



Painting the Williams LNWR D32 Wagon *By Steve Cook*

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My first thoughts whilst standing in front of the Williams Models stand at Shepshed last month were "Blimey, that's proper big that is!". I had a quick chat to Mike Williams (proprietor and thoroughly nice chap) about the selection of Gauge '3' wagons kits on display, then left holding a brochure and thinking to myself 'that was a close one'. Too close as it turned out, two hours later I was clutching a box containing everything I needed to build an LNWR D32 goods van! Weak willed doesn't come into it!

The build itself was pretty simple, the 'W' irons needed soldering together, but everything else was just glued into place. All the castings (whitemetal and brass) were clean and sharply moulded with the minimum of flash. The buffer heads had the turning marks rubbed down with wet and dry sandpaper and then they were chemically blackened, along with the supplied wheels. The body was sprayed with primer.

One of the things I wanted to try out on the build was the use of salt as a paint masking agent. The body of the van was painted with a pale wood colour and then areas of the metal braces painted with a chocolate colour. Maskol was applied to some areas, then the salt. I found it easiest to lay the van on its side (or end) and apply the salt to the uppermost surface. The salt was then pushed around with a paintbrush or cocktail stick until it masked the area I wanted. A paintbrush was then dipped into clean water and just brought into contact with the piles of salt. The water runs through the salt, but as long as you are pretty sparing with the water, it doesn't seem to dissolve the salt. I had to leave each side for two hours for the water to evaporate before turning the van over and doing the next side. After a couple of evenings work, it looked like this



**Steve Cook achieved remarkable realism by using salt to prepare his version
of a William's Models 'LNWR D32' wagon kit**

The body was then sprayed with primer again (this was a close match to the final colour anyway) and left to harden off overnight. The next day, the salt was picked, flicked and rubbed off, whilst tweezers were used to pluck the Maskol off. The end result looks pretty messy, but the salt did give irregular edges to the paint, as opposed to Maskol which always leaves a blobby effect in my hands. The Maskol does have the advantage that it lifts the edge of the paint though, 'horses for courses' then.

The body was then attacked with a glass fibre brush, some extra colour added to the bare wood areas, then a selection of washes ranging from light grey to black were added. A bit of dry brushing in places, then a mix of black and brown pastels was applied.

The next job was too apply matt varnish to everything, then add some weathering powders in places to add some subtle variations. I've enclosed a close up of some of the paint weathering effects on the body so you can make your mind up as to whether the salt method is worth it. Personally I think its another technique to add to the armoury, but extra care needs to be taken with stray or single grains of salt, these leave pin pricks in the paint which aren't that realistic!

