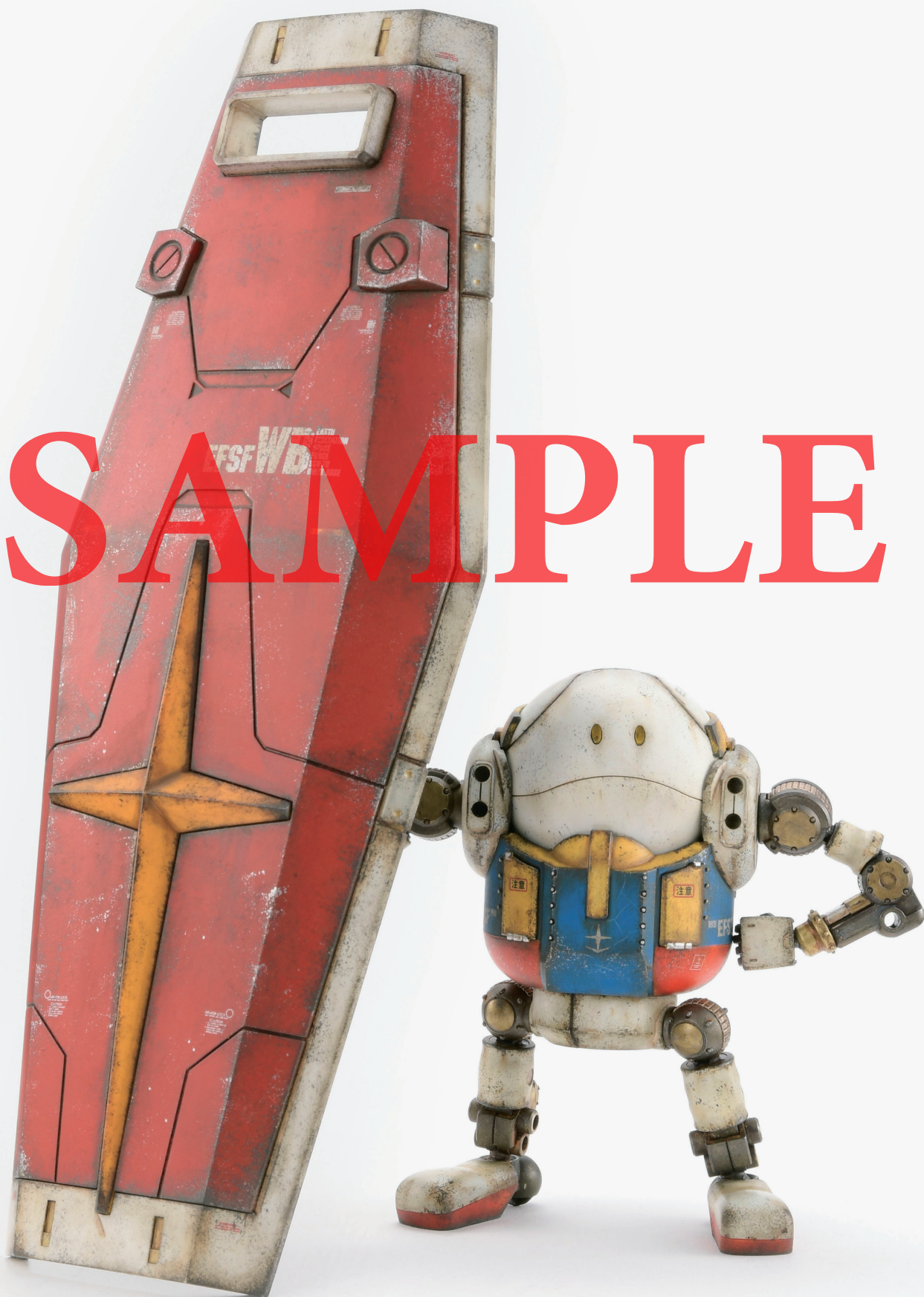


# GUNPLA EASY CUSTOM GUIDE

for Beginners to Intermediate

SAMPLE







# Welcome to the World of Easy Customs!

Thank you for taking the time to read my book *Gunpla Easy Custom Guide for Beginners to Intermediate!* If you've bought this book, then you're someone who loves Gunpla, regardless of whether you build them or not. You are one of us!

Have you ever seen superb Gunpla creations, like in the All Japan ORA-ZAKU Championship or other contests and thought, "Wow, that's amazing," or "I'd love to build one," but then think, "But I don't know any techniques and I don't have the money for it?"

You may think you need expensive tools, like compressors and airbrushes, special tools and knowledge of different paints just to start building Gunpla... Even before that, I'm sure there are plenty of people that have given up on diving into this hobby because they can't paint in their current home environment or have their own rooms to work on them! There's an undeniably strong assumption that it's not easy to start modelling as a hobby, isn't there? Some of you have already started building Gunpla, thinking that although you can't imitate the excellent custom kits in *Monthly Hobby Japan*, you would still like to change their look a little. I'm one of those people, too. I hope this book can serve as inspiration for the "wannabe Gunpla modelers" and those who "want to level up" their work; for those who aren't after competition-winning works right off the bat, but to "make it easy and to have fun with Gunpla" without feeling apprehensive, because everyone starts as a beginner.

Consider hobbies to be interests that enrich one's life. Maybe you want to pursue your hobby seriously or just have fun. Let me compare a hobby with cooking. For beginners, just cooking is fun! However, the more you cook, the more you might want a better frying pan and

end up buying better cooking tools! You might get more ambitious in making even better food. Maybe it's French cuisine that looks amazing? Something wild from America? Chinese food with its mix of ingredients? Japanese cooking that brings out the best of each ingredient? Simple and tasty dishes made in a microwave? Or is just the act of cooking fun enough? There are many ways of enjoying cooking as a hobby.

Shouldn't that also apply to Gunpla? There are many ways to express yourself: Gunpla with beautiful, shiny finishes, Gunpla in search of ideal proportions, Gunpla that are scratched and stained. There are unique builds made by mixing various parts and straight builds that bring out the best of the kit. It's up to you, the modeler, to choose an expression that suits you best and in a way that you find "fun." There's nothing better than a hobby that enriches your mind.

I have only one rule when building Gunpla and that is to have fun!

I want to share this "fun" with as many people as possible. I made this book with that sentiment in mind!

If even another "wannabe Gunpla modeler" turns into a real "Gunpla modeler" with this book as a starting point, I will be more than pleased. It would also be great if this book could help those who have started building Gunpla but aren't sure how to make a build that expresses their own creativity.

As long as you take this book and use it as another way to have fun, I'll be more than happy.

Rider Joe





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## Index

- 02. Preface
- 05. Tools and Materials for Easy Custom
- 08. ● COLUMN 1 ● The Birth of a Living Room Modeler
- 09. Chapter 1: The Basics of the Easy Gunpla Custom
- 10. The Basics of the Easy Gunpla Custom 1  
Enjoy staining without painting!
- 24. The Basics of the Easy Gunpla Custom 2  
Enjoy staining plated models?!
- 28. ● COLUMN 2 ● A story about Easy Staining
- 29. Chapter 2: Easy Painting Challenge
- 30. Easy Painting Challenge  
Taking full advantage of Gundam Markers
- 36. Easy Painting Challenge  
Enjoy replicating peeled paint
- 42. Easy Painting Challenge  
Easy Custom with a Mega-Size Gundam
- 52. Easy Painting Challenge  
Bonus: Enjoy a Candy Finish-like paint job with Aqueous Hobby Colors
- 55. Chapter 3: Easy Finish Archives
- 56. Easy Finish Archive 1: RE/100 Gun-EZ
- 62. Easy Finish Archive 2: R/100E Zaku II
- 66. Easy Finish Archive 3: MG-09 Dwadge
- 70. ● COLUMN 3 ● Contests and Motivation
- 71. Chapter 4: Easy Scratch Building
- 72. Easy Scratch Building 1: MS-09H Dwadge Custom
- 76. Easy Scratch Building2: MS-09 Dom (Slender Dom)
- 80. Easy Scratch Building: RGC-80 GM Cannon
- 88. Chapter 5: Rider Joe Early Works
- 89. Rider Joe Early Work 1: Evolution [MS02]
- 91. Rider Joe Early Work 2: Mobile Worker Type 01 (Ral's Machine)
- 92. Rider Joe Early Work 3: The Dawn of MS:  
"From heavy machinery to a weapon" YMS-03 WAFF
- 94. Rider Joe Early Work 4: Learning from the past:  
The Man's MSV MS-07C-5
- 96. Postscript

\* All prices in this book don't include tax. All prices are current as of August 2020.



## Tools and Materials for Easy Customs

Here I will introduce tools and materials I use regularly. None of them are expensive or special and are available everywhere.



### ● Five Basic tools and materials for easy staining

- Aqueous Hobby Color H76 Burnt Iron
- Premium Top Coat Flat Spray
- Gundam Marker Real Touch Marker Brown 1 and "Divine Marker"
- Weathering Master D Set
- Self-made Rubber Sponge

With these five basic tools and materials you can thoroughly enjoy easy staining. Even if you buy them at their normal prices, the total cost is less than 2,000 yen, which is not so expensive.

- Aqueous Hobby Color H76 Burnt Iron
- Premium Top Coat Flat Spray

It's no exaggeration to say that my modeling life wouldn't have continued this far if I hadn't come across this metallic, yet matte, Burnt Iron color. It is truly a divine paint! When using the newer version of the Aqueous Hobby Color Burnt Iron, you may want to mix it with a little flat base paint due to its excellent pigmentation. Apart from these properties, the best thing about it is that it's water-based and can be washed off with water, but when you dilute it, you should use a special dilution solution. Mr. Premium Top Coat is an excellent product with fine particles and little whitening that can replicate "real matte black." It's a must-have paint because its matte surface allows it to absorb the materials for staining. When I need intensive staining, I sometimes use the blue can of "Mr. Top Coat Flat Spray" (GSI Creos, 500 yen).



### ● Weathering Master (Tamiya, 600 yen)

Pigments (pigment powders) are solidified into a type of cosmetic tool. You can use the included brush or sponge to press and rub the pigments. You can immerse yourself in the world of staining by purchasing the D Set as a start!



### ● Self-made rubber sponge

I started using this rubber sponge after trying more than a few dozen different sponges (really!). The rubbery texture of the EPDM material can help create a natural stippling effect that can cover the parts when tapping with it. With this one tool you can create a wide range of expressions from delicate to coarse spots.

### ● Gundam Marker Real Touch Marker (GSI Creos, 200 yen)

It can be used in various ways from panel lining to staining, and even as a metallic clear color when applied over silver. You can use it as a base material for the "Divine Marker," the ultimate form of the Real Touch Marker and is an essential tool for the Rider Joe-style Easy Staining. It's water-based, so feel free to use it on joints as it doesn't damage the plastic.



### ● Paper napkins and kitchen paper

I often use napkins from a specific burger restaurant.... The subtle embossing is perfect as a base when you tap. The texture varies from shop to shop so you can enjoy all the differences. Just make sure to grab some when you buy a hamburger! (Or French fries, if you prefer.)



### ● Easy Painter (Gainotes, 1500 yen)

This is a super-convenient product that allows you to spray even the Aqueous Hobby colors by filling the paint bottle. Normally, I only use this for the Aqueous Hobby Colors because all I have to do is rinse it with water after using it. Even though it is water-based, I go out on the balcony when I use it because it diffuses into a mist when spraying.





● Mr. Pro Spray Basic (GSI Creos ,4000 yen)

You can attach Aqueous Hobby Color paint bottles directly to it and spray. Of course, you can also use mixed Aqueous Hobby Colors without any problem. I do not consider myself to be in possession of any airbrush system, but I suppose this could be classified under that category. Always have more than two air canisters on hand and switch them out when pressure gets low due to evaporation heat cooling.



● Gundam Marker Air Brush System (GSI Creos, 3400 yen)

This is a revolutionary product that makes it possible to paint with Gundam markers evenly and beautifully. Gundam Markers paint even better than you might imagine, so please use them. I know it sounds like a big deal, but I'm just saying this is the perfect tool for a lazy person like me because you just need to change the pen and don't have to clean it at all!

● Wave Epoxy Putty Lightweight Gray type (Wave, 980 yen)

It's kneadable like the clay from your childhood.. You can create anything with this stuff. I mix it with water and get my hands nice and wet when I use it (it can irritate skin, so please wear gloves). You can get a really smooth surface by polishing it with some water in a semi-cured state.



● P-Cutter ● Various tools for scraping ● Dymo Tape

I use it for engraving lines, which I rarely do. Dymo tape is cut into thin strips and used as a guide for engraving.

● Thin blade nippers (for gate cutting) (Tamiya 2900 yen)

I can't handle single-bladed nippers well, probably because I have extremely short fingers, so I use regular double-bladed nippers. I have two of them, one of which is pretty old, and I use it to cut quickly. The other is relatively new and I use it to make double cuts. Once the new one dulls, I'll use it for quick cutting. That way I'll always have both at hand.



● Wire brush

I use it to replicate peeling paint. I purchased a set of three brushes for 100 yen.

● Mr. Mark Softer (GSI Creos 200 yen)

After applying the water transfer sticker, use Mr. Mark Softer to firmly stick it to the parts. It is strictly forbidden to touch the softened decals until they are dry after application. (By the way, Mr. Mark Setter contains an adhesive component that can cause "ruffles" after drying, so I usually use Mr. Mark Softer more often).



● Weathering Pastel (GSI Creos, 900 yen) ● Woodworking bond (Konishi, 170 yen)

● Gundam Marker (GSI Creos, 200 yen each)

They use an alcohol-based paint which can be used not only for solid colors, but also to quickly create metallic expressions. There are a lot of colors that are only available in sets, so you'll always have an excess of particular colors. It's a good idea to write the date you started using it on the cap.

● Weathering Pastel (GSI Creos, 900 yen) ● Woodworking bond (Konishi, 170 yen)

It is a pigmented powder that is very effective in replicating rust and discoloration. Mix a little wood glue so that the pastel powder sticks better. It's also useful for filtering purposes because it removes the gloss and, most importantly, a solution of water and wood glue will not affect the plastic or the paint film!



● H-Eyes (Wave, 250 yen) ● Kitchen aluminum tape (from 100 yen)

Essential material for replicating the mono-eye. You can attach aluminum tape to the H-eyes' back to create an electric glow by reflecting the light. The reason why aluminum tape is used instead of metallic tape is its superior elasticity and ability to follow curved surfaces. Plus, you can cut off the excess with nippers!



● Mr. Cement (GSI Creos 150 to 200 yen) ● Mr. Cement SP (GSI Creos 300 yen)

It's an adhesive for plastics. Usually I use Mr. Cement to temporarily attach the parts, and then Mr. Cement SP, which is fast and strong for actual bonding. I also apply it to the surface of the glued parts to easily melt the seams off the parts.



● UV resin and magic light pen (Purchased at a dollar store)

I use these to increase the gloss of sensor parts and self-made lenses. As the name suggests, it's a resin that cures with UV (ultraviolet) light, so it can harden under sunlight for a few dozen seconds. I rarely go out into the sun, so that's not possible for me. Instead, I use the UV LED built into the Magic Light Pen lid, whose light, according to the instructions, allows me to read stuff written with the invisible ink.



● Craft knife ● Homemade file ● Diamond file

There are many ways to use a craft knife. It can be used to remove air from decals or to sand parting lines. My homemade file is made by attaching #180 and #320 grit paper files to a hard eraser with double-sided tape. The file is slightly flexible, so you can file with a high degree of freedom. The diamond file was bought at a dollar store.



● Pin vise set

It's a common pin vise set, but it's wrapped with cloth tape to prevent slipping.

● G Tool cordless rotary tool (GSI Creos 2000 yen)

I haven't featured it in the magazine much, but I use it a lot for casual scratching. Of course I drill holes and file, but I often use a 1.2 mm pin vise and cut out parts with the flat of the blade instead of the tip.



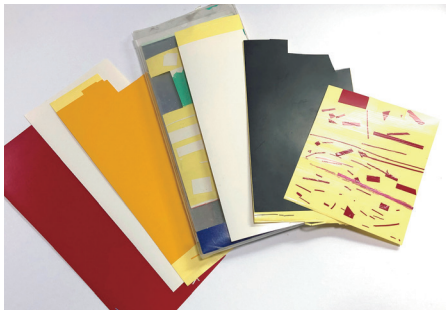
● Cotton swabs ● Tweezers

These tools are used to apply water transfer decals. The tweezers are off-brand. If you buy three or so of them, I imagine you could find at least one good that's easy to handle.



● Try-tool Finish Sheets (Hasegawa from 800 yen)

These sheets are very thin and flexible and can be applied to curved surfaces when stretched. That's why I use it a lot as a substitute for painting. It's a handy tool you can use as decals if you cut it into thin strips of about 1 mm to make curved lines.



■ How to "Cultivate" the "Divine Marker"

I will now explain how to cultivate the "Divine Marker" (I use the word "cultivate" because it's not about how to make it, but about how to develop it). Usually the "Divine Marker" refers to a Real Touch Marker used until it runs out of ink and the pen frays due to wear. GSI Creos is a decent manufacturer that produces these markers with durability,

so it could take months or years for a Real Touch Marker to develop into the "Divine Marker" when used under normal circumstances. I will show you how to cultivate the "Divine Marker" for those who want to get their hands on one immediately!

Note: This is not the use recommended by the manufacturer. Work at your own risk.



① Use pliers or something similar to pull out the inner core of the thick pen tip (the one with the small cap).



② Remove the inner cap of the inner core by lifting it with pliers by using the principle of the lever.



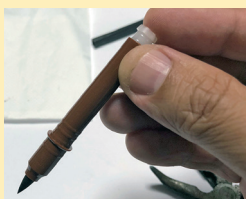
③ Remove the ink core with a toothpick as you scrape it out.



④ It might seem like a waste, but dispose of the ink core. Without the ink core, the nib will go deeper and deeper into the pen, so place a surplus runner in place of the core.



⑤ The length of the runner should be approx. 3 mm shorter than the ink core. This is basically what it looks like (sorry, I didn't actually measure it).



⑥ Insert the surplus runner you have just cut into the thick side of the pen (middle core) and put on the inner cap.



⑦ Take advantage of the capillary action of a tissue to suck up the remaining ink in the pen tip. Even when you think the ink has stopped flowing, if you wrap the nib in a tissue, more ink will seep out after a few minutes, so be patient!



⑧ The ink has almost stopped coming out now. Check the condition of the ink with a piece of paper towel. At this point, try to write on the paper with the nib of the pen, squishing it down a little.



⑨ If you can scarcely see whether ink is coming out or not, put the main part of the thick pen (center core) back in the pen.

⑩ Now that you have completed the cultivation of the "Divine Marker," the more you use it, the better blur it'll create. A cultivated marker is much easier to use than a one made naturally. You can use the fine tip pen for the panel lining and then switch to the Divine Marker side for blurring. It's a very efficient way of working.



## A story about my environment and tools

### ■ The Birth of a Living Room Modeler

"Okay, Dad will build you a Gundam!" That's how I resumed my hobby of making Gunpla. I hadn't done anything with Gundam for more than ten years after I went to school, found a job, and got married, but when my oldest son was enrolled in elementary school (2002), I happened to rent a video called *Mobile Suit Gundam: The 08th MS Team*, and my children and I immediately got hooked.

For the first time in 16 years, I bought the Gunpla MG Gouf Custom for my first son and an MG Gundam Ground Type for my second son. "They are already painted?" "You don't need glue!" Everything was such a culture shock! The process of turning the screws and assembling it was exciting! But all I could do was assemble them according to the instructions. Nevertheless, the children were very happy and their father got carried away and bought more Gunpla, assembled them at night and put them on the children's desk when they woke up in the morning. The joy in the eyes of my children when they found the finished Gunpla was the driving force behind my Gunpla creation. Naturally, my children also started to build Gunpla with me.

As I worked with my children, the workshop was in the living room. Since my neighborhood was densely populated with houses and many young children in the area, the only paint option I could use was water-based paint. When I was in the middle of raising my children, the economic bubble had just burst, so I had little time with them. After finally getting

home from work, I would stay in my room and make plastic models. No! Not so; instead, I wanted to spend as much time as possible with my family! This desire and style continue on to this day. For this reason, my work space is still the living room and kitchen.

### ■ The evolving slacker

At that time, model shops had already started to disappear from the city, and there were no specialty stores in the neighborhood. Internet shopping was not as developed as it is now, so good tools were hard to come by. That was a time when you could only use what you could normally buy. Since I shared the same room with my family when I worked with Gunpla, I couldn't use anything that smelled bad or was harmful. If I wanted to spray paint, I would do it on my balcony around 2 a.m. at night when my family and the surrounding residents were asleep. I thought it would be too much trouble to paint the frames with a brush, so I decided to use an airbrush... but I couldn't use a compressor in my living room. So I asked myself, "Is it possible to spray the Aqueous Hobby Colors? So I modified a Mr. Pro Spray and Easy Painter.

Dry brushing has become a hassle, so why not use a sponge instead? I tried dozens of different sponges, even though it was a huge pain. Yes, I'm a slacker. Since I couldn't go out and buy a refill, I decided to use a Real Touch Marker until it ran out of ink and discovered that it could create exquisite blurring, which led me to the

invention of the "Divine Marker." Due to my environmental restrictions, I could develop my "Easy Custom" style of trying out everything free of common sense or theories.

### ■ Because I'm a living room modeler

After I get home from work, I take a bath, have dinner and drinks, and then start working on plastic models, so I often work in my pajamas. In the "How-To" articles, I stain and assemble on a mat or paper to make it easier for the reader to understand, but the truth is my belly is where most of my production processes take place. I can easily fix the position of my hands in that position, and for my aging eyesight, the distance from my stomach is ideal. That's why my pajamas are always smeared in weathering paint. And even now, I still spend time in my living room and kitchen with my family, including my two cats, sharing time and space while making Gunpla. The construction of plastic models in the living room/kitchen, which also serves as an eating space, requires understanding from your family members (especially your partner). In other words, I can be a living room modeler because my family members have supported me. With the arrival of cats, the restrictions have become even tighter, but I guess this can be another source of ingenuity. Even now, when I leave a finished Gunpla on the table, my kids, who are already over 20 years old, would say, "Dad, this Zaku looks great," and that makes me happy like the old days, so Daddy keeps building Gunpla!

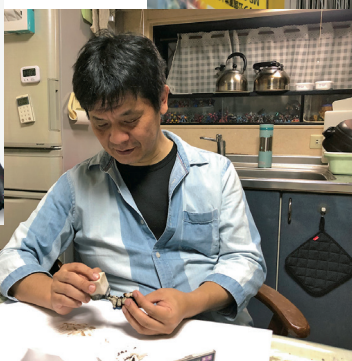


▲ My first work back after 16 years is just a simple straight build MG Gouf Custom. I was shocked to see the evolution of Gunpla!

◀ Even today I enjoy building Gunpla, while my cats try to steal my attention.



▶ My cats love Gunpla boxes. Oh, don't bite that Gunpla please!



◀ My creation space is the table in the kitchen where I can share time and space with my family.



## The Basics of the Easy Gunpla Custom



Gunpla's high potential has evolved over the last 40 years. In this article, I will introduce the basics of the "Easy" techniques to make the most of their great potential to create your own unique work with little effort.



## Enjoy staining without painting!



### Advanced mold colors

When we talk about the evolution of Gunpla, we tend to focus on the design concept and proportions, but in fact, the mold colors have also evolved dramatically in recent years. In particular, the evolution of "white" has been remarkable. If you have a kit with white parts, please check it out. You will notice that there are many types of "white." A few years ago, if you stained the white mold parts, they would appear plastic, but the white parts of this MG Gundam Barbatos look as if they were painted simply by coating them with the Mr. Premium Top Coat Flat from GSI Creos! Even if you stain it, it doesn't feel plastic, so let's enjoy the mold color Bandai Spirits created with utmost effort without painting it. *Mobile Suit Gundam: Iron-Blooded Orphans's* harsh setting makes it a perfect match for weathering paint so we'll give it some serious staining.

### Partial painting to achieve a more vibrant finish

The interior parts are usually finished in the Burnt Iron color, but as I'm not going to paint them, I will cover them with Mr. Premium Top Coat Flat. The latest kits without polycaps take advantage of the KPS material to maintain poses with a super exquisite movable axis clearance. However, if you paint the moving axle, the parts may not fit or be difficult to move due to the subtle thickness of the paint layer. In the case of a ball shaft, forcing it to move may cause it to twist and break, so you should protect the moving shaft while applying the top coat. If you use Gundam Metallic Markers to paint the interior and exterior parts, you'll achieve a crisp look when finished. Once the prep work is done, cut out all the parts and assemble them while applying easy staining at the same time. I will explain the process of simple staining in detail with pictures; please refer to these pages. When the whole body is assembled, you may think it's finished. However, you can make final adjustments to the amount of staining while keeping an eye on the balance as a whole and then putting a color accent in the concave molds to complete it.

### No need for a paint booth

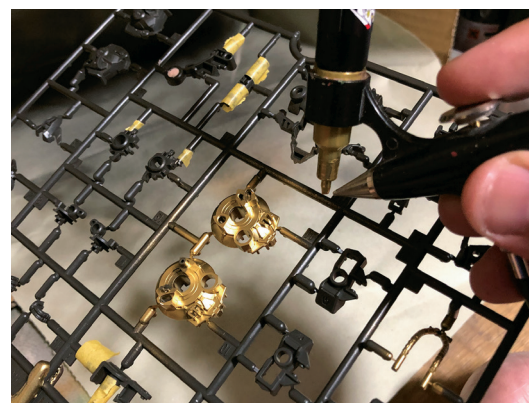
I have posted images of the materials I used for this project, mainly for partial painting. I used Mr. Premium Top Coat Flat, Aqueous Hobby Color Burnt Iron, Weathering Master D Set and a Real Touch Marker Brown. With these four materials you can thoroughly enjoy easy staining. These materials have almost no odor and are non-toxic even when used indoors, so you can enjoy painting even without a painting booth. Please give it a try but be careful when removing burrs.

## Building a Gundam Frame

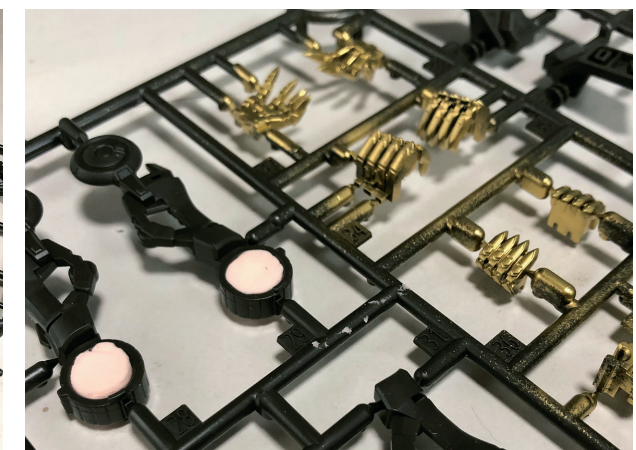


◀ This time, in addition to the five basic materials for Easy Staining introduced on page 5, I used various Gundam Markers, Aqueous Hobby Colors gold and clear green. I also used the "Weathering Pastel Set 2," which can create a nice rust effect.

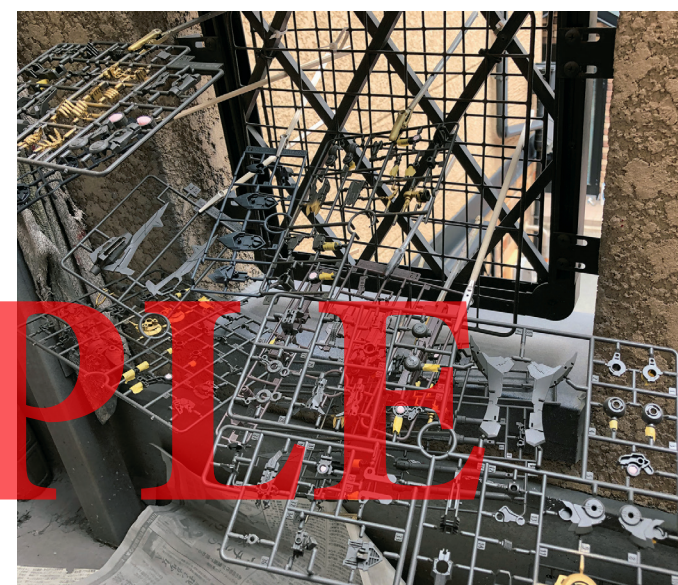
▶ The goal of this section is applying a "minimal and partial painting finish utilizing the mold color." Parts such as the Ahab Reactor will be painted with the Gundam Marker Airbrush System. With such a large distance between them, you can paint the targeted parts without masking the other parts. For more information on how to use the Gundam Marker Airbrush System, please refer to the explanation on page 30.



▲ Gundam Marker Gold is awesome! It's all you need to make parts sparkle as if they were plated!



▲ The frame parts are also coated with Mr. Premium Top Coat Flat to get the best out of the mold color. Even if it's only for coating purposes, it's better to prevent the joints from being painted. To protect them, I used "Fluffy Light Clay" that I bought at a dollar store. Simply tear off pieces in the appropriate size to cover the joints. Once it dries, it will come off without sticking to the parts.



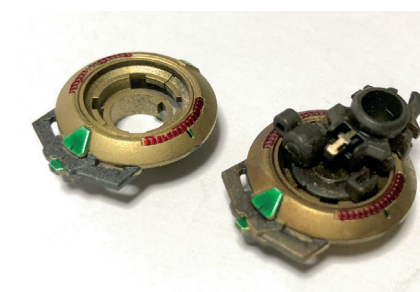
◀ It was in the middle of the rainy season when I was working on it. On a rare sunny day, I applied the flat topcoat out on the veranda. Some parts turned white due to the unusually high humidity, but that was OK. I hung these pieces on a net attached to the balcony's ventilation window and let them dry.  
▼ Then I started painting the accent colors. I put Gundam Marker EX Shine Silver in a paint dish and apply it quickly with a fine-point brush. I don't care if it sticks out. I will also apply it to the gear-like parts of the joints.



▲ Continue painting accent colors on various parts with Gundam Marker EX Gold and Aqueous Hobby Color Gold. There's no specific rules on where to apply them so it's really up to you.

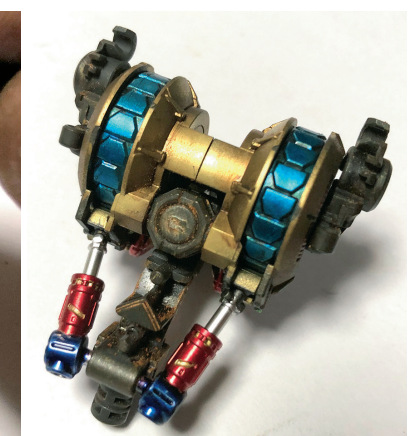
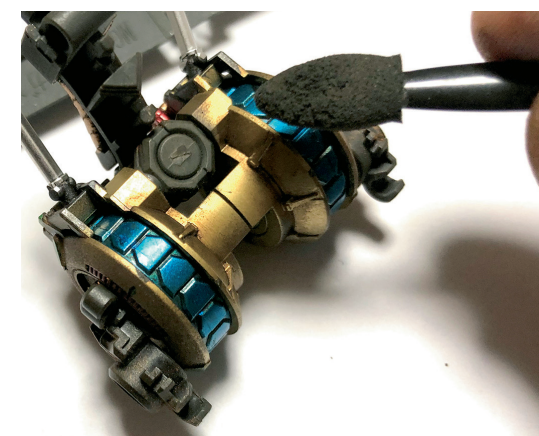


▲ Partially paint the Ahab Reactor's mold with various Gundam markers (use them as markers). Apply Real Touch Marker Brown 1 all over and blur it with the "Divine Marker" to emphasize the 3D effect.



▲ Comparison of before and after application of the Real Touch Marker Brown 1. It has a nice 3D look and a used feel.

▶ Lightly apply the "oil" from the Weathering Master D Set on the edges to give it a more used look.



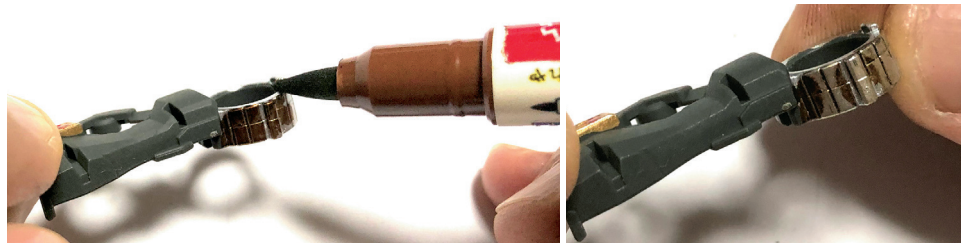




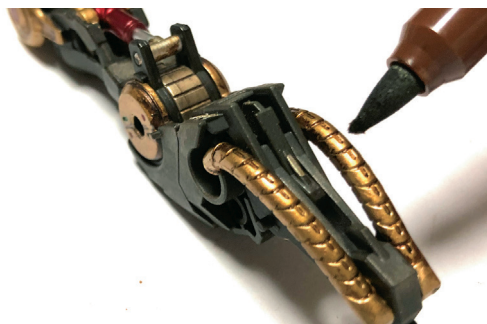
◀ The Gundam Frame is now finished. It's mechanical, but it has an unusually organic feel to it.



▲ Next we start building up the arms and legs. First, don't forget to remove the "Fluffy Light Clay" protecting the joint shafts. It dries in about half a day, so you can easily remove it with a toothpick.



▲ Apply the Real Touch Marker Brown 1 generously to the gear-like areas in the joints, previously painted with Gundam Marker EX Shine Silver, and smudge it with your finger (!) so it's vertical to the grooves to apply a panel lining and create a used look.



▼ I also applied panel lining to the power pipe (?) that I had painted with the Gundam Marker Gold. Don't be afraid of it sticking out, be brave! And now the legs are complete!



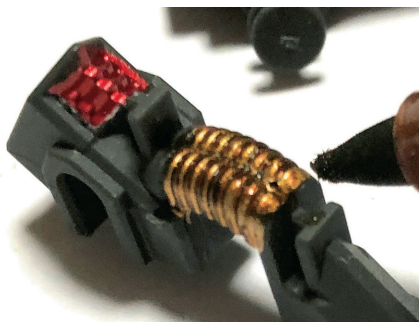
▲ Since the frame parts aren't painted this time, I will emphasize the metallic feel by rubbing the "titanium" from the Weathering Master F Set on the surface of the frame parts.



▲ If you find any place you want to add more paint, you can use the Gundam Marker Gold to add accent colors even after it's assembled. You can use the marker directly or apply the color with a toothpick for more detailed areas.



▲ Apply Real Touch Marker Brown 1 to the area where Gundam Marker Gold was applied. This combination is very effective and does a really great job!

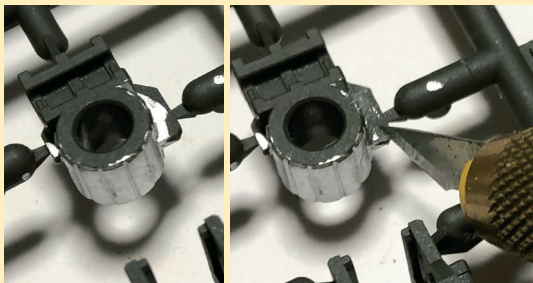


▲ So much change in only a few dozen seconds.



▲ Although it's not so obvious, I also applied a lot of Real Touch Marker Brown 1 to the concave mold of the frame parts and blurred it with the "Divine Marker."

### How to retouch paint overflow



▲ There was a lot of paint overflow with the Gundam Marker EX Shine Silver on the joints. Don't panic! You can scrape it off with the blade of a hobby knife, and now the overflow is gone as if it had never existed.



▲ And so the arm parts are also finished. You can add stains while you assemble each of the frame parts like this, and...

SAMPLE



**Barbatos' Gundam frame is now complete**



▲ The joints were thoroughly protected and top-coated, so you can enjoy the original smooth movement from the kit. I want to display it like this



## ● Applying Weathering paint to the Gundam Frame



▲ I will now stain the assembled frame parts. It'll look like rust, or rather, oil stains. I mixed the GSI Creos Weathering Pastel Set 2 Orange and Charcoal Gray in a ratio of 3:1 on a paint tray and added 0.5 wood glue and water. I recycled a bottle of Chinese red chili oil for a water jug.



▲ This is how it looks. The mix ratio is only a guide; it varies from day to day. The powder has not completely dissolved and will float on the surface, but that's okay.



▲ After disassembling each part of the frame, apply a large amount of the aforementioned pastel solution. Make sure the pastel solution reaches the deepest parts of the frame.

► Tissue paper will not absorb all the moisture, but that's what I wanted. The coarseness of the tissue allows the pastels to naturally remain in the deeper parts to create rust or oil stains effects without any whiteness left when it dries.



► Reassemble each frame part and scrub away any excess pastel residue with a melamine sponge while checking the overall balance.



◀ View from the rear. The contrast between the shiny metal parts and the dirty steel is striking. The cylinders were painted with the Gundam Marker EX Cosmo Meta Red using the airbrush system.



## ● Making exterior parts



▲ Now let's begin the preparation of the exterior parts! Again, this is a runner-by-runner process. Nowadays, most kits come with Tetoron stickers rather than water transfer decals. Since you can't fine-tune the Tetoron stickers' position once they are applied, soak them in water to weaken their adhesive strength before applying them.



▲ When applying water transfer decals, cut out each decal as you use it, dip it in water for about 10 seconds in a paint tray and place it on a tissue to absorb excessive moisture before applying it.



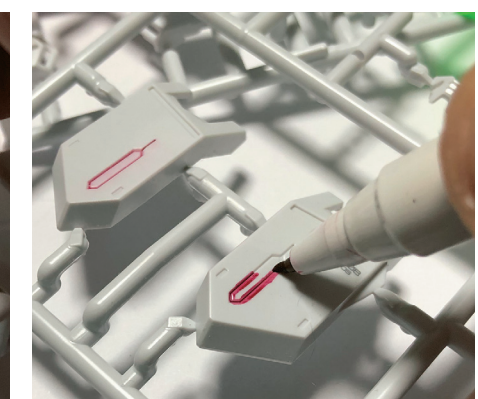
▲ Use tweezers to clip the base paper and move it to the vicinity of where you want to stick it, then slide it with a tooth-pick to fine-tune the position.



▲ Once the position is fixed, absorb the water with a tissue and set it temporarily, and finally completely remove the moisture and air by rolling a cotton swab over it.



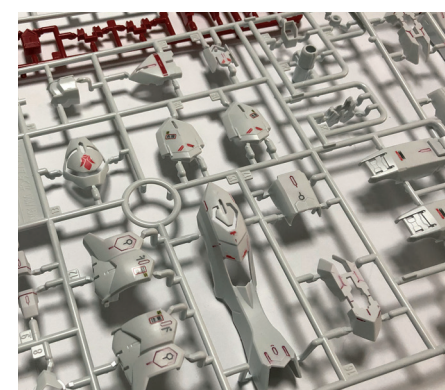
▲ Once the decal is dry, apply Mr. Mark Softer from GSI Creos. After application, immediately use the edge of a hobby knife to make a super tiny hole in the decal to allow the Mark Softer to penetrate, allowing the decal to adhere and to prevent silvering.



▲ For panel lining, use Real Touch Markers. I usually use Brown 1, but for the Barbatos I used Red 1. Draw on the mold directly without worrying that it will stick out.



▲ Once you've drawn in the lines, lightly apply a melamine sponge perpendicular to the groove and wipe off the paint overflow to complete the panel lining.

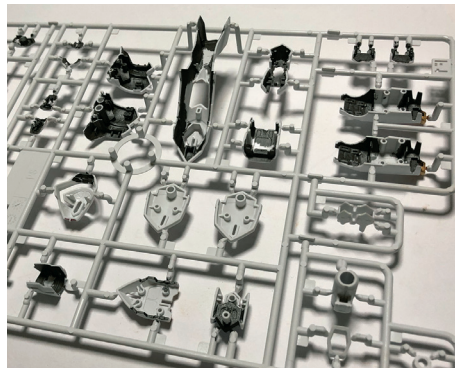


▲ Decal application and panel lining are complete. If the position or angle of the runner makes it difficult to apply the decals or panel lining, cut off the target parts before proceeding. The goal isn't to work with runners. Efficiency is the first priority.

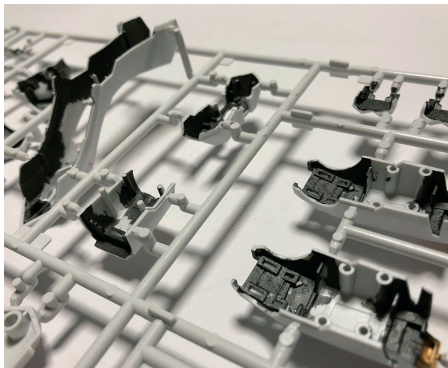


▲ When the Mark Softer on the decals is completely dry, spray Mr. Premium Top Coat Flat over it. The trick to apply it evenly is to gently spray from all directions while moving the runner and shaking the spray can. Leave it on for about 30 minutes and the top coat will dry.

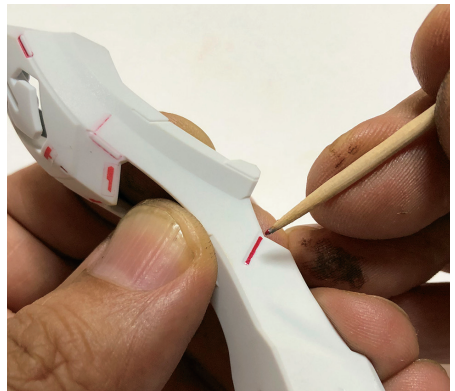
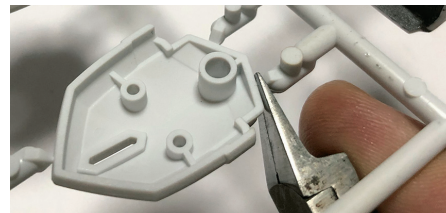




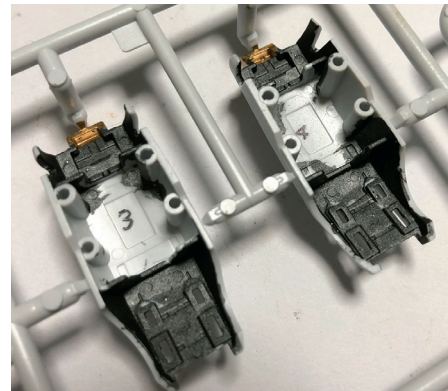
▲ The back of the armor is painted with a brush in Burnt Iron color. I didn't paint the entire back of the armor, only the parts you could get a glimpse of when the armor is moved. It would seem odd if the backside were clean, even though the exterior was stained when it was finished...



▼ The first step is to cut out all parts. Ideally, the gate should be cut twice to avoid scratching and whitening of the cut surface, but I prefer to cut it straight only once, as I will add a stain to the nub marks later. Choose the direction in which the nipper blade can make the closest contact with the cutting surface horizontally, either from the front or back of the target part. I recommend cutting it from the back with a single-bladed nipper to create clean edges.



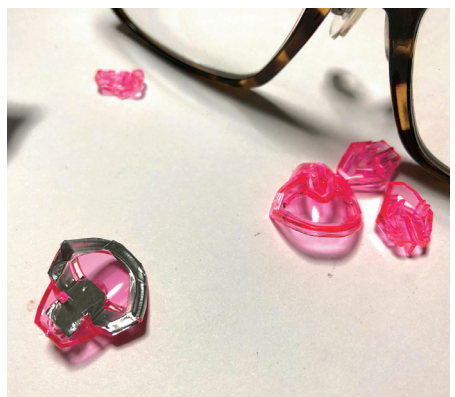
▲ Let's go even further. Apply panel lining and paint accents on the areas hard to treat on the runner. This time, I used the Gundam Marker EX Royal Meta Red with a toothpick to paint the large concave mold.



▲ Here's a tip! For parts that look similar but have different shapes on the left and right, write the numbers on the back in an inconspicuous place. Using this as a precaution, you won't assemble the parts incorrectly after cutting them out.



▲ I also painted Mikazuki, just enough to show that he was painted.



▲ Apply aluminum tape to the backside of the clear parts. The reflected light will make them look as if they are glowing. By the way, aluminum tape is flexible, so it will follow a curved surface if it's held in place with a toothpick or something similar.



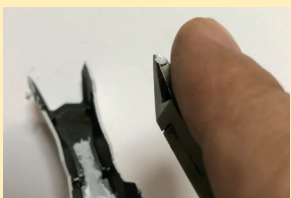
▲ After cutting out all the parts, separate them into arm, leg, and torso parts and store them in a safe place. This way you can easily check the parts and proceed with the assembly process, like, "Today, I'll just assemble the arms."



## ■ A Living Room Modeler's Wisdom

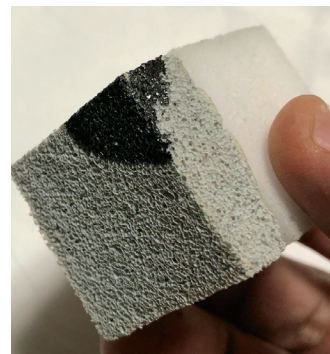
Cutting the gate twice causes small gate "burrs" to form. These burrs somehow end up flying away somewhere... and then "somehow my wife steps on them" → "She gets in a bad mood" → "My allocation of beer decreases..." I'm not getting anywhere

with this kind of situation. For the sake of peace in the living room modeler's home (?), I cover the front of the nippers with my index finger so that cutting won't send burrs flying around.



▲ Guard the nippers with your fingertips to prevent the gate from flying off. Be careful not to accidentally pinch your fingers!  
► After cutting, the burr will accumulate between the recess of the nipper blade and your index finger, so you can just throw it in a nearby box. This way, my wife doesn't have to step on the burrs, and I can save time by disposing of them all at once!

## ● Easy Staining



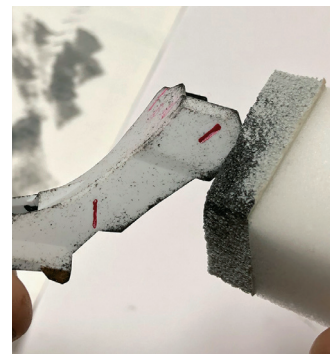
▲ Now let's carry out an essential part of the Easy Staining process: sponge dabbing! Apply Aqueous Hobby color "Burnt Iron" from GSI Creos to the sponge that I introduced in the list of tools on page 6.



▲ Tap the sponge repeatedly on the paper towel until you see that the paint is barely sticking to the surface, then you're ready to go.



▲ Tap lightly on the edges of the part. Don't put all the paint on the part all at once, but rather all over evenly. The key is to dab the paint in several layers.



▲ If you dab along the edge of the surface with a soft rubber sponge, you can naturally express the "scratched texture" by gradually stippling the surface. If the paint on the sponge becomes sticky, replace the paper towel and the sponge. Since it's Aqueous Hobby Color, you can reuse the sponge by washing it with dish soap.

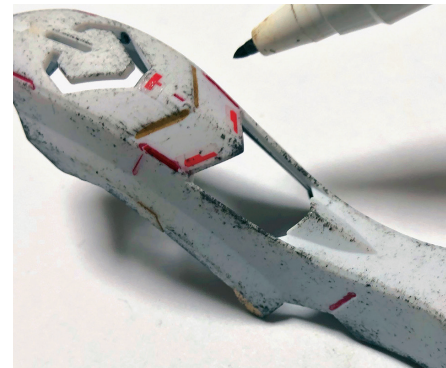
## ● How to achieve Easy Staining



① Before applying the Easy Staining



② Sponge dabbed with the Burnt Iron color



③ Real Touch Marker Brown 1 applied on a concave mold



④ Wipe off the Real Touch Marker with fingers to smudge it slightly.



⑤ Real Touch Markers are further blurred with the "Divine Marker."



⑥ Rub lightly with a melamine sponge to create a natural gradation.



⑦ Lightly trim the perimeter of the Burnt Iron color with the fine tip of a Real Touch Marker.



⑧ Use the "Divine Marker" to spread and blur the paint.



⑨ Apply the "oil" from the Weathering Master D Set, mainly to the edges.