

Paint Peeling & Chipped Paint Techniques Using Hairspray

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This clinic will explain my techniques for paint peeling and chipped paint effects using hairspray. The paint peeling effect can be used to replace the paint thinner and acrylic paint technique. I feel it looks better and now there is no need for using nasty chemicals. This technique was developed by experimenting with Chuck Doan's chipped paint on metal technique which we will go over as well.

Think about the hairspray as an acrylic barrier. Once applied it will protect everything under the barrier. Now you add acrylic paint, remove some of the paint to reveal the work below.

Basic Supplies

- Hairspray
- Dremel Tool w/soft wire brush
- Leather & Alcohol Dyes
- Light Colored Polly Scale Acrylic Paint
- Weathering Powders
- Dullcoat Spray
- Polly Scale Acrylic Paint
- Acrylic Thinner (1/2 Strength Windshield Washer Fluid)
- Stiff Paint Brush
- Regular Paint Brush
- Masking Tape
- #11 Xacto Blade
- Clean Rag / Paper Towel

Preparing the Wood for Paint

You can prepare your wood as you see fit, you can be as simple as just an Al wash. I go a little further to ensure the paint peel effect looks how I intend.

1. Initial Prep
 - a. Apply a stain like Al or leather dye mixes
 - i. Let dry
2. Add wood grain
 - a. Use the Dremel and soft wire brush to accomplish this
 - b. This helps the paint peel off in a more realistic pattern
3. Final under wood color (optional)
 - a. Apply another Leather Dye wash
 - b. Apply some light weathering powders (grays & browns)
 - c. Seal with Dullcoat
4. Adding the barrier
 - a. Apply the hairspray
 - i. Make sure you apply enough, too light of a coat won't work
 - ii. Too heavy and you get a "crackle" effect (which can be good)
 - b. You can dry the hairspray with a blow dryer
 - c. Make sure it is dry to the touch

Hairspray is water soluble, you will have more time to achieve this effect than if you used mineral spirits or paint thinner. You can also cover a whole wall at once with the hairspray. You had to do it in sections with the Mineral Spirits.

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5. Paint
 - a. Apply 2 coats of paint
 - i. The first coat may look sloppy, the second coat fixes this
 - b. Be sure the first coat is dry, you can speed up the process with a blow dryer
6. Add nail heads (optional)
 - a. It is best to a nail heads after you paint but before you distress the paint.
 - b. I prefer to have my nail heads line up on 4 foot centers.
7. Peel Paint - Once everything is dry and ready to be peeled, the first few minutes the paint will come off with ease... the longer you wait the harder it is to come off, eventually it stops (completely dry 8hrs)
 - a. Use tape and Xacto blade to remove larger areas of paint.
 - b. Once it seems dryer, and the paint doesn't come off as much, it is time to use the acrylic thinner and stiff brush
 - i. Dip your brush into the thinner and start to rub off the paint. The harder you rub the more that comes off.
 - ii. Once the paint is gone you can clearly see the work you did on the bare wood.
 1. I prefer to be subtle so experiment on what removes more or less for you.
 - iii. Pat dry with a clean rag or paper towel

Preparing Styrene for Paint (Windows & Doors)

This technique is very similar to the wood technique. As this also works on metal castings of doors and windows as well.

Using hairspray on styrene and metal has a unique effect... Cracking

1. Initial Prep
 - a. Prime door and window castings
 - i. Let dry
 - ii. I used white as my final color was to be white
 - iii. Weather your castings
 - iv. I powdered each casting to discolor the white primer, this will be the under color after the peeling.
 - b. Seal with Dullcoat
2. Adding the barrier
 - a. Apply the hairspray
 - v. Make sure you apply enough, too light of a coat won't work
 - b. You can dry the hairspray with a blow dryer
 - c. Make sure it is dry to the touch
3. Paint
 - a. Apply 2 coats of paint
 - vi. The first coat may look sloppy, the second coat fixes this
 - b. Be sure the first coat is dry, you can speed up the process with a blow dryer
4. Peel Paint - Once everything is dry and ready to be peeled, the first few minutes the paint will come off with ease... the longer you wait the harder it is to come off, eventually it stops (completely dry 8hrs)
 - a. Use tape and Xacto blade to remove larger areas of paint.
 - b. Once it seems dryer, and the paint doesn't come off as much, it is time to use the acrylic thinner and stiff brush
 - vii. Dip your brush into the thinner and start to rub off the paint. The harder you rub the more that comes off.
 - viii. Once the paint is gone you can clearly see the work you did on the bare wood.

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1. I prefer to be subtle so experiment on what removes more or less for you.
- ix. Pat dry with a clean rag

Chipped Paint on Metal Effect

Since the hairspray is water soluble, it is preferred to airbrush the top coat on. If you are using an airbrush to apply the acrylic paint you can skip a few steps below. Follow all the steps if brushing on the acrylic paint.

1. Paint your part with any non-acrylic black paint
 - a. Let completely dry
2. Create your metal effect on the detail part
 - a. I use silver stencil magic and weathering powders
3. Apply a fairly heavy coat of hairspray
 - a. Let dry to the touch, you can use a blow dryer
4. Very light coat of Dullcoat or the same black paint you used for your base coat to semi-protect the hairspray from the brushed on acrylic paint
 - a. Barely use any here
5. Several water-thinned, brushed on coats of white Polly Scale acrylic paint
 - a. Let dry maybe 10 minutes
6. Start removing paint with small wet stiff paintbrush or a wet tooth pick. Patience required here. The paint will chip pretty easily, but you don't want to go too far.
7. Fade with white gouache applied with a cosmetic sponge or a white powder
8. Seal with Dullcoat