

Adding a rust effect

John Bristow of Deluxe Materials explains how to create the patina of age for added realism in your miniature scene

Rust happens when iron metal is in contact with water and oxygen or other strong oxidant or acids. The metal rusts more quickly with salt water. Scenic Rust creates the look of rust on miniature metal. Here it is used on a barbecue but it could be applied to any metal household item. You might like to try it on a bucket, watering can, tin bath or bicycle.



PHOTOS: DELUXE MATERIALS

George the gardener with the finished barbecue now suitably rusty!



1 This barbecue just looks too new for its intended garden scene, but Scenic Rust can artificially age it. Ideally you want a full size real barbecue to copy but I worked from memory or tried to imagine how and where it might rust



2 The Scenic Rust kit contains Rust Powder, Scenic Binder, Scenic Developer and instructions. You can rust any surface you want provided it can be painted. If the surface is porous seal it first with paint or varnish



3 Use the syringe to transfer the rust powder into the mixing pot, about 2.5ml is plenty. Graduations are on the mixing pot



4 Add equal volume of the Scenic Binder from the dropper bottle



5 Mix the two together to get grey slurry



6 Brush onto the surface with fine paintbrush. Wash the brush clean with water



7 This is the barbecue minutes after application. This needs to dry fully (approx 1-2 hours) before the next step



8 After two hours it should be dry and you can apply the Scenic Rust Developer using a clean brush. Wash the brush with water and leave the barbecue overnight for the rust to develop



9 Now the barbecue looks really rusty



10 To continue the ageing process, I rubbed the rust surface lightly with fine wire wool. This will remove some of the paint at the edge exposing bare metal just as happens in real life



11 I felt it needed more rust so applied more Scenic Rust Developer and again left it overnight



12 Now the barbecue looks like the real one in my back garden

“Wash the brush with water and leave the barbecue overnight for the rust to develop”

SUPPLIERS

Deluxe Materials Models from all good dolls' house shops distributed by Blackwells of Hawkwell Tel 01702 200036 and Hobby's Tel 0208 761 4244 fax 0208 761 8796.

Alternatively order on line at www.deluxematerials.co.uk, or tel orders only 0800 298 5121.

Garden props from Dolly Daydreams dolls' house shop, tel: 01256 889111 or visit www.dollydaydreams.com