

Dave Coasby

One of my summertime lockdown projects

When Oxford Diecast introduced their 43:1 scale model of a Weymann Fanfare coach in Southdown livery I thought that it would look perfect sitting on the road bridge of Printers Yard – the Southern BR layout I am currently building.

As I undid the box and took this lovely model out, I was really impressed with the details and livery that was applied. It is also excellent value when you think that at around £40 it's about the same price as a RTR wagon.

However, I thought there were just one or two minor things I could do to improve the look of the coach.

Firstly, the paintwork is gloss, so a coating of matt varnish would make a difference. But of course, you don't want matt varnish over the windows. Fortunately, I had a jar of Humbrol Maskol to hand. This is a pink liquid that goes on like paint and when dry is almost transparent. The next day was warm and sunny with no wind, so ideal for spraying outside. I applied a few light coats of Halfords Aerosol Matt Lacquer over the original glossy paint, which soon turned matt.



Once dry I took the coach back inside and carefully peeled away the Maskol.



The next part of the project was fitting a driver and some passengers on the seats after taking the model to pieces (which is easily done). I purchased 50 seated figures for under £6 on the internet. These would be ideal for my coach I thought. I will stress that these figures are slightly under-scale and the painting of them was extremely basic, but with a little touching up here and there are ideal for the coach interior. The figure I selected for the driver got a complete re-paint as he would be the most visible figure inside the coach.

I've always hated seeing jet-black tyres on models, so I brush painted these a dirty dark colour. Buses and coaches are normally kept quite clean, so I didn't feel the need to airbrush a fine layer of grime along the lower half of the body, which I would have done on a railway wagon.

I also applied two tiny tax discs to the windscreen of the coach (commercial vehicles always had two discs). They were punched out of paper using a leather punch, as normal paper hole punches produce discs that are too large.

Job Done!