

Tunnocks Tarpaulins

As promised a week or two ago, here is a more detailed account of using Tunnocks caramel wafer wrappers to create 4mm scale wagon tarpaulins. This isn't a new idea, having been described by others on RMWeb but I'll explain my approach for using on open wagons.

Step 1 is to create a solid former to fill the wagon. I've used a mix of plastic rod & various strips & planks of wood. Once glued in place, I have used plastic filler to create fillets to round off all sharp angles. Looking at prototype photos, the tarpaulins flow over the load & wagon sides and don't show harsh corners. To create a robust cover that will withstand exhibition handling, I need the tarpaulin to be in contact at all times as air voids will inevitably lead to a tear.



My next step is to cut and then glue the wrapper onto the top surface. I've used superglue and then weighted the wagon overnight. The wrapper goes foil side down.

Then it's a case of folding the sides & ends down, applying plenty of glue and easing it to follow the surfaces and angles. To be gentle and not cause rips,



folds or distortion, I've applied pressure through a foam pad. The glue quickly sets so pressure isn't needed for long (another benefit of using the foam is not getting fingers stuck to the wrapper).



Now we have our tarpaulin which can be painted & decorated. I've applied Alclad primer and then an acrylic topcoat followed by a coat of gloss varnish.

Transfers are currently a 'make do & mend' approach though we are working on some custom transfers for future batches (I'll share details once sorted). The current pair simply use bits of Diesel D number sets from Modelmaster. The BR is taken from their BRIGGS OF DUNDEE sheet.

The final steps are adding the tie ropes. I have a stock of suitable twine from a model boat builders store. This is glued in place, one end at a time with a blob of Blu-Tac to help hold in

place. A dash of rope brown restores colour after the twine absorbs the glue. Then it's a coat of Testors Dullcote, a light dusting of weathering powders then a last coat of Dullcote and we are done. I hope to trial this in 7mm as well as rolling out for Aylesbury in P4. Watch this space.



Graham