

## Water for Small Ship Bases by Mark Elder

This method works best for small ships, especially 1/600 scale waterline ships. I like to use this for Thoroughbred Figures Ironclads. Larger models will need other techniques to match their scale. I developed this technique after trying the railroad water products unsuccessfully. It's fairly easy and quick.



### Materials:

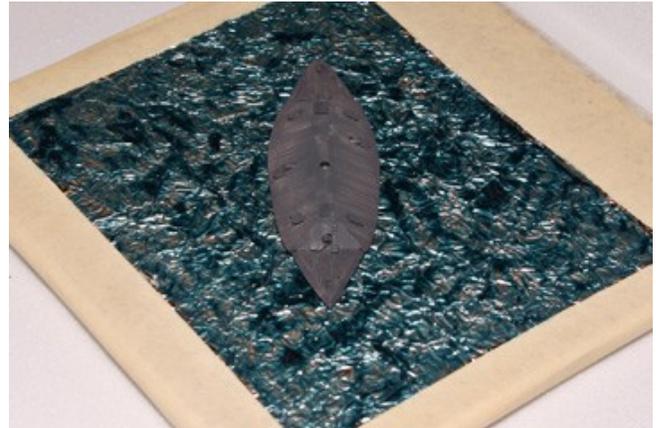
Household Aluminum Foil  
Scissors  
White glue (Elmer's)  
Future Floor Wax  
Paint Brushes  
Paint (described below)  
Water  
Base for model



### Method:

The household foil is your choice, but I find that the thinner ones work better than heavy-duty foils. Also, use the dull surface up; it seems to hold paint better than the shiny side. Do not use the foils labeled as "release",

because there is a sticky film on them that will not take paint well. Cut out a sheet slightly larger than the base, then crumple it in a not to tight ball. Speaking of bases,



this is a good way to recycle those old 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish plaques you don't care about! When the foil is crumpled, open it carefully without tearing and pull it back into the shape of your plaque. Trim the edges to fit properly if necessary. Position the ship in place and use a scalpel to cut out a corresponding hole in the foil, then remove the foil you cut along with the ship. Take a brush and coat the base with white glue, straight from the bottle. Press the foil carefully onto the base and flatten out slightly. Place

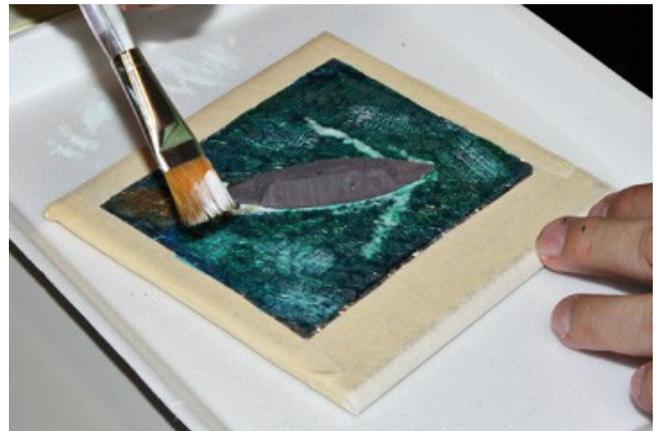


the ship into the hole you cut earlier. Allow the glue to set, which usually takes about 1 hour before you can resume work.

Now you have a canvas to paint. The foil's reflective surface will be painted with clear paints and the wrinkles already simulate the water surface. Tamiya makes several shades of clear paints, like Green, Blue, and Smoke. Testors Acryl also have paints that are good for this purpose. In this demo, we start with Acryl Flat Sea Blue, and dab this on enough to tint the foil, but not to

completely cover it. The colors can be premixed or mixed right on the foil surface.

Think about the environment you are portraying. Is it deep or shallow? Shallow rivers often are muddy. Usually the ship creates turbulence that kicks up mud behind the ship. To simulate this, use a muddy brown or olive drab paint. Keep



the paint thin. Depending on the speed of the ship, a v-shaped wake may form at the bow. Paint this on if desired. Dab on white glue to build up texture for wakes or turbulence. Also use white glue around the ship to blend it in with the foil.



If whitecaps are desired, take a brush loaded with white paint, wipe most of it off, and lightly brush over the areas desired. Do this sparingly and avoid leaving brush strokes.

When all is dry, use Future floor wax to seal everything and to provide a shiny top coat.