

Colouring Stone

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These notes describe how the stonework of the 7mm scale viaduct was finished. It is based on a Somerset and Dorset Railway one near Shepton Mallett.

The viaduct has been completely constructed from Slater's Plastikard. The sub structure is 3mm plain plasticard and the stonework is the heavily embossed stone plasticard. The top of the arches is their embossed brick.

As I wanted additional texture and needed to fill gaps I over painted all the stone with a thin wash of Artex ceiling texture material. The gaps were created where I had folded the stone plasticard around corners. The deep embossing means that holes are created where the stone is cut mid block.

As this model is part of a whole series that has a common stone source I had a tin of emulsion paint mixed to the basic stone colour as seen from a distance. This colour was applied all over (except the brick) as base coat.



I use artist's acrylic paints in tubes. I have a palette made up of the various earth colours with additions of dark and light greens, and one very specific colour called Payne's Grey. This is blue/grey colour and I use it for darkening.

The paint is squeezed from the tubes onto a suitable surface for a mixing palette. The initial colouring was a wash of light brown. Uneven coating is a benefit. Different browns were applied all as washes, as were small areas of green and yellow.

One benefit of the acrylic paint is that it dries waterproof and is transparent. This means that earlier applied colours can be seen through later coats.

Final colours are applied using the paint neat from the tube. Small amounts of colour were picked up on the brush and worked into the bristles. The brush is then applied in a downward direction letting the texture of the stone pick the paint out of the brush – sort of dry brushing.

If areas seem to be too bright then a wash of Payne's Grey is applied over the areas of concern. It can also be applied dry brush style but in this case from bottom to top.

Capping stones have the colour mixed and applied as neat paint, no thinning. The brick was similarly coloured. The mortar courses had mortar colour applied as neat paint rubbed in with finger. Any lime runs were applied with a small brush.



The photos were taken just after completion of the structure. The “ground” has since been added.