

Painting Miniature Figures

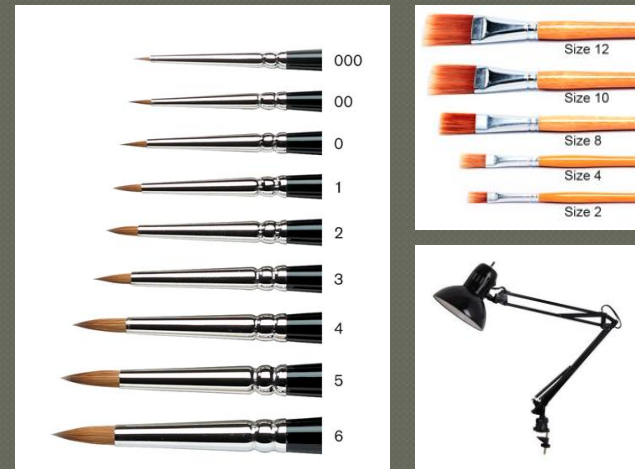
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Maj. General J.E.B. Stuart
28mm Dixon Wargame Miniature

Necessary Equipment

- Suitable Work Area. Desk or work bench with a comfortable chair.
- Adequate Lighting. I use two clamp on desk lamps with adjustable arms to bring the light source close when necessary.
- Brushes. You will need a selection of brushes with small pointed tips and a couple of red sable #4 or #2 brushes for “dry brushing”.
- Xacto™ knife for removing flash (mold lines) from figures.



Paints and Washes

I use acrylic paint on my figures. The following paints and washes are what I use the most on my figures:

- Delta Cream Coat craft paints for Ancient, Napoleonic and American Civil War figures.
- Tamiya for World War I and World War II soldiers and vehicles.
- The washes are for weathering effects and to shade flesh. (A new technique I've adopted.) I also use a dark base coat (brown or black) with flesh color dry brush for highlight effects.
- There are times when enamels are more effective than acrylics. Brass buttons and black leather are areas where enamels excel.



Figure Preparations

- Remove all flash from the figure using an Xacto knife.
- Wash the figures in warm soapy water for 15 minutes or so to remove any factory grease or oil so your paint will adhere to the figure.
- Complete all assembly at this time. I use regular airplane glue for hard plastic figures and “Loctite” glue for metal, soft plastic or resin models.
- Prime coat the figures:
 - For hard plastic, resin or metal, you can use any kind of flat primer. I use gray, black, brown or white. It really depends on what I am painting.
 - For soft plastic, stay with acrylic or water based primers. This will help the paint to adhere better to the plastic as acrylic is more flexible than enamel, and will not crack if bent.
 - Let the figures dry for a couple of days or so before you begin painting.



The Painting Process

- Make sure that the colors for your subject are as close to the authenticity of your project as possible. The internet is the best place to get pictures of your subjects. I have a notebook computer and keep it at my work station for research.
- Start by getting paint on the figure. You can complete the detailing later, so don't worry if you happen to paint "outside the lines" at this time. You can always go back and touch up.
- Start with the figure's exposed flesh, and work your way out from there.



The Base Colors

- Next paint the base colors of the uniform.
- I have completed the base colors for my Union Soldier.
- Again, research the subject very carefully using period illustrations, paintings and reenactor uniforms.
- A base color of dark blue for the uniform coat and bummer hat has been applied. The other base color in this case is a light Kersey blue for the trousers.
- Depending on your project, the soldier may have other colors as the base .



Adding More Detail

● Paint accouterments:

- Leather belts
- Cartridge & cap boxes
- Packs
- Haversacks
- Blanket rolls
- Canteens
- Bayonet scabbards
- Hair & beards



Still More Detail

- Add more detail:
 - Rifles, rifle barrels & metal fittings
 - Shoes or boots
 - Leather straps on blanket roll
 - Canteen straps



Final Detailing

- Add the final detail to your miniature.
 - Dry-brush a lighter color on the hair.
 - Paint brass buttons, belt buckles and plates.
 - Paint any sergeant stripes that may appear on the figure.
 - Use a lighter matching color and dry-brush highlight on the uniforms.
 - Apply wash to the figure to bring out detail in faces and hands.



Finished Figure



You can add optional paint and/or grass flocking to the base if desirable.

Dry-Brushing

To create this effect, you would apply small quantities of a lighter shade of paint over a darker base coat. Lightly brush the lighter shade color over the darker color. I used the “dry-brushing” technique to bring out details for faces, uniforms, armor, etc. to the figures below. The key is to always use a lighter shade over the darker shade.



Confederate Troops Charging



Ancient Gaulish Cavalry

Ancient and Dark Ages



Alexander's pikemen
1/72 scale soft plastic

I cheated a little
and used decals
and printed shield
emblems for the
shields.



Caesar's Invasion of Britain
40mm metal



Roman Gladiator
28mm metal.



Vikings at the Battle of Stamford
Bridge 28mm metal

Horse & Musket Era



28mm 54th MA



54mm French Grenadier



28mm French & Indian Wars



28mm British Highlanders



15mm Napoleonic Russians

20th Century



1/35 Sherman & US Infantry



1/35 Panzer VI "Tiger"



1/35 German $\frac{1}{2}$ Track & Grenadiers



1/35 German Zundap



1/35 M36 Jackson & Crew



1/35 US Marines



Thanks for Watching !