

SNAPSHOT

CHIP PAINT WITH HAIRSPRAY

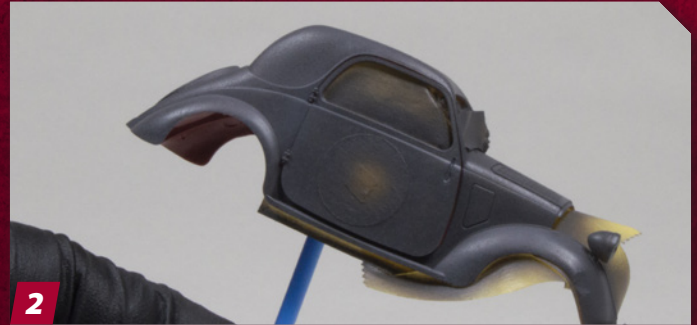
TO CHIP PAINT on a large scale-model part, like a car body, you can airbrush chipping medium, but that gets pricey. Choose an aerosol hairspray as an inexpensive alternative. The type I use says it's for professionals right on the can, but it works just as well for me, too!

By Robert Raver



1

Start with a color primer as your base coat. Primers are usually tougher than normal paint and adhere well to the underlying plastic. You'll want it to hold up to the weathering processes to come.



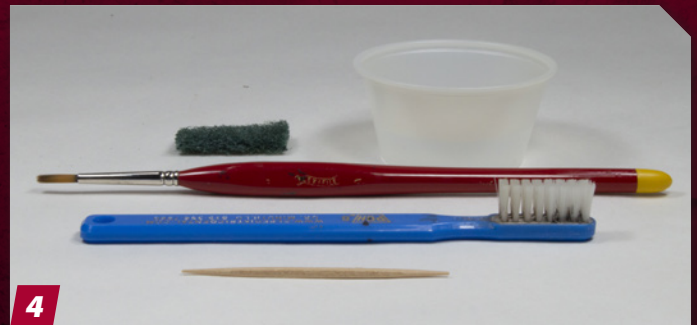
2

Let the primer dry for 24 hours and then cover the model with hairspray. No need to soak it; a couple of light coats are all you need. Make sure to do this in a well-ventilated area; you don't want your work area to smell like a hair-metal band's dressing room.



3

Hairspray dries quickly, but better to give it a couple of hours before painting. **REMEMBER:** This method requires water soluble acrylic paint over the hairspray. The white top coat on this model uses the dark gray beneath as a post-shade to add volume.



4

While you let the top coat dry to the touch and before you dive into chipping, gather some supplies. You'll need a dish full of water and a variety of tools, such as a non-metal scouring pad, toothpicks, a toothbrush, and a paintbrush.



5

Apply water with a paintbrush to the top coat to release the paint. Go slowly and focus on small areas. When the paint starts to release, you can use the brush or other tools to create the chipping. A scouring pad or toothbrush can make realistic chipping. Use a toothpick to make fine scratches; wet the end of the toothpick and don't press too hard (you don't want to scratch through the primer). A needle, pin, or similar sharp metal tool will allow you to create even finer scratches than a toothpick. Remove chips of loosened paint from the surface with a paintbrush. Keep in mind, randomness is a key component of this technique. The point is for the chipping to look natural rather than contrived. When you're happy with the result, seal it under a clear coat to protect your work. **FSM**