

# Drybrushing

BY WILLIAM NICHOLS

Drybrushing can add a lot of depth to your models, either in the cockpit of aircraft or the exterior of armor. This article will focus on aircraft cockpits.

The way I drybrush cockpits, especially mostly black cockpits, involves a few shades of gray. I find that usually going straight to the lightest color can be a little harsh. What I like to do is start with a dark gray, and work my way up to the lightest. This adds more depth and warmth in my eyes. It might not be everyone's cup of tea, but I like the end result.

## Tools needed:

- A Good Brush or Two
- Some Shades of Gray
- A little Practice & Patience

## The Colors:

Now four of the five colors I use come from the Vallejo line of excellent acrylic paints:

1. 994 Dark Gray
2. 869 Basalt Gray
3. 992 Neutral Gray
4. 870 Medium Sea Gray



The Vallejo paints

The final drybrush is done with Model Master Camouflage Gray, FS 36622.

## The Basics

Drybrushing is just what it sounds like. The most common mistake made when drybrushing is not drying the brush enough. Wet paint on the bristles can ruin your project as you smear the paint over the parts. Ideally, the brush needs to be so dry, that you can barely, just barely tell that any paint is on it. Remember, all you are doing is 'dusting' the parts with the lighter color. It may take a few good passes to do this, but the end results will be much better if you go slow, and take your time.

I like to use dead flat paints for my base coat, as they are slightly rough and provide a better surface for the following drybrushes. Tamiya flat black XF-1 or NATO black XF-69 is my starting points of choice, usually the NATO black because it has a nice "in-scale" look to it.

The brush you use is also critical for good drybrushing. Micro-Mark sells a wonderful set of purpose made drybrushes, but any short, stiff bristled brush should do the trick. I prefer to use a Prescriptives eye shadow brush bought from a department store.



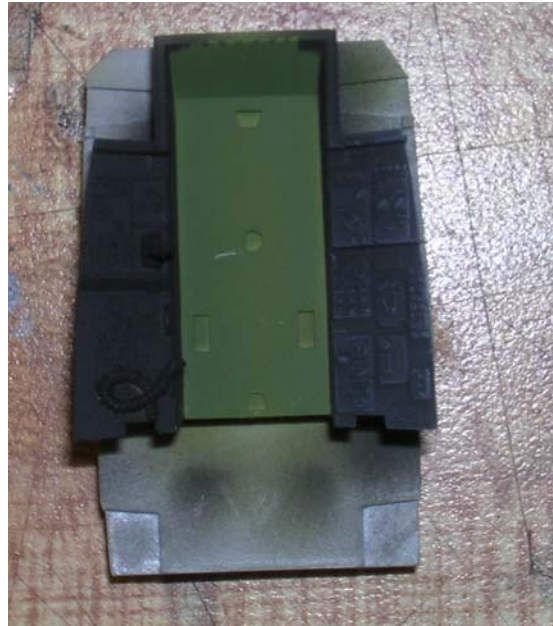
This is the kind of brush you will need for drybrushing.

The bristles are incredibly soft, and they never come loose. I've used this brush for about five years now with great results. The down side of good makeup brush, it will cost you about \$20.00. It's an investment, but it's worth it.

The subject of this demonstration is the cockpit from Trumpeters F9F-2 Panther. It has lovely raised detail, just perfect for a drybrushing. The accompanying pictures will follow this format: The right side will show the current step, the left side will be the previous step. This will help illustrate how each step changes the appearance of the parts.

### **First Drybrush Vallejo Dark Gray**

The first picture has Tamiya NATO black for the base coat and Vallejo Dark Gray on the right.



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**Second Drybrush Vallejo Basalt Gray**

Picture two shows the second drybrush of Basalt Gray on the right and Dark Gray on the left .



**Third Drybrush Vallejo Neutral Gray**

Picture three shows the third drybrush of Neutral Gray on the right, the previous two shades on the left.



### **Fourth Drybrush Vallejo Medium Sea Gray**

Picture four shows the fourth drybrush of Medium Sea Gray on the right, and the previous work on the left.



### **Final Appearance FS 36622 and detail painting completed**

Now you see the final drybrush of FS36622 and some details picked out in various colors.



See! Drybrushing is not so bad. It just takes some imagination and practice. Variations on this theme can be done with shades of olive drab for armor, with naval colors for ship superstructures, with flesh tones on figures, so on and so forth.

I sincerely hope that you have found this to be informative and enjoyable.

Happy modeling