

# EASY FINISHES FOR WEEKEND MODELERS

Teppei Hayashi

SAMPLE

# GUNPLA SUPER TECHNIQUE



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## Preface

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You'd like to build Gunpla, but think that it looks too difficult? Or maybe you used to build them in the past, but now you don't have time and it's a miracle if you can even finish assembling them? Don't worry! This manual is filled with super techniques that will teach you easy ways to finish your Gunpla in a short time making use of the mold color, so that you can enjoy modeling to your heart's content.

This book doesn't have any annoying surface preparations, expensive airbrushes or complex mods. It's for everyone, from beginners to veterans. I hope that it can help you build cool Gunpla in your spare time on weekends.

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**Teppei Hayashi**



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# 17 TOOLS TO KNOW AND GET BEFORE YOU START

First of all, I am going to recommend some tools that I would like you to know about and to get before you try your hand at easy Gunpla finishes. It's not like you can't work if you don't have all of them, but you should consider buying them when you need them.



## ▲ Ultimate Nipper

As the name suggests, these are ultimate nippers that can cut Gunpla gates neatly. Compared to hobby knives, they will leave less prominent nub marks than a hobby knife. They are expensive, but considering you'll be saving time, it's a tool with excellent cost-performance. On the other hand, the blades are thin and easy to damage, so don't use them to cut thick runners.



## ▲ Nippers for damage

Nippers for recreating damage, cutting peg holes and other destructive actions. Of course, these actions tend to deform the blades and you won't be able to cut gates cleanly with them anymore, so you should keep a pair of nippers just for this. Double-edged nippers with thin blades are the easiest to use, but considering their use, you don't need to buy expensive ones. I use a worn-out Sharp Pointed Side Cutter by Tamiya.



## ▲ Hobby knife

An indispensable tool to cut gates, recreate damage, and cut parts when you need an original. It has a very sharp blade, which can be damaged easily. As it becomes blunt, it requires more pressure and there is a risk of injury, so be sure to replace the blade regularly. Luckily, spare blades are inexpensive.

## ▶ Hair dryer

Used to quickly dry paint, it is an indispensable tool for "speed modelers". It's especially effective when used on oil paints that require a long time to dry such as Mr. Weathering Colors. I recommend setting it to "cool" when you use it. If you use the "hot" air setting, the plastic will become too warm and it may deform or break.



## ▲ Brushes

They are used to paint parts, for dry brushing, adding washes and in many other ways. Use a fine-tip brush, a flat brush or others depending on the purpose. As plastic models are often painted with organic solvents, the brushes tend to get damaged quickly. When the brush tip gets frayed and it becomes difficult to paint with precision, replace it with a new one. Remember that brushes are consumables.



## ▲ 4Artist markers

Super high performance markers that make a surface look like shiny plating by simply applying it on with a quick stroke. Since it's enamel ink, it can be wiped off with enamel solvent. Even after it dries, the paint film tends to come off easily if you touch it, so try not to touch the area after you paint it.



## ▲ Gundam Markers

They are alcohol-based markers perfect for Gunpla beginners. They are easy to use and they are excellent supplies because, depending on the color, they are more user-friendly than lacquer or acrylic paints. The photo shows Gundam Silver, the color I use the most for silver dry brushing.



#### ◀ Easy Painter

The most practical simple airbrush. It allows you to use paint bottles as if they were spray cans. Of course, it can also be used to spray mixed colors. The air can is compatible with air sprays that can be bought from dollar stores, which gives it great cost-performance. Many modelers are able to paint with a quality equal to that of an airbrush using this, so it's definitely worth trying.

#### ▶ Premium Top Coat Flat

Water-based acrylic matte spray. It produces a strong paint film and dries quickly. It normally doesn't whiten, and since it's acrylic, you can spray it onto a surface painted with lacquer colors and it won't melt. Its smell is not as strong as lacquer paints and it's not as harmful to the body, which is wonderful because it can be used more safely at home.

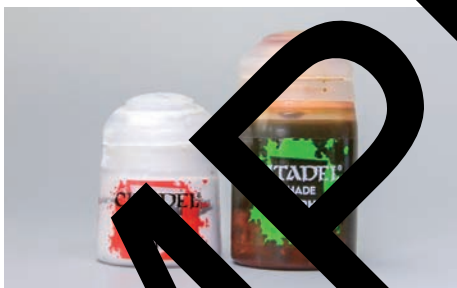


Mr. Color Spray and Gundam Color Spray are thinner paint spray cans sold by GSI Creos. They are strong and won't melt when you apply them onto it, and it dries quickly, allowing you to paint your Gunpla fast. The Gundam Color Spray line includes many colors that match Gundam models, so beginners should probably start with these.



#### ▲ Tamiya Panel Line Accent Color

This Accent Color is Tamiya Enamel Paint diluted with a thinner so it has the perfect consistency for panel lining. Enamel solvent penetrates plastic easily and if used in large amounts it can damage parts. This is especially true if you want to apply finishes onto the mold color, so its use should be limited to pin washes and other small details. Beginners should probably avoid using it until they become a little more skilled.



#### ▲ Citadel Colors

Paints for game miniatures sold by Games Workshop. They are extraordinary water-based acrylic paints created for hobby painting; they can be thinned with water, they don't dry too quickly and are easy to paint evenly. They are a great experience and they are worth the price. If you use them on Gunpla, I recommend these Primers, which have good coverage.



#### ▲ Aqueous Hobby Color Burnt Iron

The ultimate paint, promoted by Rider & Co. Some people may think: "Aqueous Hobby Colors in this age?", but this color, once painted, looks like matte gunmetal, and since it has the adsorptive power typical of Aqueous Hobby Colors, it's easy to apply weathering material onto it. Once it's completely dry the paint film is amazingly strong, which makes it the best color for joint weathering. Use it once and you'll be hooked.



#### ◀ Tamiya Weathering Master

Weathering material that can be used easily by applying it with sponge brushes like makeup. It comes in various types and besides mud and sand, it can also recreate metallic finishes like burnt red and silvery colors. Since it's water-based, if you apply too much it can be removed easily with a damp cotton swab, so it's recommended for weathering beginners too.

#### ◀ Mr. Weathering Color

They are weathering paints with ingredients similar to oil paints and were originally developed for AFV models. Normally, they are thinned with a solvent and used in washing, a technique that reproduces dirt. They don't break plastic as easily as enamel solvents. It's no exaggeration to say that it's thanks to Mr. Weathering Color that applying weathering on Gunpla easy finishes became as painless as it is now. They are used in almost all the models finished with weathering that are featured in this book. If you want to try weathering, they are more or less essential.



#### ◀ High strength type instant glue

Used when you glue together parts that come off easily or when mixing different materials such as ABS and plastic. Instant glue has low-viscosity so it flows inside joints. It can break parts because of its penetrating power and it can flow into engravings and stick to your fingers. If you want to try the techniques introduced in this book, we recommend using high strength type as it's safer. Since the nozzle gets clogged all the time, it's better to buy separately sold nozzles and replace them frequently.

#### ▶ Adhesive for styrene plastic

Used to glue together parts that come off easily or when using mixed materials. If you want to glue styrene plastic that makes up the external armor of Gunpla, or various parts made of KPS, adhesive for styrene plastic is better than instant glue, because it fuses the plastic and the hold is therefore stronger. There are two types: low-viscosity and thicker. Both have advantages, so you should choose them depending on the situation.







# MG ZAKU CANNON X DESERT WEATHERING

BANDAI SPIRITS 1/100 scale plastic kit  
"Master Grade"  
MS-06K ZAKU CANNON  
modeled&described by Teppei HAYASHI

The first example is the MG Zaku Cannon. After spraying a matte top coat, we will wash it with Mr. Weathering Color, pin wash it and apply chipping with enamel paint, creating a weathering effect for a unit fighting in the desert.

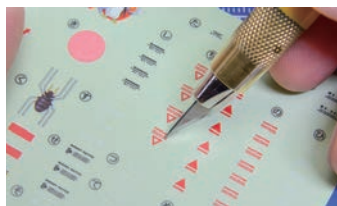
## 01 From the basics to finishing



▲ Clear parts become hazy and cloudy if you spray a matte top coat on them. Many parts are also small and easy to lose, so it's better to separate the runners with clear parts at this stage and incorporate them into the model after weathering is finished.



The fingers of the One Year War MS from the MG Ver. 2.0 lineup can be separated so that they can be posed individually, allowing for more expressive posing. Place them on a cutting mat and press down with a knife to make a clean cut.



▲ Tetron stickers have wide borders. If you apply them as they are, paint may flow along the borders during washing, and the stickers may come off. To prevent this, use a hobby knife to cut the edge as close as possible to the markings.



▲ The Zeon mark originally had "ZEON" written in capital letters above it, but I felt that it didn't suit the atmosphere of an MSV, so I applied the mark without it. When you use Gundam decals or Tetron stickers you can cut them out and just use the parts you like.



▲ Secure the pelvis firmly with Mr. Almighty Clip and spray the entire body with Mr. Super Clear Flat. When you spray, open the kit's limbs as much as possible so that the coat reaches inside all the recesses too.



▲ Apply washing with Mr. Weathering Color. Use a mix of various colors to add depth to the finish. This time I used a mix of Grayish Brown and Stain Brown in a ratio of 3:7 to make it appear like dirt from a desert environment.



▲ Dilute the mixed paint with a dedicated solvent for Weathering Color and apply it to the entire surface with a flat brush. Be careful not to apply too much, as it can damage the parts if it flows into the joints. It may also seep out when you use a spray can, staining the surface.



▲ Wipe it off with a dry cotton swab before it dries completely. Apply light vertical streaks, keeping in mind how rain or air currents would affect the dirt, to obtain a realistic finish. Once Mr. Weathering Color is dry, it becomes difficult to remove even with a solvent, so be sure to wipe it off quickly.



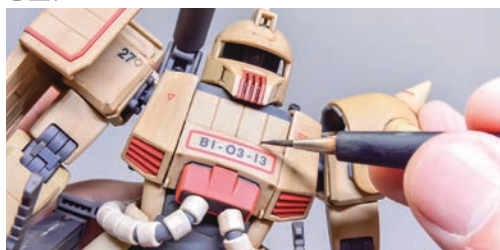
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### To save time, use a hairdryer!

Mr. Weathering Color takes a long time to dry because it is mainly composed of oil paints. If you don't want to wait too long, use a hairdryer to speed up the process. Be careful not to place it too near to the plastic as it may melt the parts!

## 02 Pin wash



▲Using washes to reduce the saturation of colors may not allow the paint to run into the fine details, nor give shading a solid appearance. In this case, you can use a method called a pin wash. With this technique, you apply Mr. Weathering Color Brown into details and engravings to enhance the finish. If the paint overflows, you can just leave as it is, or lightly wipe off the excess with a dry cotton swab using vertical strokes.



◀Pin washed. By adding a darker color to the weathering after the wash, you can enhance the 3D appearance. Pin washing is more effective if it is applied to areas where detail is concentrated, such as corners and at the intersections of carved lines, instead of using it evenly across the surface.

▶Chipping is an essential part of weathering. While it's hard to paint on each detail individually with a brush, you can do it easily with dry brushing. Mix Tamiya Enamel Color Flat Black and Hull Red to create a darker red primer color.

▶Put a little paint on the tip of a flat brush and wipe off the excess with a tissue. When there is almost no paint transferring to the tissue paper, that's the best amount for dry brushing. Using too much paint will cause a series of issues, such as brush marks on the surface and the parts becoming too dark.



▲Apply the paint by rubbing the brush tip onto the edges. Be careful when you dry brush dark color over a light color, it will quickly become too dark if you overdo it. It's better to keep it subtle.

## 03 Chipping

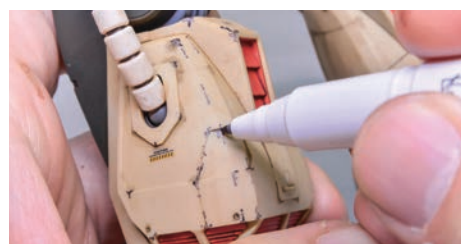


▲You can use a sponge instead of a brush for a more natural chipping effect. First of all, apply the red primer color to a piece of sponge and wipe it off with a tissue in the same way as when dry brushing.

▶Apply paint to the edges and the pointed parts by tapping them lightly with the sponge. The trick is to use a light touch. Pressing too hard will transfer too much paint, resulting in an unnatural finish.



▶The finished sponge chipping. This finish is made of small dots that reproduce the effect of peeled off paint. It can create a very realistic look with fine details and patterns that cannot be made with a brush or other tools. As the shape of the chipping pattern changes depending on the sponge used, using a combination of different sponges will give you a better result.



▲Use the Gundam Real Touch Markers for flat surfaces, armor gaps, and other areas where you find it difficult to apply chipping with a dry brush or sponge. I am going to draw a lot of small dots with the Gundam Real Touch Marker Gray 2, lightly tapping it on the surface.



▲Chipped with the Real Touch Marker. Chipping with the Real Touch Marker is easier than using a brush, but it takes longer than a dry brush or sponge, so it's a good idea to use it only as a supplementary tool on small areas.



▲Three types of chipping have been applied throughout. Any of these chipping methods are also effective on their own, but when combined together they can create a well-matched, "natural" finish with random patterns of dots in various shapes and sizes.



## 04 Stains from the ground



▲ Apply dirt and stains from the ground. First, apply the Mr. Weathering Color Grayish Brown to the legs with a flat brush, slapping the brush onto the legs.



▲ Before it dries completely, tap the surface with tissue paper to blur it. Ordinary tissue paper will work fine, but KimWipes tissues for professional use will achieve a better finish without leaving fluff.



▲ After the Grayish Brown is dry, mix Tamiya Weathering Master (A set) Light Sand and Mud in a ratio of 8:2 and paint it on with a brush. By using multiple colors, you can avoid a dull finish.



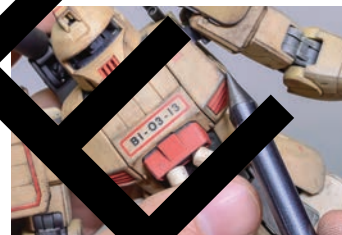
▲ The ground stain painting is complete. By using a combination of paste Weathering Color and powdered Weathering Master, it's quick and easy to recreate realistic dirt stains.



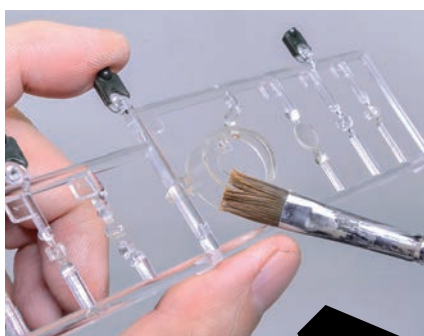
▲ Lightly rub Light Sand and Mud over the entire body to create a powdery, dusted look. If you use too much you will end up covering the chipping effects, so use a cotton swab damp with water to remove the excess Weathering Master.



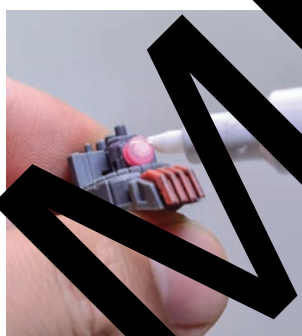
▲ Stain the muzzle of the Big Gun, such as the Big Gun, with Soot from the Weathering Master (B set). Rub it with the sponge, then blur the body with a brush for a realistic finish.



▲ Rubbing a pencil against chipped edges creates the effect of exposed metal underneath, which enhances the feeling of scale drastically. Regular pencils are fine, but a graphite pencil that is made entirely of lead comes in handy for weathering.



▲ The clear parts won't match the main body after weathering. After painting the Gundam, clear parts have been weathered, so apply a quick coat of Mr. Weathering Color Grayish Brown to fog them up nicely.



▲ Paint the Mono-eye of the Gundam. After painting the Mono-eye with the Fluorescent Pink, paint a circle in the center with the New White before the pink dries. Rubbing the edges with the tip of the Fluorescent Pink marker will help you recreate the glowing Mono-eye easily.



### Multiple clear coats method to prevent weathering from melting away

There are many kinds of paint for weathering, but most of them are either enamel or oil paints, both of which contain the same solvent which dissolves paint. This means that Weathering Color can also undo all the work you've created with other weathering paints, such as washing or chipping effects. To prevent this, spray on another coat of Super Clear Flat to protect the weathering effects. By creating a strong paint film with this durable lacquer-based clear coat, you can apply multiple weatherings effects without anything melting away. In this Zaku Cannon, I sprayed Super Clear Flat to protect the surface before I used pin washing and applied the ground stains.

### Finish



▲ Washing, chipping, and all the other weathering paints that we used created an impressive finish that doesn't look like we worked directly on the mold color.





BANDAI SPIRITS 1/100 Scale Plastic Kit  
"Master Grade"

# MS-06K Zaku Cannon

Modeling and text by Teppei Hayashi

MG Zaku Cannon X Desert weathering











▲ Even if they are finished with the mold color, you can give the Cannon and the Big Gun a realistic and robust look by dry brushing with the Tamiya Weathering Master.



◀ The feet are the most likely to get dirty. I applied detailed weathering there with Mr. Weathering Color and Tamiya Weathering Master.

I am sure all of you are familiar with "ground stains" as they are a common feature in our environments; such as surfaces faintly covered with dust, sandy feet, exposed corners after the paint peeled off or the look of a slightly worn-out truck. Despite its name, "desert weathering" can be easily recreated by looking at the stains you see in your daily life, allowing even weathering beginners to obtain realistic effects. I chose the MG Zaku Cannon as an example because it looks great in a desert, as you can see from the package illustrations of the 1/144 and 1/100 MSV kits, but desert weathering can be applied to any ground battle type MS kit, such as the Dom and the GM Ground Type. Since it's the basis for all kinds of staining, desert weathering is something you should definitely try!