

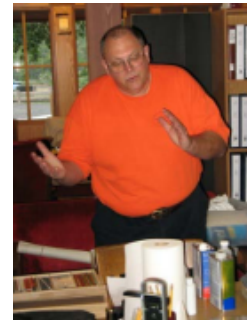


## Weathering With Pastel Chalks

By Kris Blackmarr

### Chalks:

(choose a broad selection of colors, see photo below for Kris' collection as an example) Trust me, he who has collected some, it will take a while to get there. Use soft or medium pastels (aka chalks) also to weather wood. Student pastel sets will work just fine. I still have mine from college many years ago. Stain the wood prior to using them for coloring it. Ideas written down below. Pencil pastels also work quite well. A whole set is cheaper than one at a time.



### Tools:

Use a 'file card'\* to add wood grain to stripwood. \*- a 'file card' is a tool from the hardware store that is normally used to clean files of embedded material. It works better than a razor saw blade for graining the wood. A stiff steel or brass wire brush works good for adding grain. Those toothbrush shaped ones are at the supermarket. Also a pencil wire brush that can extend the bristles. These can be had at Radio Shack and Caboose Hobbies. Dental picks and Xacto #11 blade points can add graining highlights. Know a friendly dentist? Ask for used ones. A fine sanding sponge will remove the fuzz created in the wood graining process. It's easier to handle and work with

Solvent: Alcohol: 99% rubbing alcohol, wood or denatured alcohol. Or mineral spirits. (Heard that Vodka is good)

## Techniques:

### **Wood graining:**

Distress the wood. Draw the wire brush with the grain and also to roughen the ends. The stripwood ends can be roughened and split using a dental pick or #11. Lightly sand off any fuzz, not prototypical.

### **Coloring the wood:**

Keep in mind that the color will lighten in shade as it dries. Apply the overall base color of the wood. A prepared stain or create your own as you go by using dry pastel on the wood and smeared along it using a cheap brush and solvent. Blacks, grays, browns, oranges, raw umber, raw sienna are all acceptable. That's your choice as to what you want to accomplish colorwise in the end.

**Adding the chalk:** Scrape some powder off the stick onto a piece of paper or a piece of glass as your pile to draw from later. Apply pastel pencil colors directly to the wood after softening its tip in the solvent. Smear it along using solvent and a brush to even it out. You can alter the color by adding more chalk or scrubbing with solvent to lessen the intensity.

**Weathering and highlighting:** Using a brush or Q-tip, apply some of the chalk to the end of the stripwood (or all along the stripwood). Spread it onto just the end portion of the wood graining. This makes it look 'aged' with just a bit of the wall paint color remaining above. Let that dry and do some more if you think that'll improve it. Too much? Use solvent to scrub off some color. Practice over time will be your best teacher, using the brief description above about the technique

