

## Dry Brush for success

Dark to light painting/weathering:

Dark to Light is a dry brushing technique using craft acrylic paint. The benefit of this procedure is that you can glue all the walls together and not worry about being as neat as you have to be in the light to dark procedure. The Grimy Black paint and brick color will mask this.

You will need the following colors:

Apple Barrel Brown Oxide 20511, Antique White 20505 and Country Gray 20526  
Folk Art Terra Cotta 433  
Americana Honey Brown DA 163  
Floquil Grimy Black

Take a piece of cardboard and make a pallet approximately 8" x 12".

Add a modest amount of each color, keeping them apart, to the pallet. The idea is to start with the darkest color which is Brown Oxide and work your way to the lighter color which is Honey Brown. This is achieved by dry brushing each color to the desired shade.

Dry brushing is a technique that is done by dipping a 1/2" wide brush into the paint and with an old rag or paper towel, removing most of the paint and then using a scrubbing type of action to apply it to the model. It is important that you remove MOST of the paint from the brush. The goal is to have a truly "dry" brush with the slightest hint of paint on it. "Less is more" is the overarching concept. This technique will take some practice to master but will serve you well on all your modeling projects.

Start by applying a coat of the darkest color, Brown Oxide to center of the walls and then move to the edges and around the details. Once you have completed one pass of the whole structure go back and add a second dry brushing of the Brown Oxide. Once the second application is applied, move to the Terra Cotta and use the same method.

Don't worry about mixing the colors, this adds to the effect. Repeat the same procedure with the Terra Cotta. You should now start to see it take shape. Next, move to the Honey Brown and repeat the procedure. At this time you can go back and forth with all the colors if needed to achieve the color that best suits your taste. Always remember to work from dark colors to light colors. If you add more Brown Oxide try to balance it with the lighter hues. Also keep in mind "less is more", you can always add more paint but taking it off is difficult. And last but not least, nothing is permanent, if you don't like the look, repaint with Grimy Black and start again. Before you do that though, give it some time, lay your work down and take another look later on. You might be surprised with the results.

Once you have the desired color of brick you can paint the window sills with Country Gray using standard painting techniques.

The final step is one that should be done with a very light hand. Dry brush the Antique White onto the surface to pop the detail of the brick casting. Be sure to use very, very little White here. Wipe the brush dry with this color in order to avoid putting unnatural streaks on the wall. You really just want the paint to hit the high spots of the casting to add highlights.

One of our favorite techniques is dry brushing, which we have used extensively on our kits. For those that are not familiar, this is a painting technique that is typically used for highlighting details but we found it is a great method for painting and weathering at the same time. The technique, while simple, does take a bit of practice, the goal is to use a VERY dry brush (wipe most of the paint off the brush head onto a paper towel or rag). Dip your ½" brush into the darkest color and with a scrubbing type motion, apply paint. We are going to use two craft paint colors, in order from dark to light. This is followed by a second dry brushing using the lighter color. The second dry brushing is designed to both lighten up the dark step (shadows) and bring out the highlights. You can go back at any time to change the look, just always remember to work from dark to light. You are building layers of color. Try it on some scrap pieces to get the feel for the effect. These are the colors we used, in this order, from dark to light:

Americana Honey Brown 20575 (dark)  
Apple Barrel Sandstone 20503 (light)

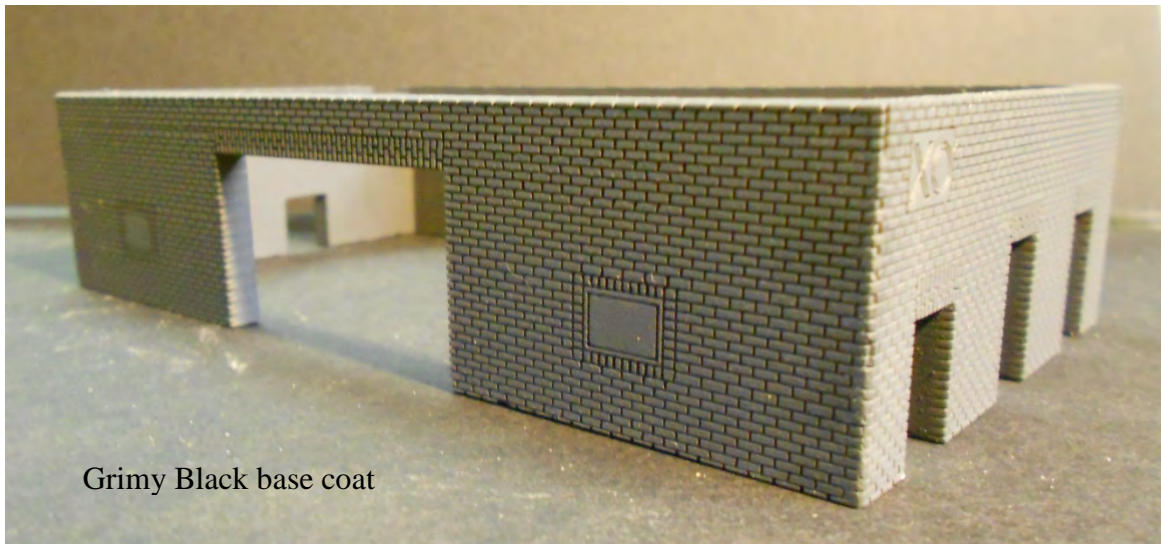
We chose to prime the brick walls with Floquil Grimy Black as our dark base for the dry brushing technique.

We will use five colors of craft paint, again from dark to light:

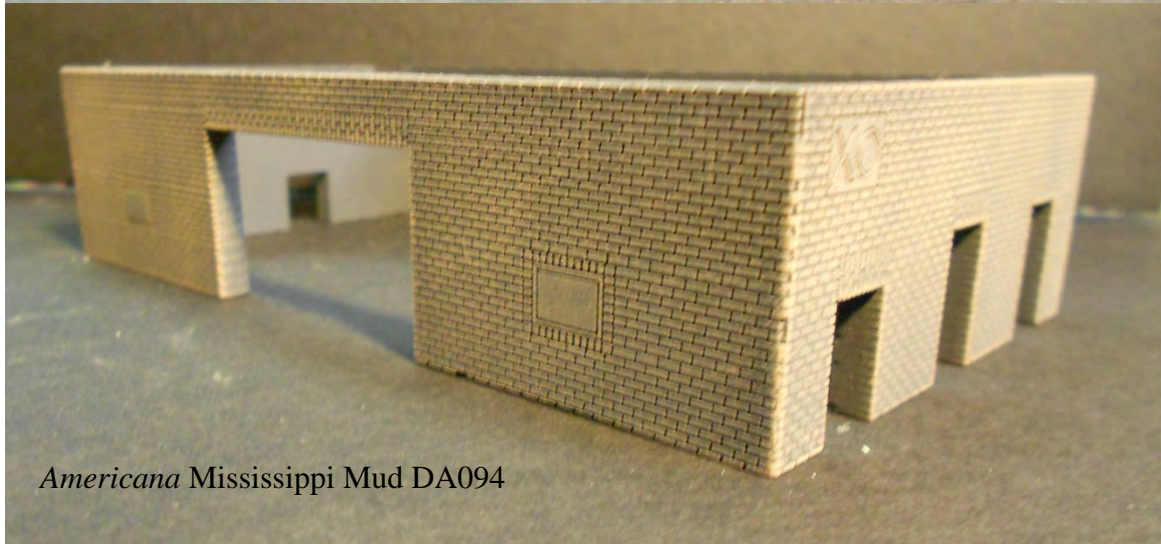
Americana Mississippi Mud DA 094 (dark)  
Apple Barrel Barn Red 20577  
Americana Terra Cotta DA062  
Craftsmart Tan 23626  
Apple Barrel White 20503 (light)

Using a ½" brush, starting with the darkest color, dry brush the wall sections. Dip your ½" brush into the darkest color and then take an old towel or paper towel and wipe off most of the paint. Then, with a scrubbing type motion, apply paint. As each layer is applied and dries you will notice a difference. The last color that you apply, the Apple Barrel White 20503, is applied in the traditional dry brushing method to just highlight the details not the swirling motion used for the dark colors \*Note: Each color is to be applied so that it does not cover totally. All colors should be almost transparent. This allows the Grimy

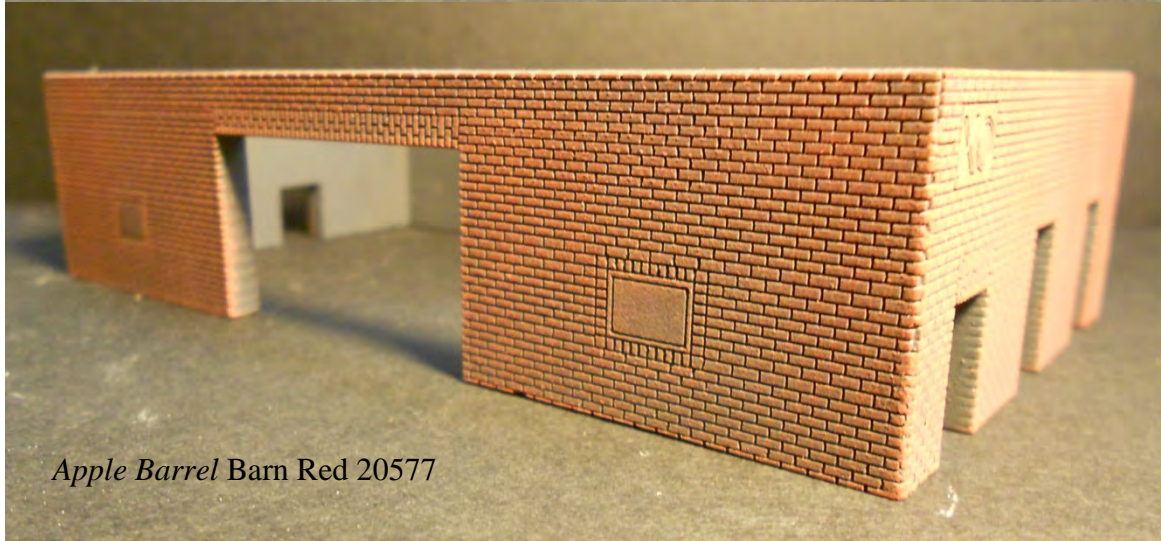
Black base coat to act as a weathering. Also, do not worry about coloring window and door openings. When the windows are installed most of this will be covered.



Grimy Black base coat

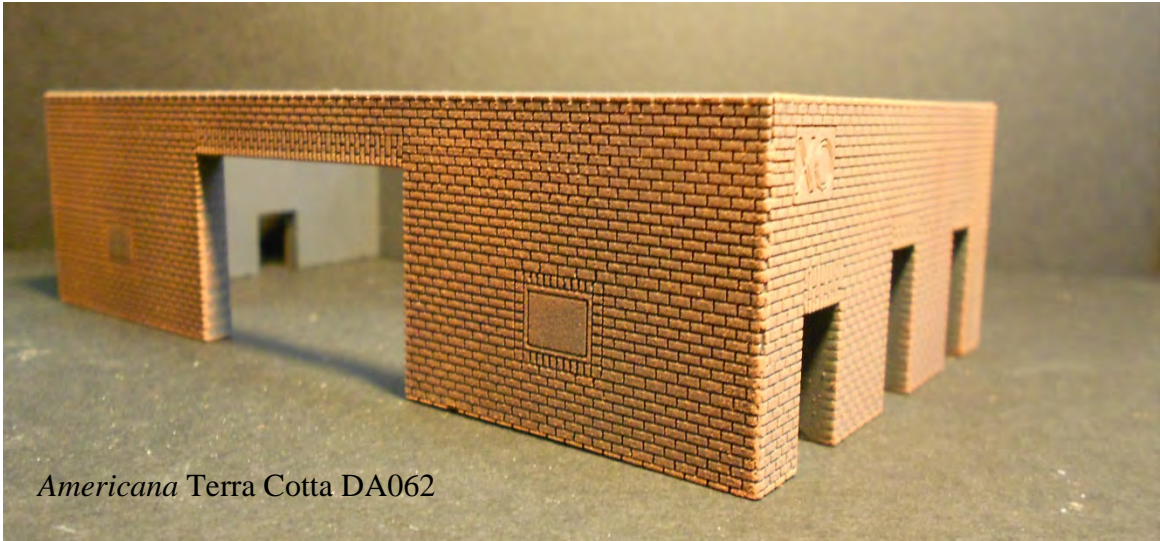


*Americana* Mississippi Mud DA094

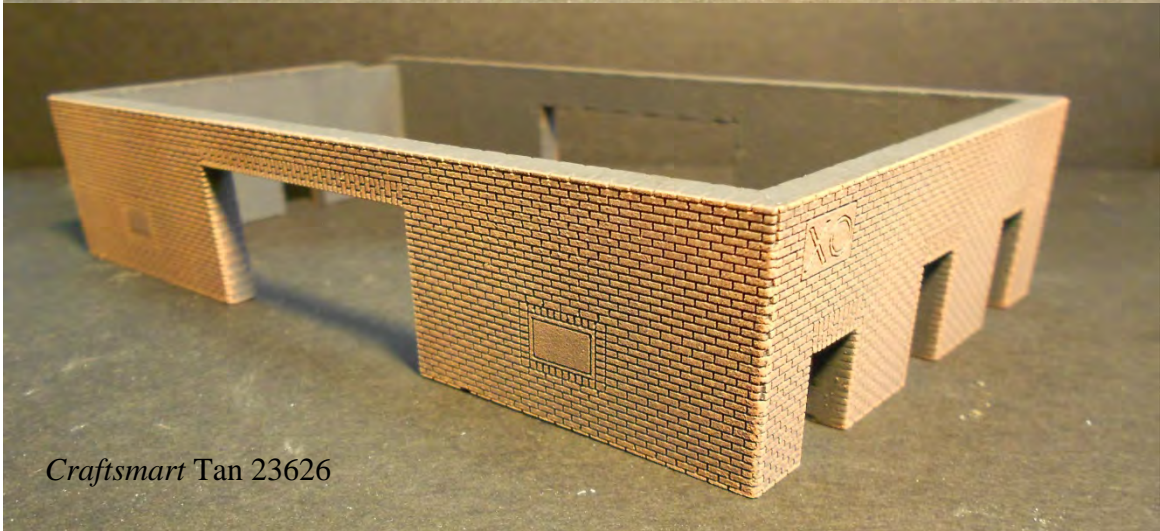


*Apple Barrel* Barn Red 20577

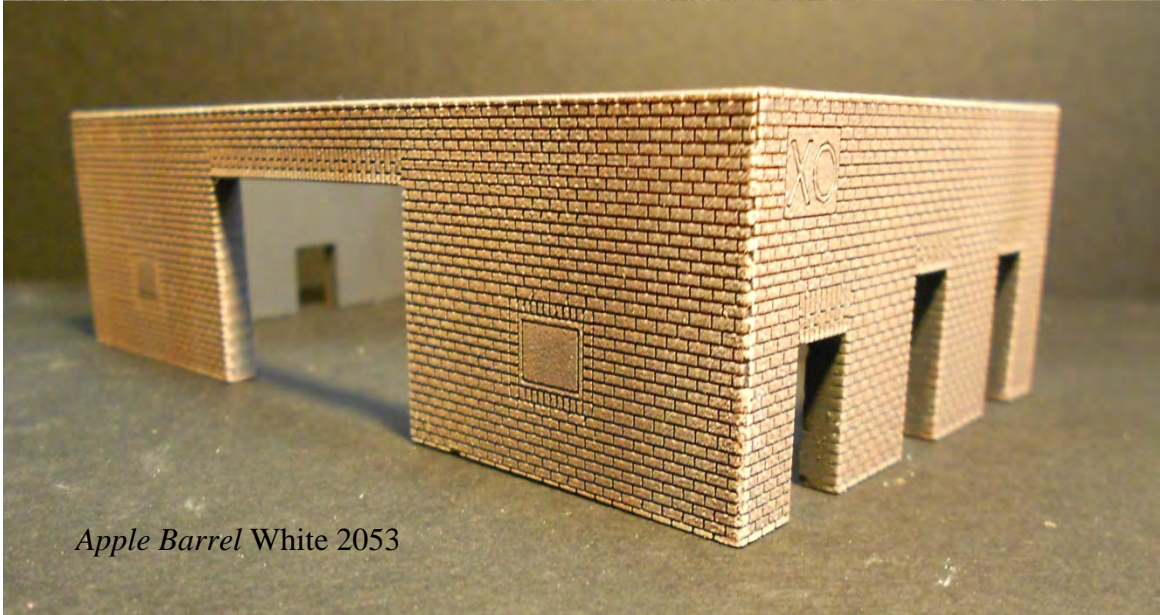
**Figure 8**



*Americana Terra Cotta DA062*

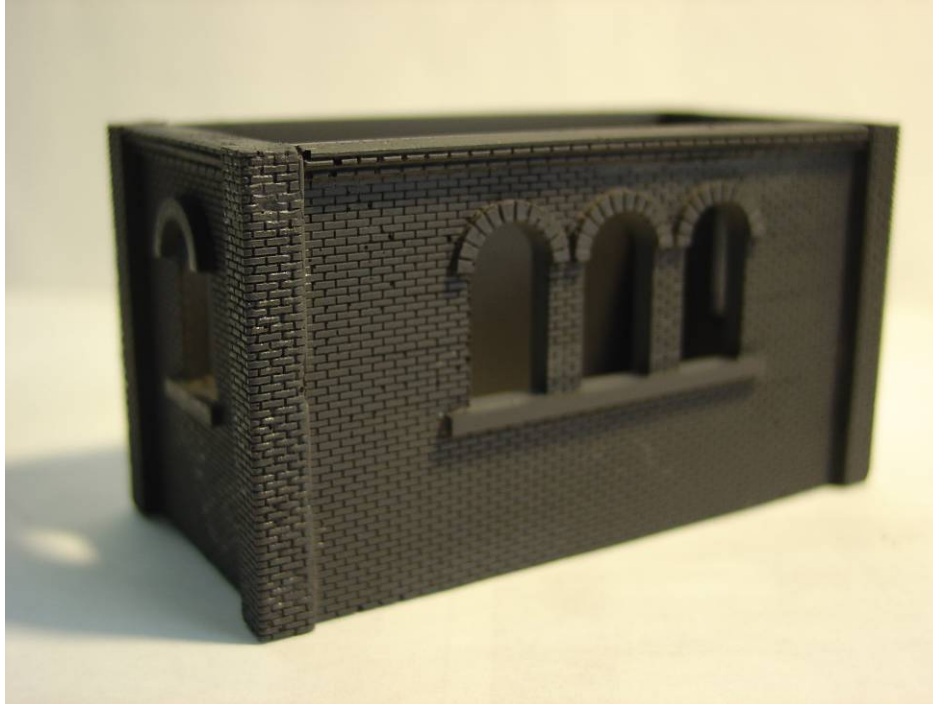


*Craftsmart Tan 23626*



*Apple Barrel White 2053*

**Figure 8A**



**Figure 5 Grimy Black applied**

- 2) Take a piece of cardboard and make a pallet approximately 8" x 12".
- 3) Add a modest amount of each color, keeping them apart, to the pallet. The idea is to start with the darkest color which is Brown Oxide and work your way to the lighter color which is Honey Brown. This is achieved by dry brushing each color to the desired shade. (Figure 6)
- 4) Dry brushing is a technique that is done by dipping a 1/2" wide brush into the paint and with an old rag or paper towel, removing most of the paint and then using a scrubbing type of action to apply it to the model. It is important that you remove **MOST** of the paint from the brush. The goal is to have a truly "dry" brush with the slightest hint of paint on it. "Less is more" is the over arching concept. This technique will take some practice to master but will serve you well on all your modeling projects. (Figure 7)



Figure 6



Figure 7

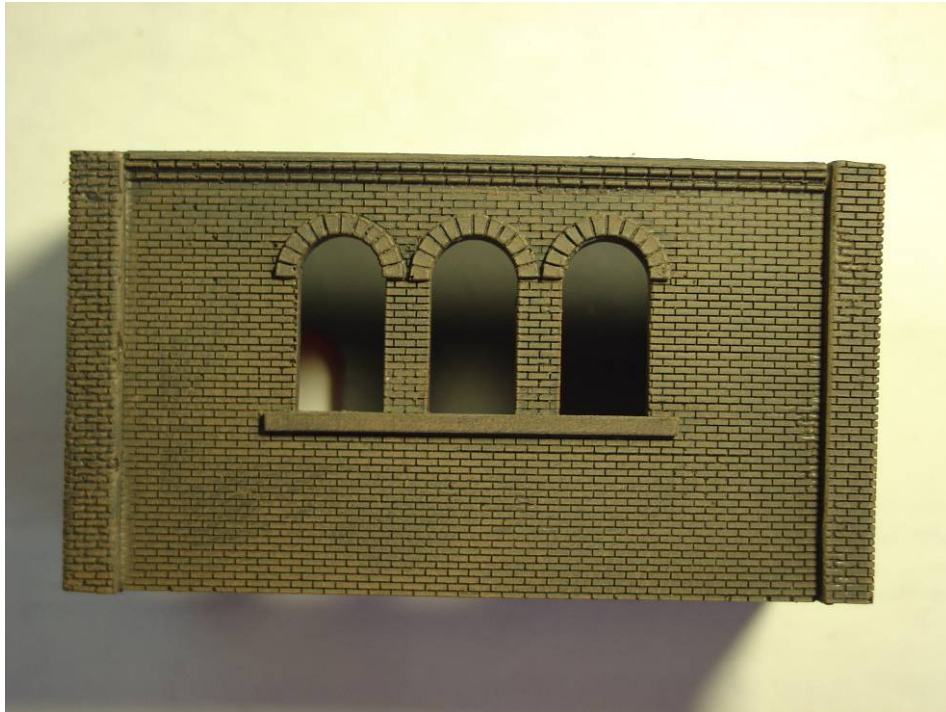
- 5) Start by applying a coat of the darkest color, Brown Oxide to center of the walls and then move to the edges and around the details. Once you have completed one pass of the whole structure go back and add a second dry brushing of the Brown Oxide. Once the second application is applied, move to the Terra Cotta and use the same method.
- 6) Don't worry about mixing the colors, as this adds to the effect. Repeat the same procedure with the Terra Cotta. You should now start to see it take shape. Next, move to the Honey Brown and repeat the procedure. At this time you can go back and forth with all the colors if needed to achieve the color that best suits your taste. Always remember to work from dark colors to light colors. If you add more Brown Oxide try to balance it with the lighter hues. Also keep in mind "less is more", you can always add more paint but taking it off is difficult. And last but not least, nothing is permanent, if you don't like the look, repaint with Grimy Black and start again. Before you do that though, give it some time, lay your work down and take another look later on. You might be surprised with the results.
- 7) Once you have the desired color of brick you can paint the window sills with Country Gray using standard painting techniques.
- 8) The final step is one that should be done with a very light hand. Dry brush the Antique White onto the surface to pop the detail of the brick casting. Be sure to use very, very little White here. Wipe the brush dry with this color in order to avoid putting unnatural streaks on the wall. You really just want the paint to hit the high spots of the casting to add highlights. The finished sub assembly should look like (Figure 8). If you skip this step now, that is OK, when you give the Tower its' final unifying coat of weathering you will be doing the same thing.



Figure 8



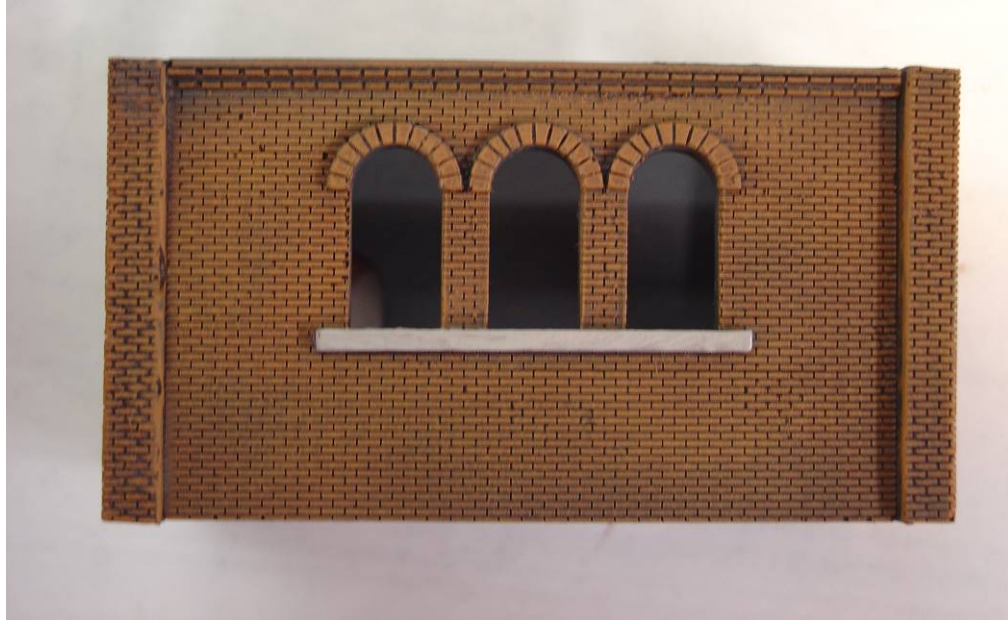
Here are some photos of the colors as we applied them, starting with the Brown Oxide.



**DL Brown Oxide**



**DL Terra Cotta**



**DL Honey Brown**  
(Note window sill painted Country Gray)



**DL Antique White**

Skip to the section on installing the window frames, glazing and doors on page 14.

## Light to Dark painting/weathering:

This technique is applied before you assemble the brick castings. Once complete you will need to go back to the assembly instructions (page 5) to build the lower section and then proceed to the section on installing the window frames, glazing and doors on page 14.

- All the colors listed under the Dark to light section plus:
  - Red Oxide primer
  - *Apple Barrel* Country Tan 2608
  - India Ink and Alcohol Mixture
- 1) Take your washed and dried castings and give them a coat of Dark Red/Red Oxide automotive primer. Any primer will do. Our personal favorites are Krylon Red Oxide or Ruddy Brown.
  - 2) When dry, use *Floquil* Grimy Black and dry brush patches on the brick as shown in (Figure 9). This gives the appearance of darker bricks.

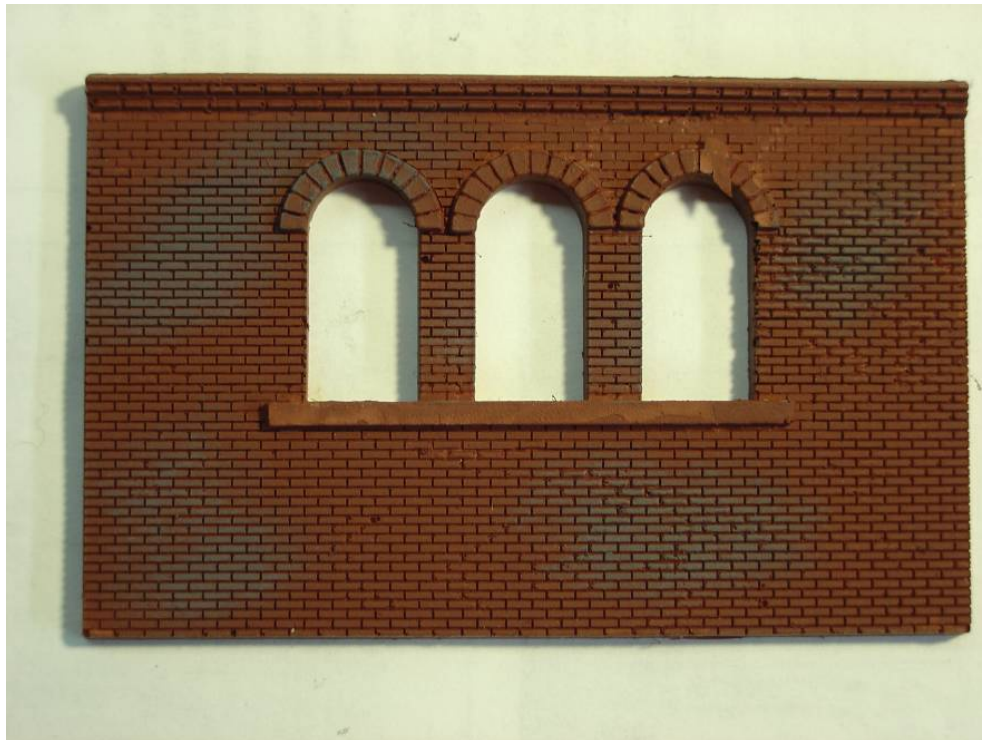


Figure 9

- 3) Paint the window sills Country Gray.
- 4) Now take India Ink and alcohol mixture and brush it the over wall sections. Be sure to keep wall sections flat during this procedure and let dry.

- 5) Once dry we will create a very thin mortar wash. The wash should be thin enough, so when you apply it with a brush, the capillary action will take it into the mortar joints and off the face of the brick. Start with 2 parts Country Gray and 1 part Country Tan, thin it with water and a few drops of dish detergent. We have also used Blue windshield washer fluid to thin the craft paints. Be aware that the windshield washer fluid contains methanol. Test your mixture on a scrap wall so you can get the desired darkness in the joints.
- 6) Keep the castings on a flat surface so the wash flows where you want it to. Work carefully using small amounts of wash and touch your brush to the mortar lines. Watch as the wash flows into the joints. Carefully wipe off any excess that overflows the lines. The tricks to applying the wash are; keep it very thin, and carefully control where it goes. Let dry.
- 7) The final step is one that should be done with a very light hand. Dry brush the Antique White onto the surface to pop the detail of the brick casting. Be sure to use very, very little White here. Wipe the brush dry with this color in order to avoid putting unnatural streaks on the wall. You really just want the paint to hit the high spots of the casting to add highlights. The finished sub assembly should look like (Figure 10). If you skip this step now, that is OK, when you give the Tower its' final unifying coat of weathering you will be doing the same thing.

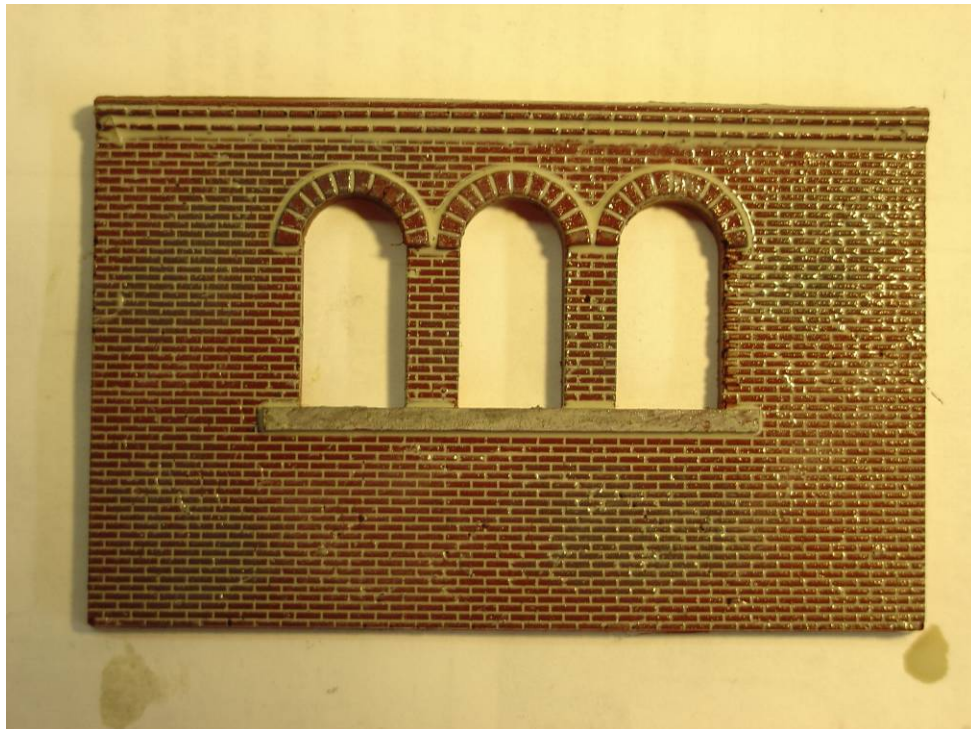


Figure 10