



Post-shading

An easy way to break up monochromatic schemes and add life to your model

I spent years trying to get my paint smooth and even, only to discover the model looked smooth and even – but not necessarily lively. I'm a big fan of Russian armor, which comes in any color you like as long as it's green (with only a few notable exceptions). Washes and dry-brushing helped, but I always felt my models looked like green monoliths.

Modelers use preshading and post-shading to make their creations more dynamic. I've tried both and prefer the latter; it's easy to control and, using acrylics (my preference), can be applied quickly. Here's how I do it.



To paint Cooperativa's 1/35 scale T-28 amphibious tank, Aaron applies an even coat of Model Master Acryl Russian armor green straight from the bottle except for a little thinner to improve flow. The air pressure is 35psi.



Shades of green: White works for mixing a highlight color, but yellow and flesh add warmth as well as light. Aaron prefers light grays as a neutral tone. To go darker, black may seem the obvious choice, but Aaron uses dark greens and grays for different effects.



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For the T-28, Aaron mixes Model Master Acryl U.S. Army helo drab into Russian armor green in a small cup to achieve a darker shade of the base coat. You don't need a lot, so a small cup works well.



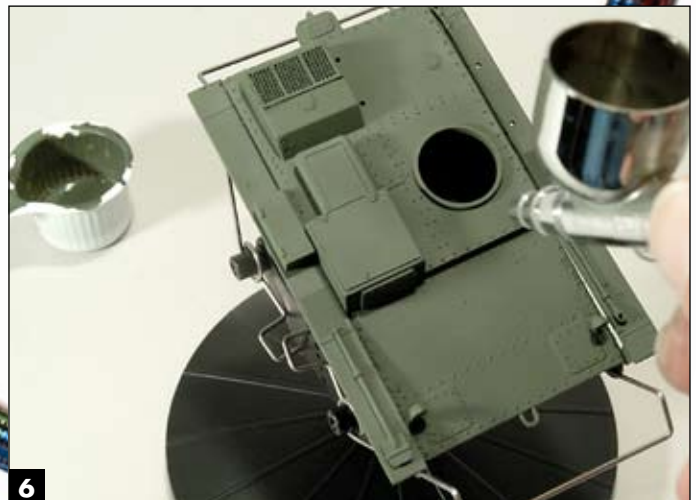
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Next, Aaron adds Acryl clear flat to the cup and stirs it in. He uses about equal parts clear and color, giving the paint translucency.



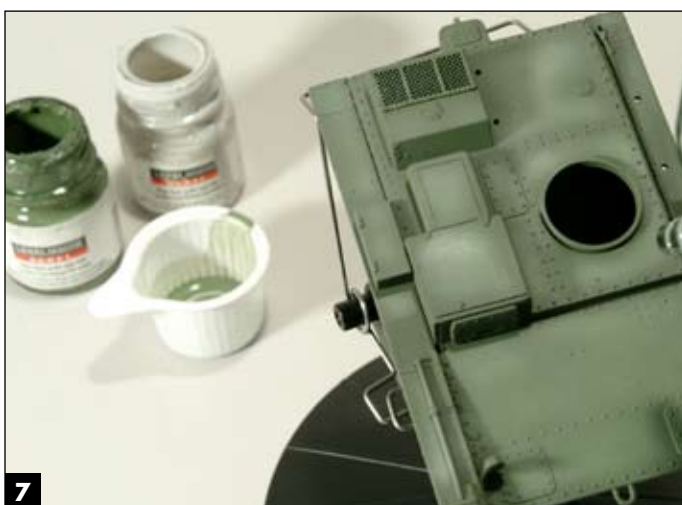
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Thinner is the last ingredient. Aaron likes post-shading paint to be quite a bit thinner than "normal" paint so he can build up translucent layers of paint for different tones.



6

Aaron sprays a darker shade along panel and rivet lines as well as in recesses. Go easy and work slowly: Aaron favors pressures around 10-15psi for post-shading because it uses less paint and allows more control over the effect.



7

To highlight panel centers and break up expanses of green, Aaron airbrushes Russian armor green lightened with gull gray, clear flat, and thinner. Neatness is not essential – you can correct mistakes. But watch the contrast; it shouldn't be too stark.



8

Aaron's final step is a mist coat of thin Russian armor green mixed with clear flat. It softens the effect and reduces contrast. Subtlety is key: "My goal is to have viewers wonder if there really is a color shift," Aaron explains. "If they can see how it's done, it's heavy-handed." **FSM**