

THE following are a few notes about the completion of the Diagram 87 carriage as featured in *Magazine* 222. The carriage was painted using Phoenix paints, Coach Plum and Coach Tan, the roof being Humbrol matt white, the lining, Humbrol lining orange. The end colour is a equal mix of GWR coach brown (from an ancient tin of Cherry paints which for some reason had not "gone off") and matt black - this seemed to give me a nice dark umber colour.

The carriage was painted using a Badger 350 airbrush (which now costs around £30). This gives reasonable results, although no doubt a more expensive model would be better; mind you the compressor cost me £125.

Two unusual events occurred during painting. The first was that the paper roof covering, after painting, dried with small raised spikes. These I sanded off with flour grade sandpaper. I've always sealed paper roofs with shellac in the past and I should have done it this time too. The next event was the plum paint, which was sprayed on outdoors on a very still, hot summer day, appeared to have attracted tiny pieces of grit and I ended up with the bottom half of the coach with a 'Sandtex' finish. This I got rid of by gently rubbing the paint finish with car body rubbing compound. It worked - but it's not for the faint hearted.

The orange lining was applied using the method described by Paul Knight in *Magazine* 221, although just to annoy him, I must tell you that I did the straight lines along the coach sides using a bow pen. According to Paul Knight bow pens are obtained from men in dark clothes, late at night, during a full moon on the stroke of midnight, and the recipients are sworn to secrecy. In actual fact I bought mine for £25 from Steve Barnfield. I no longer have a contact address for Mr Barnfield, but I understand that he occasionally writes articles in the *Model Railway Journal*. A known supplier is HAFF Pens, Tiroler Strasse 5, D-87459 Pfronten, Germany, or www.haff.de Haff Pens products are available from DP Scene, High Street, Chislehurst, Kent - the price being around £40. I tried the Bob Moore lining pen but could not make it work. I have now, however, been given a tutorial in the pen's use, by a professional model maker in our local 0 Gauge Group, so maybe I will have better luck in future.

Transfers are from Barry Lane and were easy to apply, but like all waterslide transfers they should be applied to a gloss surface to avoid getting the dreaded 'silvering' affect. The gloss finish can be got rid of by overspraying with the finish varnish of your choice. I did not need to apply a pre-gloss surface to my coach, because for some reason the coach plum

paint which was labelled 'matt' had a gloss finish.

Like Paul Knight, I recommend the use of Microset and Microsol transfer solutions. These can usually be obtained from shops selling American Railroad Models. Mine were mail order from LSWR Models, 10 Conyers Close, Walton-on-Thames KT12 4NG.

The crests on the carriage sides are from Slaters and are of the Pressfix type.

I have not been brave enough to weather the carriage but I have used Carrs weathering powders lightly brushed on the model. The white roof particularly needs toning down. I do wonder if plain white is the best paint to use, perhaps the addition of a little cream to get a more off-white or magnolia shade would be better. Any advice?

I am very pleased with the results of my efforts, but on showing the carriage to my friends at a recent L&Y meeting in the south west, was surprised to find that it was thought that modelling was easy for me and that there was an element of disbelief at the mistakes I make and traumas that I suffer.

Perhaps on my next modelling project I will list my troubles, count the number of times I re-solder, drop items, break things, get glue in the wrong place, mismeasure, cut myself - STOP - where's the whisky bottle?

The building of this 7mm carriage kit was described in a previous issue.

ALBERT KIERNON now tells us how he went about the tricky job of painting and lining...

Painting the Diagram 87 carriage

