Painting

The grand plan was to apply the paint by spray application wherever possible. Brushing would be restricted to the application of etch primer and the painting of areas with poor accessibility. Other parts considered more suitable for brush application included components of the valve gear and motion.

Colour stability of some paints can be unpredictable when subjected to the temperature of a boiler at working pressure. For this reason, a specialised paint was chosen and used on all the large areas of the model. The specialised paint was a product of H.M.G. of Manchester and known as T.X. modified synthetic enamel. A sample of the required colour was submitted and a one-litre tin of colour-matched gloss acquired. For the smokebox, two half-litre tins of black T.X. were obtained from the same source - one tin being gloss and one being satin.

A Paasche H type airbrush was used for all the spray applications. Besides the applications mentioned above, a considerable amount of brush painting would be required to create the sign-style lettering and the hand painted "Dragon" motif on the canopy signboard.



The picture (above) shows the first steps in producing the dragon scroll motif. Humbrol enamel was the choice of paint and all the work was carried out beneath an illuminated magnifier. With no sample to follow, the design was very much a case of "make it up as you go along".

The picture (below) shows the artwork at a later stage





Once the motif had been completed, it was digitally photographed and printed-out as a mirror image. The printout was then positioned above the opposite end of the canopy signboard, where it could be copied onto the woodwork.

The picture (left) shows the 00 size spotting brush in action. In order to provide optimum conditions for the brush, the signboard was placed, in every conceivable position at some stage in the procedure. Predictably, the process consumed a good deal of time. This was mainly due to the drying period of the paint. Other work was therefore carried out between applications