

Flames Of War Painting Guide

PAINTING SOVIETS



BRITISH SUPPLIED VEHICLES		AMERICAN SUPPLIED VEHICLES		SOVIET VEHICLES	
Vehicle Base	Vehicle Highlight	Vehicle Base	Vehicle Highlight	Vehicle Base	Vehicle Highlight
880	819	887	879	894	890
KHAKI GREY	IRAQI SAND	OLIVE DRAB	GREEN BROWN	CAM. OLIVE GREEN	REFLECTIVE GREEN

PAINTING SOVIETS



SOVIET INFANTRY	
Helmets	890
REFLECTIVE GREEN	
Flesh Base	875
BEIGE BROWN	
Flesh Highlight	955
FLAT FLESH	
Uniform	880
KHAKI GREY	
Uniform Highlight	988
KHAKI	
Canvas Webbing & pack	886
GREY GREEN	
Rifle Wood Highlight	875
BEIGE BROWN	
Rifle Wood Base	984
FLAT BROWN	
Rifle Metal	863
OILY STEEL	

Vallejo offers a range of paints designed with *Flames Of War* miniatures in mind. The colours recommended above are taken from the Soviet Armour & Infantry Paint Set, and the Utility Paint Set. To see the full World War II range visit your local Vallejo stockist.



COLOURS OF WAR

Colours Of War is a comprehensive 136-page book for painting World War II and World War III miniatures. It contains easy to follow step by step guides for any level of painter, as well as techniques, camouflage patterns & markings, weathering, & inspirational photos. For more information visit: www.FlamesOfWar.com/ColoursOfWar



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Flames of War painting guide is an essential resource for hobbyists looking to elevate their miniature painting skills and bring their World War II armies to life. Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned painter, this guide will provide you with techniques, tips, and tricks to enhance your painting experience. Get ready to immerse yourself in the world of Flames of War, where your miniatures will not only represent historical accuracy but also showcase your artistic flair.

Understanding Your Miniatures

Before diving into painting, it's essential to understand the miniatures you will be working with.

Flames of War miniatures are typically made of plastic or resin, and they come in various scales, primarily 15mm.

Choosing the Right Miniatures

1. Research the Units: Knowing the historical context of the units you're painting will guide your color choices and help you appreciate the details.
2. Select Quality Models: Invest in high-quality miniatures to ensure a better painting experience and a more impressive end result.

Preparing Your Miniatures

Preparation is key to a successful painting session. Here are the steps you should follow:

- Cleaning: Remove any mold lines and flash using a hobby knife or file. This will ensure that the surface is smooth and ready for paint.
- Washing: Clean your miniatures in warm, soapy water to remove any residue from the manufacturing process. Rinse thoroughly and allow them to dry completely.
- Priming: Apply a primer to help the paint adhere better to the surface. You can use spray primers or brush-on primers. Choose a color suitable for your army (e.g., gray for German units, white for winter camo).

Choosing Your Paints

Selecting the right paints is crucial for achieving the desired look. Flames of War enthusiasts typically use acrylic paints due to their ease of use and quick drying time.

Types of Paints

1. Base Coats: These are your primary colors. Choose a range of colors specific to the period and style of your units.
2. Wash and Shade: These are used to create depth and highlight details. Look for washes that complement your base colors.
3. Highlights: After applying a wash, use lighter shades to bring out the details on your miniatures.

Recommended Brands

- Vallejo: Known for a vast range of colors and excellent pigment quality.
- Citadel: Offers a wide variety of paints, including base, layer, and technical paints.
- Army Painter: Great for quick and effective painting solutions, including spray primers and washes.

Painting Techniques

Once you've prepared your miniatures and gathered your paints, it's time to get started with painting techniques.

Basic Techniques

1. Base Coating:

- Use a large brush for this step. Apply a thin layer of your chosen base color over the entire miniature.
- Ensure an even application and allow to dry completely before proceeding.

2. Washing:

- Apply a wash over the base coat to create shadows.
- Use a medium-sized brush to apply it in the recesses of the miniature, letting it flow into crevices.

3. Highlighting:

- Once the wash is dry, use a smaller brush to apply a lighter shade to raised areas.
- This adds depth and brings out details.

Advanced Techniques

1. Layering:

- Build up colors gradually by applying multiple thin layers.
- This technique allows for smoother transitions between colors.

2. Glazing:

- Apply a thin, transparent layer of paint over dry paint.
- This can alter colors subtly and create depth.

3. Dry Brushing:

- Use a dry brush with minimal paint to lightly touch the raised surfaces.
- This is effective for highlighting textures, such as fabric or armor.

Special Techniques for Flames of War Miniatures

Flames of War miniatures often require specific techniques to replicate the look of World War II vehicles and soldiers.

Weathering Effects

1. Chipping:

- Use a fine brush to apply a lighter color or metallic paint to simulate chipped paint on vehicles.
- Focus on edges and high-wear areas.

2. Dust and Mud:

- Mix some paint with a texture medium or use weathering powders to create a realistic look.
- Apply to the bases of vehicles or troops to simulate dirt accumulation.

3. Rust Effects:

- Use orange and brown paints to create rust patches on vehicles.
- Blend them well to achieve a natural look.

Creating Camouflage Patterns

Camouflage is a defining feature of many World War II units. Here's how to achieve effective camouflage patterns:

1. Planning:

- Use reference images to determine the camouflage pattern for your units.
- Sketch out the pattern lightly on the miniature with a pencil if needed.

2. Applying the Base Color:

- Start with the base color of the camouflage.
- Allow it to dry completely.

3. Layering the Camouflage Colors:

- Use a fine brush to apply the additional colors, following your planned pattern.
- Ensure that the colors blend well and maintain a natural look.

Finishing Touches

After painting your miniatures, it's essential to add some finishing touches to make them stand out.

Varnishing Your Miniatures

1. Matte Varnish:

- Protect your paint job and reduce shine by applying a matte varnish.
- This will help maintain the integrity of the paint.

2. Gloss Varnish:

- Use gloss varnish on specific areas, such as lenses or metal parts, to create highlights.

Basing Your Miniatures

Basing is crucial for completing the look of your miniatures. Here are some tips:

- Select a Base Material: Choose between textured bases, sand, or grass tufts to reflect the battlefield environment.
- Adhere Miniatures to Base: Use super glue to firmly attach your miniatures to their bases.
- Add Details: Incorporate small details like rocks, grass, or debris to create a more dynamic appearance.

Conclusion

The Flames of War painting guide provides you with the fundamental skills and advanced techniques to bring your miniatures to life. With patience and practice, you can create stunning models that reflect the history and drama of World War II. Remember to enjoy the process and experiment with different techniques and colors to develop your unique style. Happy painting!

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the essential paints needed for Flames of War miniatures?

The essential paints include a range of colors for base coats, highlights, and details, such as NATO Green, Khaki, and Flat Black, along with washes like Agrax Earthshade for shading effects.

How do I prepare my Flames of War models for painting?

Start by cleaning the models with warm soapy water to remove any oils or residues, then allow them to dry thoroughly before applying primer.

What type of primer is best for Flames of War miniatures?

A spray primer in a neutral color such as grey or white is ideal, as it provides a good base for paint adhesion and helps the colors pop.

Can I use an airbrush for painting Flames of War models?

Yes, an airbrush can be very effective for base coating and applying smooth layers of paint, but it's important to practice and use the right thinning ratios.

What techniques can I use for weathering my Flames of War vehicles?

Techniques such as chipping, rust effects using pigments, and applying washes can help create a realistic weathered look on your vehicles.

How do I achieve good highlighting on Flames of War infantry?

Use a lighter shade of the base color and apply it to raised areas with a fine brush for highlighting, often referred to as dry brushing or layering.

What are some common mistakes to avoid when painting Flames of War models?

Common mistakes include not thinning paints properly, skipping the priming step, and rushing the drying process, which can lead to poor adhesion and effects.

Is it necessary to use washes on Flames of War miniatures?

While not strictly necessary, using washes can enhance shadows and depth, making details stand out, which is highly recommended for a more professional finish.

How can I paint camo patterns on my Flames of War tanks?

Camo patterns can be painted by applying base colors in irregular shapes, then layering additional colors and using masking techniques or stencils for precision.

Are there any online resources or communities for Flames of War painting tips?

Yes, there are many online forums, YouTube channels, and social media groups dedicated to Flames of War painting, where enthusiasts share tips, tutorials, and inspiration.

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