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Iwata Medea Weathering Sets

Getting started with a beginning weathering set.

When the term “weathering” is used in the hobby industry it typically means creating the most realistic finish possible for a scale plastic model, railroad structure, or rolling stock. Additionally, there are hobbyists that weather radio controlled aircraft, land vehicles and boats. Regardless of what is being weathered, if it's a machine that works for a living, or is exposed to an outdoor environment, the objective is to bring as much realism to a scale project as possible. The goal is to make it look dirty, grimy, nasty, faded, or just worn by usage and the elements. Iwata Medea has just made that process so much easier to accomplish with its two new weathering sets, which were designed specifically for the hobby market and follow the everything included in one box trend that is so popular.

The Iwata Medea **Beginning Weathering Set** is a complete starter set suitable for plastic modelers, model railroaders, crafters, or any hobbyist who wishes to recreate almost any kind of scale art. The set is the perfect starting point for a novice, or for someone with moderate experience, to begin to increase the level of realistic wear, tear and aging on his scale projects.

Included with the set are both an airbrush and an air compressor. The NEO for Iwata CN is a double-action gravity-fed airbrush, suitable for general purpose painting. While it might be considered a starter airbrush, the NEO CN has the same high quality and reliability that made Iwata famous and with proper care and maintenance, will allow years of enjoyable use. The CN includes two interchangeable



The advanced set includes a professional quality Eclipse HP-CS airbrush and the Smart Jet air compressor, which has a handy auto shut off feature.

color cups, one holding 1/3 ounce and the other only 1/16 ounce. The .35mm nozzle/needle size will provide excellent coverage and control when working with small to moderate sized areas such as subassemblies or for overall coverage on smaller scale models.

Also included in the set is the Iwata Studio Series Ninja Jet Compressor. This is an excellent choice of compressor for general airbrush applications of small to moderate size. The Ninja Jet is a small unit, slightly over six inches in width and depth and three inches in

height which makes it the ideal size for use on a tabletop or small workbench. The compressor features a carrying handle and a built-in airbrush holder for portability, an added benefit for the model railroader who can easily pick up everything and move it to work on a different section of his layout.

Designed for reliable performance, it has a low maintenance, oil-less piston motor and comes with an air hose. The Ninja Jet operates from five to eighteen pounds per square inch of pressure using its adjustable regulator. Professional modelers might prefer an air compressor with a broader range of pressure control, but this compressor is an outstanding choice for weathering, as the process typically uses lower pressure and less total volume of air.

The set also contains the Iwata Pistol-Grip Filter. The filter is designed to attach directly to the airbrush air inlet with the air hose attached to the bottom of the filter. Moisture buildup



The beginner's set comes with a NEO CN general purpose airbrush and the company's very portable Ninja Jet air compressor.

can ruin any paint job, and the Pistol-Grip Filter will capture any condensation and provide perfectly clean and dry air for paint spraying. The unit features a 5 micron filter element enclosed in a clear plastic housing. This allows the user to see any moisture that is forming in the housing, which can then be expelled through a spring-tension release valve. And what's even better, this can be accomplished without the need to remove the filter from the airbrush.

Rounding out the set is the Com-Art Real Deal Weathering Kit, created by Master Model Railroader Leslie Eaton. The Real Deal Kit includes ten one-ounce bottles of paint with colors of Dark Rust, Light Rust, Raw Sienna, Old Oil, Blue Gray Smoke, Smoke, Light Dust, Soft Dirt, Fertile Soil, and Opaque White. The kit includes illustrated instructions, with an extensive array of tips and techniques on using the paints as single colors or in mixtures of the various colors for different and specific applications.

To complete the package, the set also includes a four ounce bottle of Medea Airbrush Cleaner, a water-based solution to keep the airbrush clean and working smoothly, and six empty bottles for mixing paint. For the beginning modeler, or one that wants to step up to the next level, the Iwata Beginning Weathering Set would undoubtedly be one of the best places to start the journey.

The **Advanced Weathering Set** takes modelers a big step up from the beginning set, with products a bit more suited to the experienced or professional modeler. The advanced set includes an airbrush, an air compressor, an external MAC (Micro Air Control) valve, paints, mixing bottles, airbrush cleaner, and instructions.

The airbrush is the Iwata Eclipse HP-CS, a gravity-fed, double-action airbrush which features a 0.35-mm needle and nozzle combination for fine detail work but



The Iwata Medea Beginning Weathering Set comes complete with everything the neophyte airbrush artist will need to get started.

high paint flow capability. The top mounted paint cup is funnel-shaped for outstanding paint flow and ease of cleaning. With Teflon needle packing, the HP-CS can use virtually any type of paint including acrylics, textile paints, enamels, and lacquers. The airbrush is versatile, durable and easy to use, making it an excellent choice for general and detail painting, and of course, weathering.

The air compressor is the Iwata Studio Series Smart Jet Compressor, which features auto-shutoff, a pressure regulator with a moisture trap, a built-in airbrush holder, and an air hose. Utilizing Iwata's Smart Technology, the compressor automatically turns itself off when not in use, even if the power is left on. This reduces the amount of time the compressor is running, which keeps noise to a minimum. It also reduces the amount of condensation moisture by keeping the motor from producing heat by running continuously. With less motor runtime, it also means less wear-and-tear and this contributes to longer compressor life.

This set utilizes the Iwata MAC valve, which attaches



Continuing with the everything needed in one box is the Advanced Weathering Set, which is aimed at the artist who feels it's time to step up a notch.

directly to the airbrush at the air inlet. The valve can be opened or closed for a more precise control of the air pressure, without changing the settings on the compressor regulator. This allows the artist to go from full atomized paint spray to a stippling effect and back again within a few seconds with nothing more than a couple of turns of the control knob. By reducing the air pressure, it is much easier to get the tip close to the surface for finer lines. Opening the valve completely gives full air flow for large area paint coverage. It is easy to use and it fits all Iwata airbrushes, not just the Eclipse.

As with the Beginning Set, the Advanced Set includes the Com-Art Real Deal Weathering Kit with ten paints. The set also comes with a bottle of Medea Airbrush Cleaner, six mixing bottles, along with instructions on mixing and application. **HM**