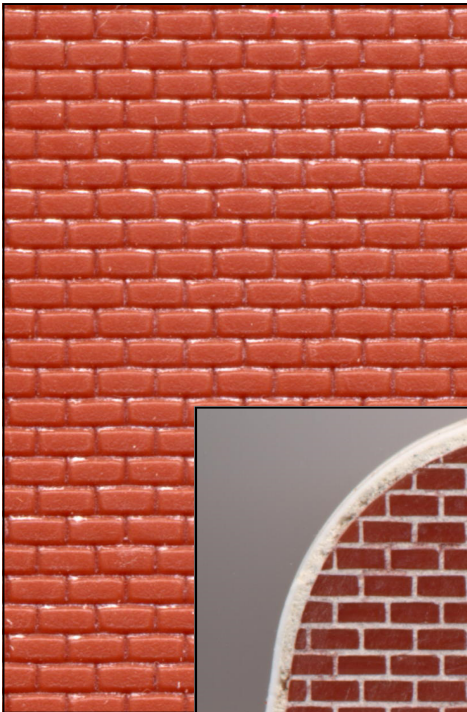
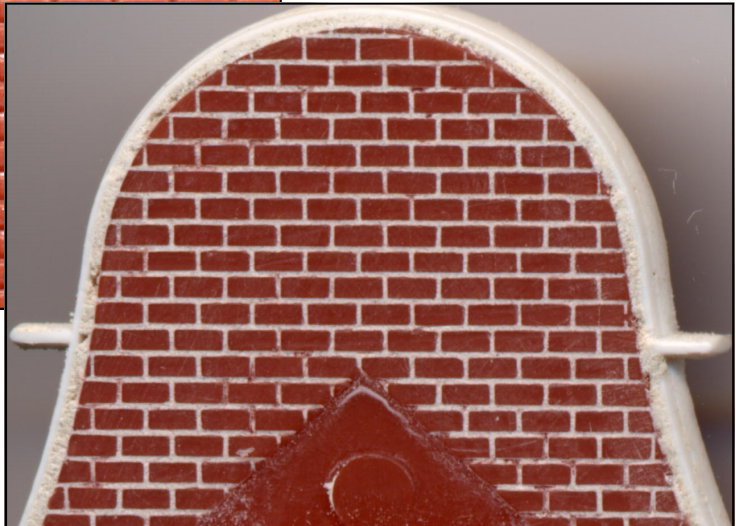


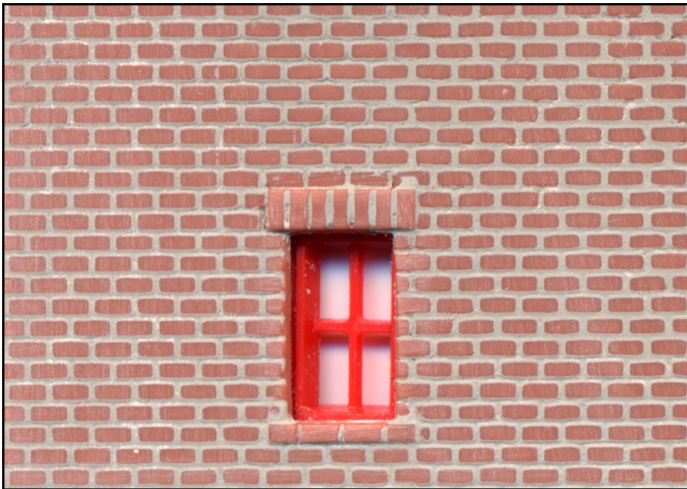
Bricks and Mortar

While making one of the building facades for my diorama I used a white model filler to fill the gap between the top of the brick wall and the edging stone. This edging piece was a perfect fit on the front face of the building but left a large gap on the rear. Since would be visible it had to be filled. Naturally, some of the filler got on the brickwork and when scraped off filled the mortar courses between the bricks quite well. I then finished the rest of the wall section in this way. This probably will not work on a painted surface as the fillers solvent and then the scraping action may remove the paint but it is effective on pre-coloured plastic brickwork from a typical kit. The finished effect is too white but will be fine when the building is weathered. The photos (below left and right) show the before and after effects of adding the mortar.



The next method I tried (photos next page) was to use an artists acrylic modelling paste with a few drops of acrylic paint (black and flesh) to give a grey mortar colour. This thick paste was then spread over the model and allowed to dry, which only took a matter of 10 minutes or so. Then it was gently rubbed with 1200 grit wet and dry paper to remove the excess paste. Again this technique is for self coloured plastic walls and not painted surfaces.





A similar technique is to use acrylic paint for the mortar and wipe it away before it is fully dry trying not to wipe it out of the gaps as you do. I tried this effect some years ago on a 4mm GWR signal box and found it slow and the effect was much more subtle as less mortar was left in the gaps. I was quite happy with the final effect though. Using a thicker paste for the mortar is a much faster and easier technique which I will use on all future buildings. Using an acrylic paste for the base makes colouring very easy by adding acrylic paint and the mortar colour can be varied according to the colour of brickwork or the location being modelled or to show repaired areas of brickwork.

Another possibility is to paint the whole wall a mortar colour and then paint the bricks with a dry brushing method. This may require more patience than I have and might also be more suited to the larger scale where you can actually see the individual bricks. Exactoscale used to make an etch brass mask for 4mm that could be used to paint several individual bricks at a time in a random effect, although I am not sure if this is still available. These masks were available in English, Flemish and running bonds but are currently not in production.

Paul