

Learning to Flock!

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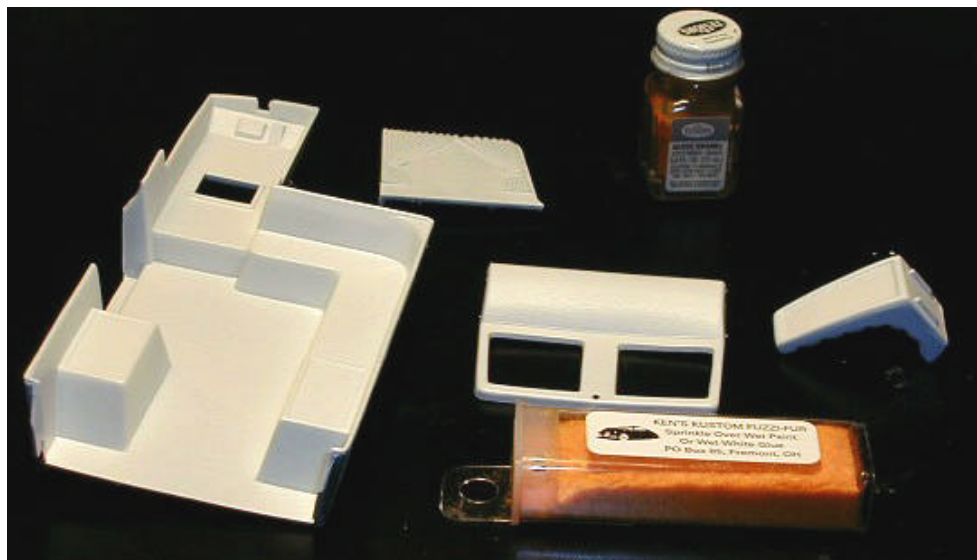
Flocking is a very easy way to add a great deal of realism to a model's interior. Flocking is available in most hobby shops, model magazines, or by contacting Modeltyme Designs. Flocking is just small polyester fibers. It comes in over 20 shades, and can be mixed together to achieve even more color combinations. Below is a list of materials you need to get started.

List of Materials:

1. Flocking
2. Paint brushes, at least two
3. Paint that matches the color of the flocking.
4. Big sheet of paper
5. Screen, strainer, or an old pepper shaker
6. **Dust mask (safety first!)**
7. A damp cloth

Optional Items:

1. White glue, like Elmers
2. Flat clear coat enamel spray paint



There are two methods to flocking, and I will start with the easiest method.

METHOD #1

You are going to paint the surface you want to flock with a paint that is as close to the shade of the flocking as possible. If you don't, you will be able to see the other color through the fibers. So a solid base color is essential.



The first method involves applying the flocking directly to the wet paint. On the Vandal, I primed all the black interior parts in white. Then I applied some Turn Signal Amber with a brush. This color was real close to the #106 Yellow Orange I wished to use to replicate the box art.

Begin by straining or sifting the fibers. They may have “settled” and need to be fluffed. Run them through a fine screen, a kitchen strainer, an old pepper shaker, or just spread them around with your finger on the paper, busting up all the little clumps, until you have a loose consistency.

The fibers are very small, and become airborne very easily. A dust mask is recommended so the fibers don't clog up your lungs and suffocate you. You might think this isn't necessary, but after doing a few pieces without one, you will notice your nose feeling clogged. Those little fibers can get everywhere.

After priming interior, I brushed on the Amber. You can spray the color on with an airbrush, or spray can as well. I applied a thin coat to get the color consistent.

On the second step, I brushed on a second coat, paying special attention to crevices and edges. Make sure it is even, and there aren't any big clumps of paint. You will be able to see any big clumps later.

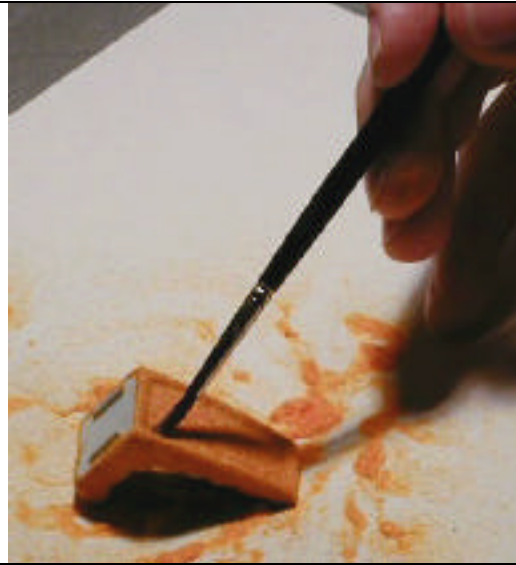
Lay the part over the paper, and cover the part's painted surface with the flocking. I lay it on very heavy. Gently, I push the fibers into the paint. You want it to stick to the wet surface, and be even. If I see any thin spots, I grab a pinch of flocking and press it on until it's covered. Do one panel at a time, and work in solid areas. After you get the hang of it, you can do larger areas, or more than one at once.

Let the part set up for a few minutes to let the paint dry.

Flip part over, and gently tap to get excess flocking off.



The next step is to take a dry soft bristle brush, and gently brush off the rest of the flocking. Be careful not to get too excited and “scrub”. You don’t want to knock all of it off, just what is loose. “Dig” out the cracks in seats and corners with short, gentle brush-strokes.



Stand back and admire your ability to do upholstery! Nothing to it!!

Sweep up all the remaining flocking and save for next time.

Wipe up the work area with a damp cloth.

METHOD #2

The second method is similar to the first, only you let the base color dry, and use Elmer’s glue:

Paint the part the color of the flocking, and let dry. You need to use a **FLAT** paint, or spray the area with some dull coat clear. **White glue will NOT stick to a glossy surface!!!**

Paint the part with white glue. The glue dries clear. Get the glue even and smooth. Try to avoid glue clumps, as they will be visible later.

Let the glue tack off for a few seconds. But don’t wait too long.

Same procedures as above, applying and pressing the flocking onto the surface, and into the cracks.

Let dry, and brush out as before.

If you have any light spots when you're through brushing, you can thin the glue down with water, and dab in the area, and reapply the flocking.



That's it! If you want to do more than one color, allow extra time for drying in between colors. You can get pretty cool results by flocking the inserts of seats, door panels, and other areas to duplicate vinyl and velour interiors. Flocking is also great for interior carpets and package trays.

You can mix the flocking together just like paint to get exactly the shade you want. Just mix and sift.



The flocking I used is called "Ken's Kustom Fuzzi-Fur". I have found prices between 2-4 dollars depending on vendor. I also use Detail Master's Flocking as well, and they both are excellent products.

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