

# PAINTING GUIDES

Painting miniatures is a hobby in its own right. It not only makes your models look even better, it can be very rewarding as you learn new techniques and improve your skills. Some people paint purely for enjoyment, others to make sure their battlefields look as amazing as possible. Whichever you prefer, this introduction to painting *Bolt Action* miniatures will help you get started. Whilst this set doesn't include any paint, we've added this section to help you on your way.

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN

### PAINT

We recommend using water-based acrylic paint for painting your *Bolt Action* miniatures. These are generally the easiest to work with and easy to clean up. There is a huge variety of manufacturers and colours to choose from.

### BRUSHES

There are a wide selection of brushes available. Depending on what you are painting and what stage you are at will dictate the best brush for the job. Painting base coats? Choose a medium brush. Painting a tank? Choose a big brush. Painting eyes? Choose a small brush.

Our website has a fantastic range to choose from – go to [warlordgames.com](http://warlordgames.com) and have a look for yourself.

### WATER

Essential for cleaning your brushes, having a water pot nearby is highly recommended. Paint water gets dirty often so should be changed regularly so as not to contaminate the other colours you are painting on your miniature.

### PALETTE

Palettes are perfect for thinning your paints on and mixing colours. It is rare to find a painting set up without one. From old tiles and plates to wet palettes, there is a solution for everyone.

You may already have a collection of paints, some of which may be close enough to the colours listed on the following pages to be suitable for use in painting US Rangers or German grenadiers. The techniques are the same, whatever the manufacturer. Check out our handy paint conversion chart at: [boltaction.com](http://boltaction.com)



A great hobby set up – just add miniatures!

# PAINTING THE MODEL

## BASIC TECHNIQUES

### Undercoats

Painting directly onto a miniature is possible, but it is highly recommended that you use an undercoat of paint as a primer before you start. Typically these are spray cans although you can paint them with a brush or airbrush.

Undercoats are available in a wide variety of colours and choosing the right one can help you on your painting journey. Black and white are the most common – white is normally recommended for when you are painting brighter colours and black for when you are painting darker or neutral colours. If the majority of your army is a specific colour, you can choose an undercoat that matches as it can make the whole process quicker.

### Basecoats

After undercoating, the first stage is to paint the base colours on your miniature. These will form the base for all other stages. Apply all of the base colours to the right areas of your miniature in thin, even coats of paint. If needed, apply additional coats if the first looks patchy.

### Wash

A wash is a specific type of paint that is a lot thinner than normal paint – it doesn't typically need thinning – and is used to create deeper shadows where light wouldn't reach. They can be painted into the recesses or applied over the entire area depending on the effect you want.



Painting in a well-lit space will make life much easier!

### Thin Your Paints

Thinning your paints reduces the chance of obscuring detail when you are painting your models. You can do this with water or a paint medium (approximately two parts paint to one part water/medium is about right). This also helps the paint to flow more consistently and achieve an even finish. With certain paints you may need to apply a second coat. Remember that two thin coats are better than a single thick one.

## ADVANCED TECHNIQUES

After undercoating and applying base coats and washes to your model, it'll be ready for battle. However, if you want to make it really stand out on the tabletop, there are some additional steps you can take...

### 1st Highlight

Using a lighter shade, or the base coat with white mixed in, paint the first stage of highlights. This represents the areas where light is hitting your miniature and starts to make your miniatures appear more three-dimensional.

### 2nd Highlight

Selectively adding even lighter shades to the parts of the model where light would hit it the most enhances the effect of the first highlight.

### Make it Pop!

Adding in details can really make your miniature stand out. Painting in small details such as buttons and buckles can make a big difference to the miniature. Additional highlights can also be added at this stage.

### Basing

The base of the model brings it to life and provides context for the miniature. What you put on your base depends on the theatre of war in which you want to set your miniatures. Some examples are shown below.



*Grass base*



*Desert base*



*Snow base*



*Ruined city base*

# HOW TO PAINT GERMAN GRENADIERS

Warlord Games Studio Painter, and two-time Golden Demon winner, Kirsten Williams demonstrates how to paint your plastic German grenadiers quickly, easily and effectively, so that you'll have your new troops battle-ready in next to no time.

PART	BASIC			ADVANCED	
	BASECOAT	WASH	1ST HIGHLIGHT	2ND HIGHLIGHT	MAKE IT POP!
<i>Tunic, Trousers</i>	German Fieldgrey (V830)	Dark Tone (AP)	German Fieldgrey (V830)	Green Grey (V886)	-
<i>Gun Stock</i>	Oak Brown (AP)	Dark Tone (AP)	Flat Brown (V984)	Leather Brown (AP)	New Wood (V311)
<i>Gaiters &amp; Pouches</i>	Khaki Grey (V880)	-	German Camo Beige WWII (V821)	Stone Grey (V884)	-
<i>Boots, Canteen &amp; Gun Strap</i>	Oak Brown (AP)	Dark Tone (AP)	Oak Brown (AP)	Flat Brown (V984)	Mahogany Brown (V846)
<i>Mess Tin</i>	German Camo Extra Dark Green (V896)	Dark Tone (AP)	German Camo Extra Dark Green (V896)	Black Green (V980)	-
<i>Skin</i>	Flesh Base (V341)	Strong Skin Shade (AP)	Flesh Base (V341)	Amber Skin (AP)	Dorado Skin (AP) – eyes & mouth in black and white
<i>Metal</i>	Gun Metal (AP)	Dark Tone (AP)	Gun Metal (AP)	Platemail Metal (AP)	-
<i>Gas Mask Can</i>	Brown Violet (V887)	Military Shade (AP)	Brown Violet (V887)	Green Grey (V886)	-
<i>Camo Base</i>	Chocolate Brown (V872)	-	Paratrooper Tan (AP)	Cork Brown (V843)	-
<i>Camo Colour II</i>	-	-	-	Oak Brown (AP)	Splinter Blotches II (V347)
<i>Camo Colour III</i>	-	-	-	Green Skin (AP)	Splinter Blotches I (346)
<i>Camo 'Rain' Streaks</i>	-	-	-	-	Reflective Green (V890)

Key: (V): Vallejo Model Colour; (AP): The Army Painter

## BRUSHES

Painting miniatures is a lot easier when you've got the right tools for the job! We recommend our Wargames Brushes series, available in sizes 2 (the largest), 1 and 0. Having the right brush can massively improve your painting experience. For very fine detail painting, we also supply the Kolinsky Masterclass brush – perfect for really tiny bits!



## CAMO

Some of these grenadiers wear camouflaged helmet covers and smocks, in the iconic German 'splinter' pattern. While camouflage can look like a daunting challenge, don't worry! Simply follow the steps described overleaf and you'll end up with fantastic looking miniatures that really stand out (or blend in, in this case) on the tabletop.



# PAINTING GERMAN GRENADIERS – STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

## BASIC TECHNIQUES

### 1) Undercoat

Undercoat with Army Painter Matt Black Spray. Aim for an even, thin coverage. Make sure you follow all the safety instructions on the packaging. With lots of different colours on these models, a neutral black primer works best as a base for them all.

### 2) Basecoat

Basecoat the tunic and trousers with German Fieldgrey, and if the model has a camouflaged smock or helmet cover, paint that with Chocolate Brown. A #1 or #2 brush is ideal here.

Paint the gaiters and webbing pouches with Khaki Grey. Pick out the boots, canteen and gun strap with Oak Brown, the mess tin with German Camo Extra Dark Green and the gas mask tin with Brown Violet.

For the gun, paint the wood Oak Brown and the metal in Gun Metal. Finally, paint the skin with Flesh Base.

A large brush is useful for areas such as the main uniform, while for the finer detail a smaller brush is ideal.

### 3) Shading

Next, shade the miniature with washes, letting them run into the recesses and dabbing away any excess with a clean brush.

Use Dark Tone for the uniform, gun, boots, canteen, gun strap and mess tin, Strong Skin Shade for the flesh and Military Shader for the gas mask tin.

The #2 brush is a great choice for shading larger areas and the #1 works well for smaller ones.

## ADVANCED TECHNIQUES

### 4) 1st Highlight

The objective here is to reapply the base colours or a similar colour from stage two, but avoiding the recesses, so that the shading remains and adds depth to the miniature. The #0 brush is a perfect choice for this sort of work.

### 5) 2nd Highlight

Now it's time to highlight the details. For this stage, you only want to pick out the raised area and edges of the model to make them stand out. For smaller details, you'll need a very small amount of paint and a very finely

tipped brush – the #0 is a good choice, as is the Kolinsky Masterclass brush.

At this stage, you'll also begin applying the secondary colours to any camouflaged items, using Oak Brown and Green Skin – you can see the kind of pattern (known as 'splinter') that you're aiming for, and you can also use real-world images as a useful guideline.

You've now got a model that looks absolutely fine and is totally ready for the tabletop. However, if you want to make your grenadiers really 'pop' and take them to the next level, you can always add one more round of highlights.

### 6) Make it Pop!

For these highlights, be very selective about where the paint goes – you want to apply it only to the most extremely raised areas, and use a very small amount on your finest-pointed brush.

For the face, use Dorado Skin on areas like the tip of the nose, chin and edge of the ears.

At this stage, you can also paint in the eyes with white and add a tiny dot of black for the pupil. This step is very much optional, and your model will look just fine without it.

The final stage of the camouflage is to add the distinctive vertical 'rain streaks' with Refractive Green – these should be very thin, straight lines across the whole camouflage garment, and will really elevate your model and unify the camouflage scheme.

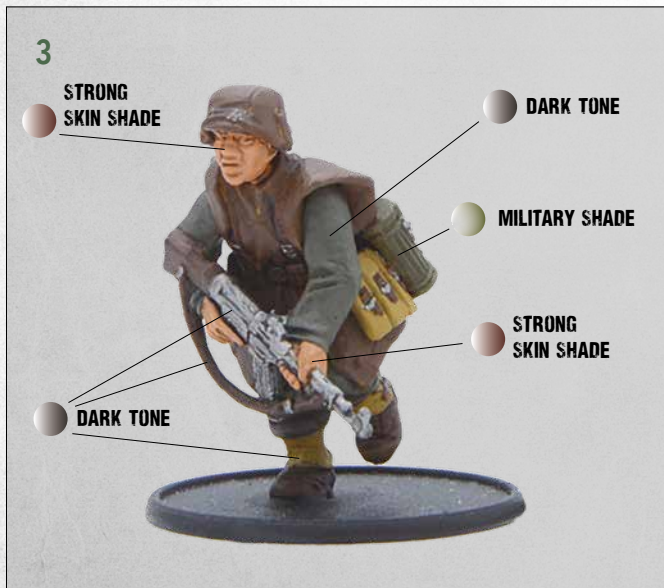
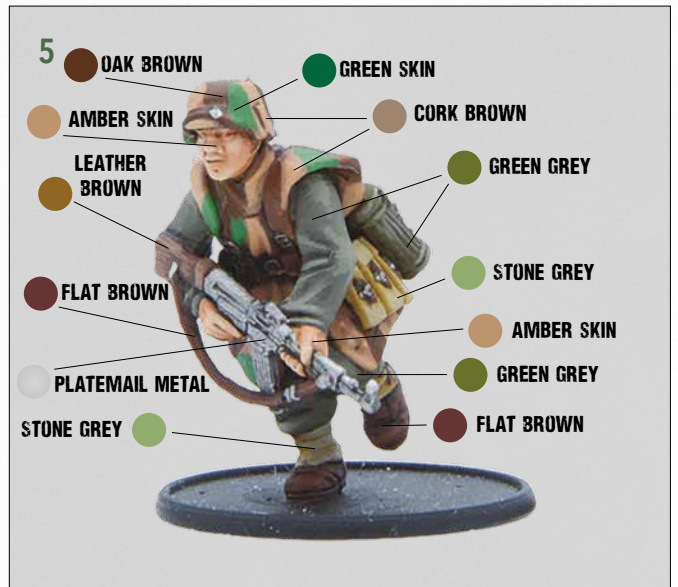
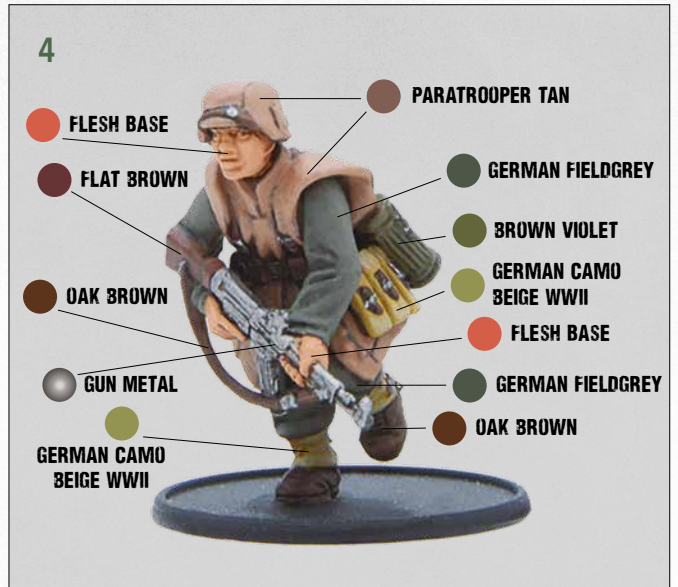
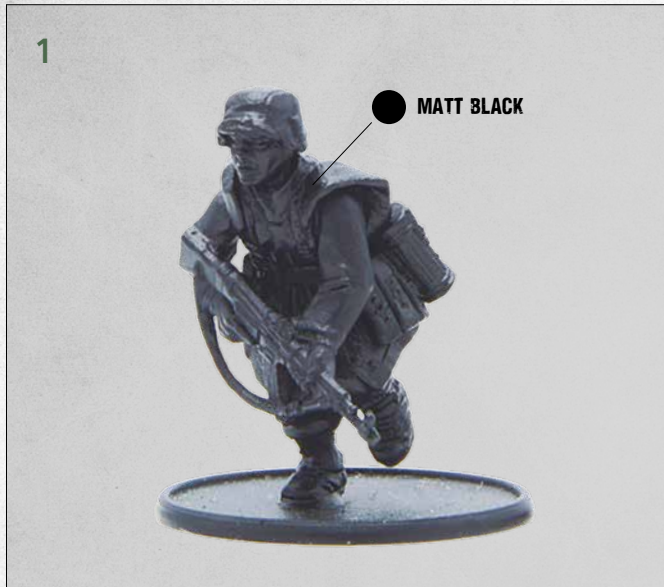
For this stage, you'll want to use the Kolinsky Masterclass brush as it'll give you a really fine point for better control of where the paint goes.

### Basing

The final step is to base your model – and you can do this any way you want, representing anything from muddy grasslands to war-torn city street streets or snowy tundra.

If you want to follow Kirsten's example, cover the base in watered-down PVA glue and dip into Brown Battleground. Once dry, basecoat it with Charred Brown before drybrushing with Khaki.

To finish, using PVA glue, attach some Summer Static Grass to two or three separate areas, and add a couple of Swamp Tufts.



# HOW TO PAINT US RANGERS

Here, Kirsten shows you how to paint the plastic US Rangers with the same ease, allowing you to field them in battle as swiftly as possible.

PART	BASIC			ADVANCED	
	BASECOAT	WASH	1ST HIGHLIGHT	2ND HIGHLIGHT	MAKE IT POP!
Boots	Oak Brown (AP)	-	Flat Brown (V984)	Mahogany Brown (V846)	-
Trousers	Leather Brown (AP)	Soft Tone (AP)	Leather Brown (AP)	US Field Drab (V873)	German Camo Beige WWII (V821)
Jacket	Canvas (V314)	Military Shade (AP)	Canvas (V314)	Green Grey (V886)	-
Webbing, Straps, Gaiters	Canvas (V314)	-	-	Necrotic Flesh (AP)	Strong Tone (AP) (watered down)
Helmet	Brown Violet (V887)	Dark Tone (AP)	Brown Violet (V887)	Brown Violet (V887) + Green Grey (V886)	Green Grey (V886)
Gunstock, Helmet Strap, Shovel Handle	Oak Brown (AP)	Dark Tone (AP)	Oak Brown (AP)	Mahogany Brown (V846)	New Wood (V311)
Skin	Agate Skin (AP)	Strong Skin Shade (AP)	Agate Skin (AP)	Flesh Base (V341)	Amber Skin (AP) - eyes & mouth in black and white
Metal	Gun Metal (AP)	Dark Tone (AP)	Gun Metal (AP)	Plate Mail Metal (AP)	-



# PAINTING US RANGERS – STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

## BASIC

### 1) Undercoat

Undercoat with Army Painter Matt Black Spray. Aim for an even, thin coverage. A black primer works well as an undercoat for the greens of the US uniform and helmet, and the beige brown of the trousers. Alternatively, you can undercoat in your normal colour and paint a thin coat of leather brown on the model.

### 2) Basecoat

Basecoat the jacket, webbing, straps and gaiters with Canvas and the trousers with Leather Brown.

The helmet should be painted with Brown Violet. Use Oak Brown for the boots, gun stock, helmet strap and shovel handle, carefully picking out the strap and handle with a finely tipped brush.

Use Agate Skin for the face and hands. Finally, pick out all the metal parts with Gun Metal – this includes the shovel, buckles, canteen top and the metal parts of the rifle.

A #2 brush is great for the larger areas and a #1 brush gives you more control on the smaller parts.

### 3) Shading

Next, shade the miniature using washes, letting it run into the recesses and dabbing away any excess. Use Soft Tone for the trousers, Military Shade for the jacket, Dark Tone for the helmet, metals, gun stock and shovel handle, and Strong Skin Shade for the skin. Leave the gaiters, webbing and straps unwashed. A #2 brush is perfect for this step.

## ADVANCED

### 4) 1st Highlight

The objective here is to reapply the base colours from stage two, but avoiding the recesses, so that the shading remains, adding depth to the miniatures. The only exception is to use Flat Brown for the boots, rather than Oak Brown.

The #1 and #0 brushes are your weapons of choice here.

### 5) 2nd Highlight

Now it's time for some highlights. For this stage, you only want to pick out raised areas and edges of the model. Use a 50:50 mix of Brown Violet and Green Grey for the helmet, US Field Drab for the trousers, Green Grey for the jacket and Necrotic Flesh for the webbing straps and gaiters.

For the smaller details you need only a very small amount of paint on your brush, which should be honed to a fine point. We recommend the #0 or Kolinsky Masterclass.

Use Mahogany Brown for the boots, wood and helmet strap, and Plate Mail for all the metals. Finally use Flesh Base for the skin.

You could leave it here and have a fine-looking model ready for the tabletop, but you could add another highlight to make your Rangers really pop...

### 6) Make it Pop!

For these highlights, be very selective about where you're putting the paint. Apply it only to the most extreme raised areas. Use German Camo Beige WWII for the trousers, and Green Grey for the helmet. Pick out the wood elements with New Wood.

Use Amber Skin for the face and hands, but for only the most raised areas like the tip of the nose, around the chin and the edge of the ears.

Next, very carefully apply a diluted wash of Strong Tone (two parts water to one part wash) to the webbing, straps and gaiters.

For these steps, the Kolinsky Masterclass brush is definitely recommended!

### Basing

The final step is to base your model. If you want to use the example shown on the pictured model, on the opposite page, follow the same steps as for the German grenadier on page 40.

### Ready for War!

The step-by-step guides provided here give all you need to paint your German grenadiers and US Rangers, and make them ready to take into combat on the *Bolt Action* tabletop.

The method described lends itself to batch-painting five or so models at a time, which will give you a full squad or even an entire army, in no time at all.

All paints mentioned in these guides are available individually at: [warlordgames.com](http://warlordgames.com)

