



STAINING WITH PROMARKERS

Extract from an article by **David Neat**, model maker & author of 'Model Making: Material and Methods'.
Full article at davidneat.wordpress.com

- Alcohol based, non-toxic, permanent ink
- Outstanding tone and vibrancy
- Colours are transparent and can be overlaid
- Twin tipped allowing for a variety of strokes within one marker

Letraset ProMarkers worked far better than I expected, with the big advantage that neither of them cause warping because they're spirit-based. The other significant advantage is the cost of them; considerably cheaper than even the smallest tins or bottles of spirit-based wood stain.

ProMarkers come in a wide range of colours, below are examples suitable as wood colours, although they can be easily 'mixed' .. that is, overlaid .. so the colour range is infinite!

The ink is alcohol-based and it penetrates the wood fibres very well. But it is also 'self-sealing' there must be a fixative in addition to the alcohol so transparent layers can be built up and colours deepened.

Ice Grey 1



Sandstone



Spice



Walnut



Warm Grey 5



Although the ink is thin, a build-up of layers will produce a sheen. Another advantage for small-scale work is that the ProMarkers come with both a broad and a fine felt nib. Because it penetrates so well I expected it to be difficult to draw a hard edge on the wood, at least for the first coat, but as you can see from the top edges it didn't 'bleed' as much as regular wood stains.

This could make it easier to 'fake' a more complicated parquet flooring pattern, just by using different tones or hues of marker. It can be fairly tightly controlled even on balsa wood, which is one of the most absorbent woods. Balsa generally stains more evenly than obeche, especially when layers are built up, but obeche will give a richer and deeper colour.