







**Built and painted by Dmitry Tebenkov**





In my opinion, the application of a primer layer is one of the most important steps of the model painting process. The priming allows us to spot sanding marks, glue stains, assembly errors, etc., and unify the different materials that are used in construction of the model. It also improves paint adhesion, which enables us to apply thin layers of paint during the subsequent steps. Furthermore, by using primers of various colours, we may pre-shade chosen surfaces, or create an undercoat that will be revealed during the chipping stage. In this case, however, I chose to use a neutral grey primer, namely AK-Interactive AK175 Grey Surface Primer, slightly diluted with AK712 Acrylic Thinner.







For the base colouration of the vehicle, I used the modulation technique. To save some time, I used the pre-mixed colours from AK-Interactive AK553 4BO Russian Green special modulation set.

Before I could grab the airbrush, I had to mask off those surfaces of the kit that did not require a green basecoat. The first step of the painting phase was to create the deepest shadows with AK029 Russian 4BO Shadow colour.



Next, I airbrushed AK030 Russian 4BO Dark Base, starting from the areas where the previous colour had been applied, and enlarging the painted zone.





The base colour was applied with AK031 Russian 4BO Base. By spraying thin layers of paint, I tried not to fully cover the previously created shadows.



The initial highlights were added with AK032 Russian 4BO Light Base colour. The paint was airbrushed from the top area, downwards towards to the lower areas.







The paintwork was sealed with a layer of AK191 Satin Varnish.







The next task was to give a rusty finish to the side armour plates. I firstly had to cover all adjacent areas with masking tape.

I started by airbrushing the base rust colour, ie. AK710 Shadow Rust, from AK551 Rust Effect Colors set.



To create the texture, I speckled the surface with lighter rusty tones, using a rigid, flat brush. In this case, I used AK707 Medium Rust and AK709 Old Rust paints, but you can choose any tones that will add some contrast to the oxide areas.



Once the paints had dried, I applied a layer of AK088 Worn Effects Fluid. This product has been specially developed to reproduce various chipping effects in a similar manner as achieved with the popular 'hairspray' technique. The difference is that when using the Worn Effects Fluid, we get more control over the process, than with hairspray. Remember, the more layers of Worn Effects that you apply, the more paint chips you'll get.





Next, I poured some grey-blue paint into my airbrush cup, and sprayed this randomly over the surface of the armour plate. This would act as the mill scale colour.



Before the grey paint had fully dried, I began removing it with a sharp toothpick, making scratches on the metal sheet. The tool used for this task must be pressed gently, in order to avoid damaging the rusty undercoat.



This was followed by adding further damage to the grey paint layer, using a brush that had been dampened with water. When I had achieved the desired effect, I sealed this with a layer of AK191 Satin Varnish.





Afterwards, I applied another layer of AK088 Worn Effects Fluid.



Adhesive tape was used to mask the stripes of fresh rust, which were subsequently airbrushed with AK706 Light Rust.



I then switched to a fine-bridled brush, and added more rusty lines and streaks in quite a random manner, using the same colour as in the previous step.

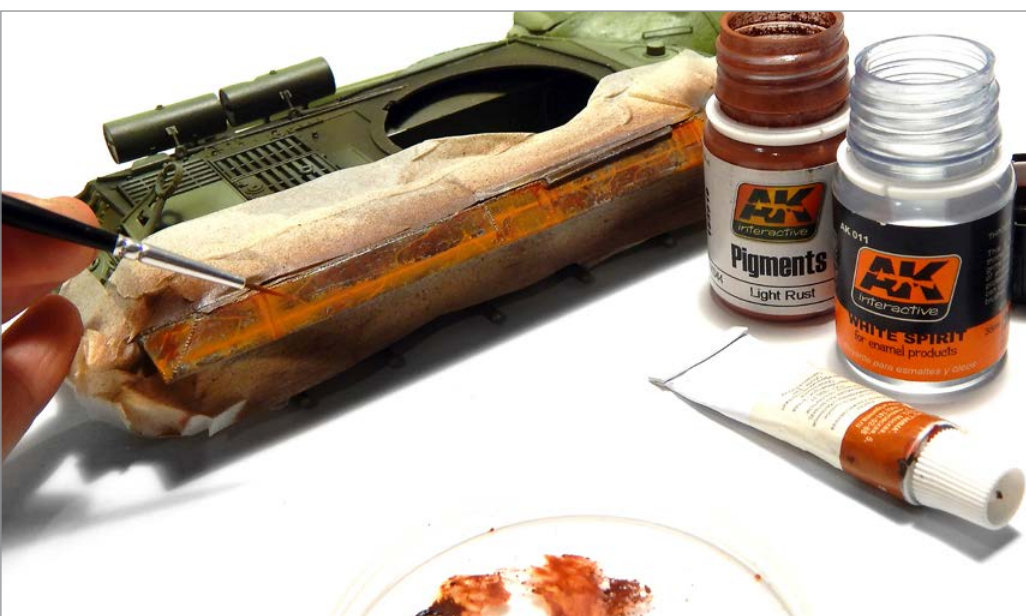


The rusty lines were again softened by spraying some AK706 Light Rust.

The final effect was created with a brush, dampened with water, taking advantage of the features of the Worn Effects Fluid again. The secret is to stop before things are too exaggerated, and I encourage you to conduct some trials on a test piece of styrene, to learn when the correct point is reached.



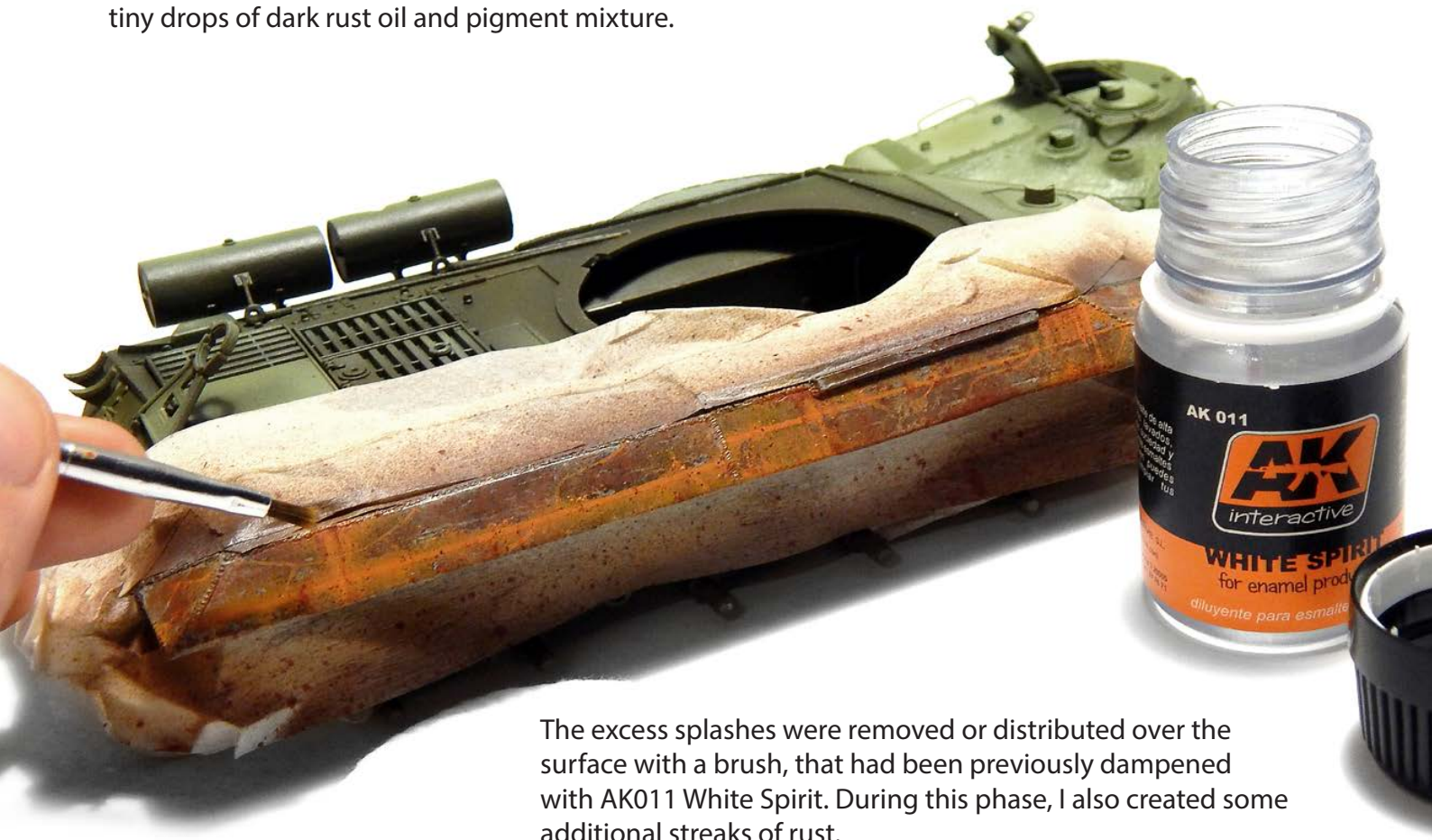








The contrast was again enhanced by flicking on more tiny drops of dark rust oil and pigment mixture.



The excess splashes were removed or distributed over the surface with a brush, that had been previously dampened with AK011 White Spirit. During this phase, I also created some additional streaks of rust.









The first step of the weld painting process was to reproduce the welding marks by airbrushing a dark gray or black colour along the welds. To avoid undesirable overspray, I helped myself with pieces of an adhesive tape, applied alternately near the edges of the armour plates.







The welds themselves were painted with AK784 Light Gray, using a fine brush.

To accentuate the weld texture and add some metallic sheen, I applied AK086 Dark Steel pigment into the recessed areas of the welds. This was later fixed with AK048 Pigment Fixer.











The vehicle's details were brought out with AK045 Dark Brown Wash. I applied this enamel product into various nooks and crannies, and subsequently removed the excess with cotton buds, that had been dampened with AK011 White Spirit.



Now it was time to add some damage to the green paint layer. Fine abrasions were replicated with AK034 Russian 4BO Shine colour...



...whilst for deeper scratches and rust marks, I used AK711 Chipping Color, AK710 Shadow Rust and AK707 Medium Rust. All of these effects were painted with a very fine brush.





The paintwork was then sealed with AK191 Satin Varnish, and left to dry thoroughly.



Afterwards, I created some rusty streaks on the vertical areas. Thin lines of AK-Interactive's AK012 Streaking Grime and AK013 Rust Streaks enamels were applied with a fine brush, and subsequently blended and softened by sweeping the surfaces with a flat brush, that had been dampened with AK011 White Spirit. I repeated the process until I had achieved the desired result.



The horizontal surfaces of the vehicle were dirtied mainly with AK4062 Light Dust Deposit. Again, the excess product was removed with a brush, dampened with AK011 White Spirit.





The final step was to finish the running gear and tracks. In the case of the latter, I replaced the kit plastic parts with workable metal tracks from Masterclub, which were darkened with AK159 Metal Burnishing Fluid. All the running gear parts were then weathered using a number of pigments and enamel products AK-Interactive's range.

**My idea for this model was to create a rusted vehicle with some traces of recent use and maintenance work. Sometime in the near future, this kit will be placed on a suitable base.**









