

# Weathering Model Railroad Rolling Stock with PanPastels



By Tony Siano - Metro-North Div Meeting 3/12/22

# What Are Pan Pastels?

- Proprietary brand of pre-ground pastel media
- Packaged in disk shaped containers--think "make-up compacts"
- 92 different "pans" of different colors, tones, consistencies are marketed



# Color Range

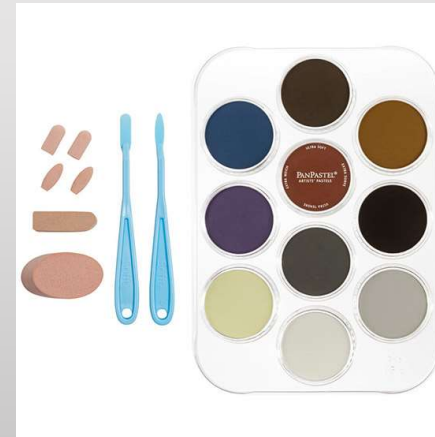
Color Range includes pure colors, tints, shades and extra darks. Indicated by item codes as follows:

- 20 Pure colors (xxx.5)
- 20 Tints (xxx.7 and xxx.8) are pure colors plus white
- 20 Shades (xxx.3) are pure colors plus black
- 20 Extra Darks (xxx.1 and xxx.2) are pure colors plus even more black
- 6 metallics
- 6 pearlescents
- And 5 mediums - meaning carriers



# Origins

- First "market" was fine artists, craft artists, painters, etc
- "Discovered" by the modeling community about ten plus years ago
- Sold in individual disks and in various sets



- Various application "tools" are sold by the manufacturer

## Manufacturer Says:

*"PanPastel Colors are professional quality ultra-fine pastel colors in a unique pan (cake-like) format.*

*The special qualities of PanPastel means that they can be mixed, layered and applied "dry" making them ideal for applying realistic weathering effects quickly. PanPastel Colors adhere well to most surfaces, yet can be removed easily if required. Available in kits & as individual colors."*

# Characteristics

- Chalk pigment with a carrier/binder element
- Mix and then layer like paint
- Quick and clean "no mess" compared to powders and chalk/pastel sticks
- No drying or prep time
- Erasable (before fixing with spray fixatives or other flat finishes)
- Ultra-fine pigmented color formulations

## Comparison to Pastel Sticks

- Chalks are solid; PanPastels are compacted granular materials
- Chalks are dry; PanPastels have a binder element mixed in
- Turning chalks into granules is very messy; PanPastels have **less** (*but not no*) mess
- Chalks crack, break, and lose shape; PanPastels stay in their canisters!
- You can hold chalks; you cannot "feel" PanPastels!

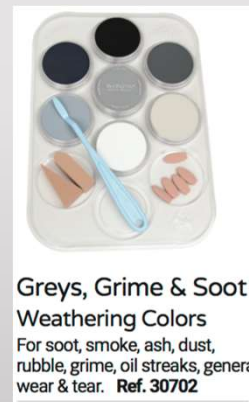
# Catering to the Model Train Market

- Three pre-packaged sets of seven disks in a tray with ten pockets:

- Rust & Earth (#30701) Weathering kit for light and dark rust, earth, mud and sand and filled in the set with a couple of grays

- Greys, Grime & Soot (#30702)

- Scenery (#30703)



BUT: no screw lids for pans sold in sets! (Lids sell in sets of eight at about a dollar each!) Keep that in mind when pricing sets.



# Surface Preparation

- Flat finish to pre-painted or decaled cars before weathering
- A toothy, flat finish, protective overspray on the model will not lose color
- Models don't always need to be flat overcoated: buildings, vehicles and things less handled are fine without overcoating
- Types of "Pre-Finish":
  - Old favorite: Dullcote
  - PolyScale Flat
  - Model Master's Flat Acrylic
  - Tamiya Clear Flat
  - Liquitex Acrylic Matte Medium - found at art or craft stores
  - Krylon workable or final fixative
  - Rust-Oleum Clear Flat
- For correcting or removing previous airbrush weathering, scrub with a Mr. Clean white scrubbing pad or rub with a gum eraser

# Application

- To experiment: Use whatever brush, rag, sponge, etc., you use with chalks or even acrylic paints
- Micro-brushes are particularly useful for fine areas such as rivet lines, ladder rungs, stirrups, or grab irons
- Stiff bristle brushes work as area applications: roof walks, car side panels, car undersides
- Soft bristle brushes "buff up" after application
- "Colour Shapers" - durable tips (on brush handles) made of an advanced rubber composite
- Experiment with mixing with water or even alcohol (91%)



# Finishing

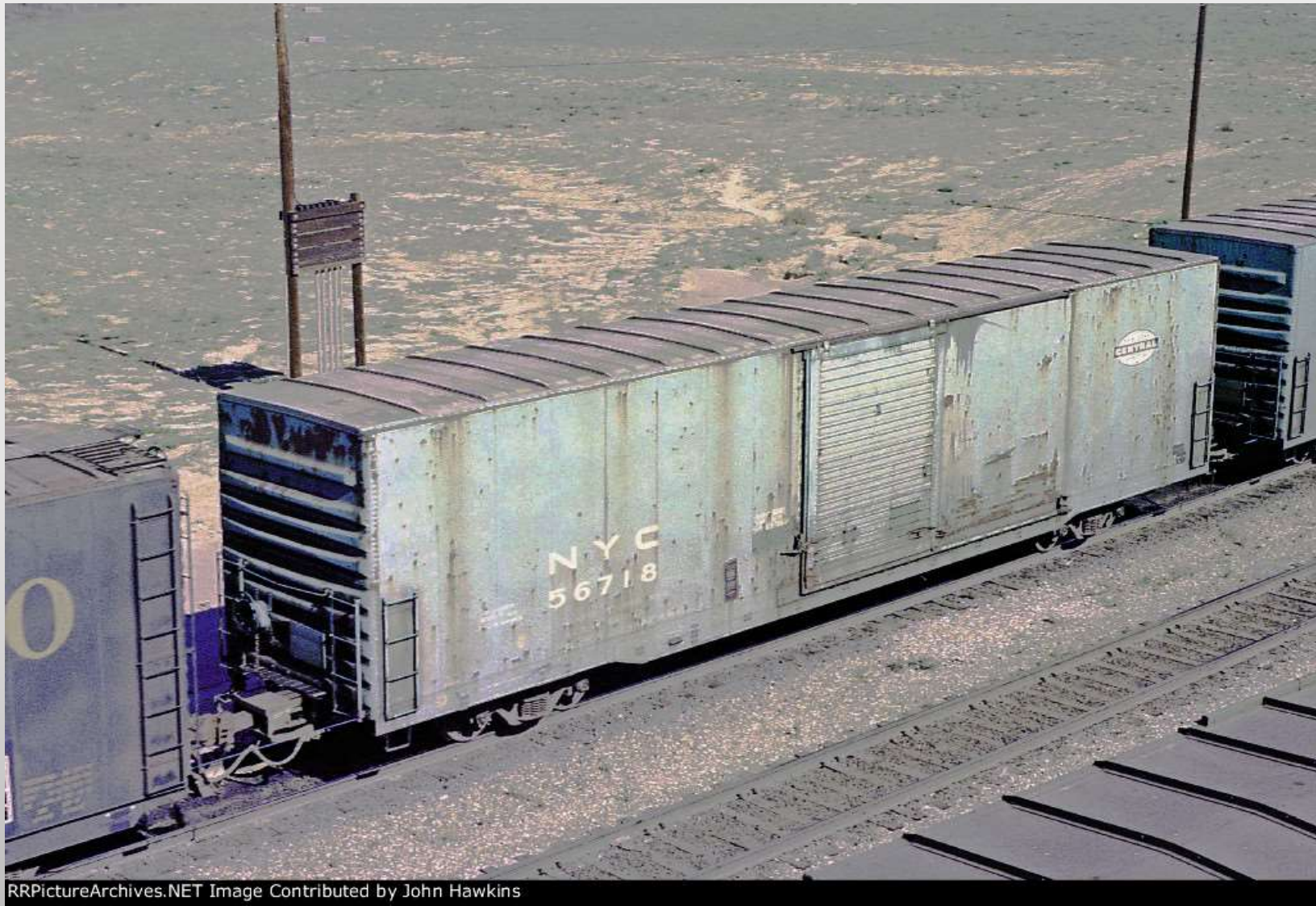
- After weathering with Pan Pastels, **LIGHTLY** seal with a flat finish. The risk in using any flat finish is killing the color applied. My experience is that Dullcote has the most severe impact on color rendition.
- I prefer Krylon type matte finishes. Always spray lightly and from about 12" away from model.
- A consideration is "How much handling will my finished model be subjected to?"

# Placing Pan Pastels into a Repertoire

- First, ask yourself: What am going to do with the equipment I am weathering?
  - Contest entry
  - Static Display/Diorama
  - Part of a consist that runs but does not switch out. (e.g. unit trains)
  - Switching or operations-based layout
  - Carrying to a Modular layout/Train Show layout.
- Then, recognize that Pan Pastels are one answer among many media that can effect weathering.



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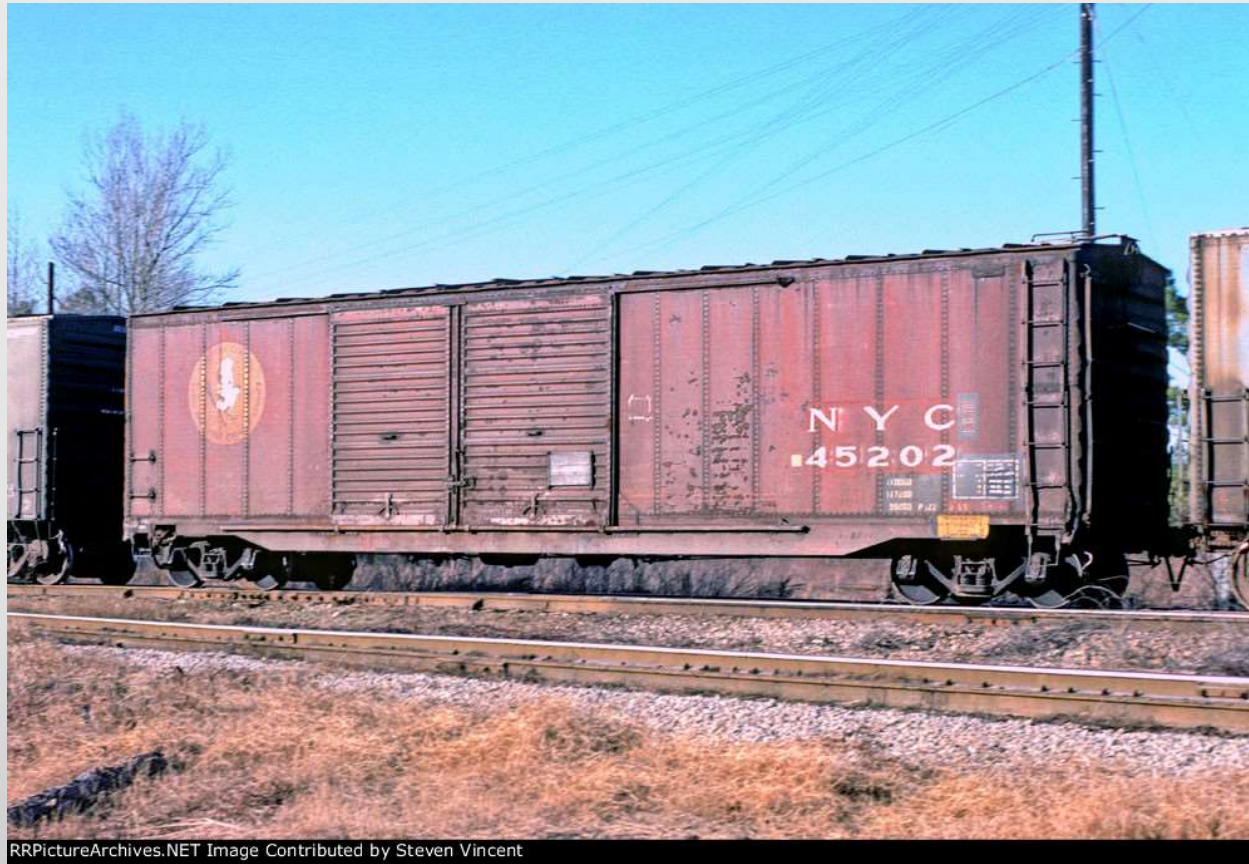


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Finally, layering is as essential to weathering as it is to scenicking. No single session application of ANYTHING will work as well as layering various weathering media.

# Thoughts on Pricing and Getting Started

- List price for a single pan is about \$7.00
- Pans are routinely available for around \$6.00/pan
- Sales prices are in the \$5-\$6/pan range
- Any price below \$5.00/pan is a real value
- Start with a small set of about six colors, purchased individually



# Recommendations

- My recommendations for starting are:
  - Burnt Sienna
  - Neutral Gray/Payne's Gray
  - Red Oxide Shade
  - Yellow Ochre
  - Pearl Black Coarse (great for coal loads!)
  - Permanent Green

# Sources

- Michael's
- WalMart
- Dick Blick Art Supplies: [www.dickblick.com](http://www.dickblick.com)
- Jerry's Artarama: [www.jerrysartarama.com](http://www.jerrysartarama.com)
- Hobby Lobby: [www.hobbylobby.com](http://www.hobbylobby.com)

# Citations

- Model Railroad Weathering Tips with Pan Pastel By Rob Manley © 2014  
NATIONAL TRAIN SHOW 2014 CLINIC
- Easy weathering of rolling stock and buildings with PanPastel® Colors  
By [www.model-railroad-infoguy.com](http://www.model-railroad-infoguy.com)
- Weathering a Steam Locomotive in Seven Minutes, by Tony Koester, *Model Railroader*, November 2013, pp 40-43
- "HO Scale Weathering with Pan Pastels 11-1-14 Podcast" by TSG  
MultiMedia
- Weathering with Pan Pastels and Ammo of Mig - NMRA On-Line Clinic  
By Pete Steinmetz, 12/5/2018

# Sites Worth Your Time

- The Weathering Shop: [theweatheringshop.com](http://theweatheringshop.com)
- Rust Bucket Forum: [tws-rustbucket.com](http://tws-rustbucket.com)
- Try: The Weathering Magazine by MIG Jiminez
- Pan Pastels You Tube Channel: [www.youtube.com/user/PanPastel](http://www.youtube.com/user/PanPastel)
- There are dozens of videos on PanPastels on YouTube. Have fun!

Any Questions?