



## Hypo Lining

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My 'lining' method over the last fifty years (about fifteen models, mostly Locos) has always been using a Draughtsman's Bow pen and I have had excellent results. However, a good friend recently demonstrated a method of model lining using a Hypodermic needle. I was most impressed by this method and it was very easy to use.

Obtain a hypodermic needle and you will find there is a small 'well' on the syringe end, where the syringe fits. This is the receiver for the paint. At the "sharp" end it is necessary to remove the 'angled off' part. This has to be done with some care or the debris will fill the hole in the needle and block it. It took me three goes and the method that worked the best was with a diamond wheel in the grinder. Hold the needle pointing down and at an angle of about 45 degrees grind off till the tube is square. I expect it would be possible to use the same technique with an oilstone, moving the needle in one direction only. Once ground, fill the syringe with solvent and clean out the needle.

A holder is required to fit the "well" end of the needle, equipped with a handle at about 45 degrees, so as to hold it comfortably. My pal's one has a posh ball-joint, so it could be swiveled to any angle. We are now ready for a trial run.

It is necessary to make the paint the right consistency by adding a couple of drops of Lighter fluid to it. The reason for lighter fluid is because it evaporates at a quick rate, although I have used "turps". Now with a cocktail stick put a drop of paint into the needle 'well' and test it on a bit of scrap. It may take a couple of tries before you get it right but I think you will be well pleased with the results and it is well worth persevering.

You will never have to recharge the tool for a lining job, as it is possible to complete any lines on a model in one "hit" (always assuming the tool was charged in the first place). This is a great asset as the bow pen had limited capacity. As my pal is an award winning model engineer I can highly recommend this scheme. When your lining period is finished for the day, fill syringe with solvent and fit it to needle to flush out ready for the next time.

I have been informed this tool is available for sale at about £80 but mine cost zero and I am now a 'Hypo Liner'!

Good luck to all Members and I hope the Society goes from strength to strength.