

Product guide

Step by Step



Tutorial

Sanding primed surfaces

Let's see what happens when we sand surfaces previously primed with Surface Primer. First, we will sand down a mold seam for a perfect finish, while on a second model we will work with putty and sandpaper to correct a molding defect, filling a gap. Finally, we'll ensure that the wheels on a model sit level on the surface. Remember it's vital to immediately clean the airbrush after using Surface Primers.

By Chema Cabrero



1 We use several different grades of sandpaper, ranging from a coarse grade to a fine one for cleaning and smoothing the sanded area.



2 We can sand either wet or dry and there are no issues with sanding over the primed surface. The primer will not flake or peel but will result in some dust so it's advisable to always wear a mask when sanding.



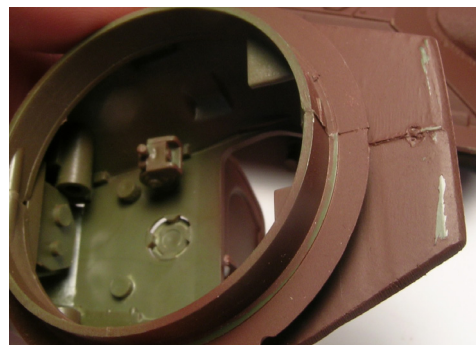
3 Sanding sticks can be useful too.



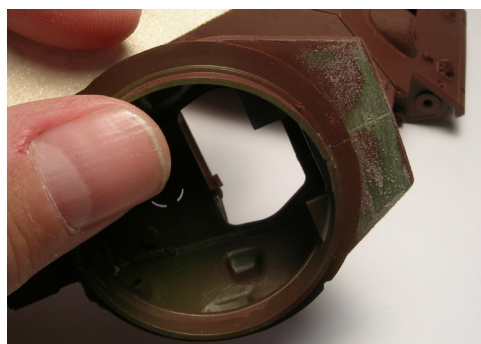
4 German Red Brown 73.605 is applied on this wrecked T-34. The model is rather basic with some fit issues, resulting in gaps that need to be filled.



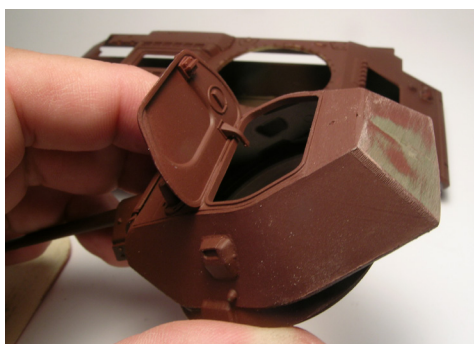
5 The two halves of the turret present a proud seam around the rear which needs to be sanded down.



6 Under the rear turret bustle there is an ugly gap that will need filling.



7 It is sanded with a 600-grade sanding stick.



8 Vallejo Surface Primers generate a fine dust when sanded, so wipe the surface clean before priming again.



9 On the side of the turret an excess of paint results in an undesired "lip" which must also be rectified.

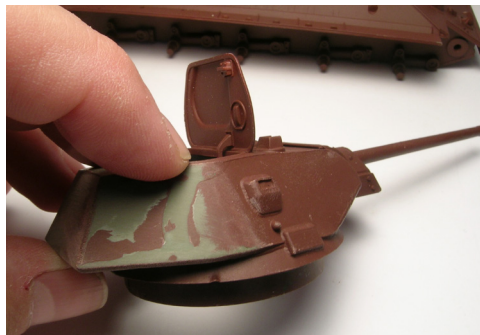
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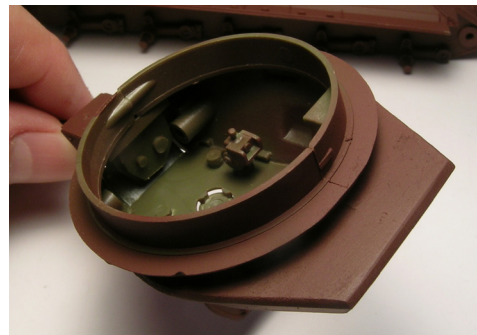
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10 The model is now ready for a new coat of Surface Primer.



11 A perfect finish with a new coat of primer.



12 And a perfect fit under the turret too.



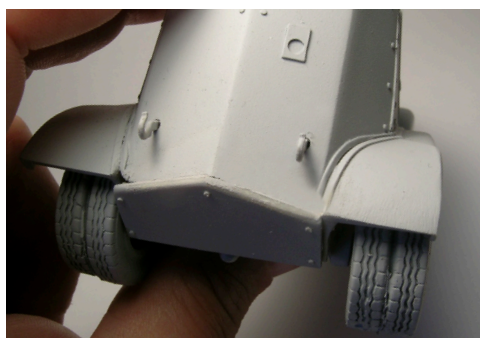
13 On this resin model of a Spanish Chevrolet armored car we use Grey 74.601. Resin kits can have some surface imperfections and fit problems, but these can easily be fixed with putty and a sander.



14 A hole in the resin molding must first be filled with putty and then sanded once the putty has thoroughly dried.



15 Several thin layers are needed for a smooth finish.



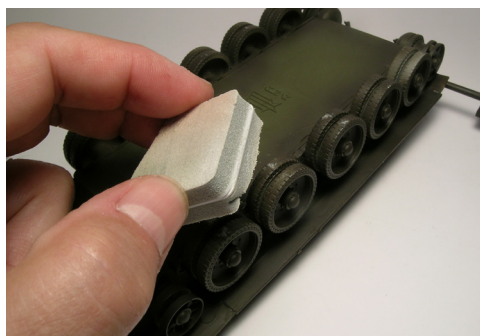
16 The finish must be clean and without imperfections.



17 US Olive Green 73.608 is applied directly over the bare plastic of this T-34 using an airbrush. The finish is clean and smooth, with a pleasing satin appearance, but the model doesn't sit properly and needs the wheels sanding a little in order to do so.



18 On the wheel we can use a sanding sponge to conform to the rounded surface.



19 The bare plastic is evident on the surface that has been sanded.



20 Again, there are no issues with sanding an already primed surface and the model now sits correctly on the ground.