from top to bottom. Always apply the general weathering from top to bottom. A lot of stains come from the rust on the rails and the wheels. Some stains are thrown by spinning wheels, eddies of air between the cars, soot from the diesel and steam locomotives, and the loading and unloading of cargo. Finally, as a car ages, the paint protection brakes down and rain begins to rust the car itself. Weather the metal wheels with a coat of rust or brown water based paint followed by dark rust chalk.

Weather in an amount that matches the age of the car itself! Have fun and decorate without fear because you can wash off the chalk and start over again, if necessary!

It is best **not** to spray the chalk with “dull-coat” for it washes off the chalk. Leave it raw, for you will find it is fairly durable if handled lightly. You can touch up as needed in the future. For as you know, the rain keeps raining and the sun keeps shining! Prototype weathering is an ongoing process. Now you can join “Mother Nature” and weather your models safely and inexpensively with this process.