

Hints and Tips

Step by Step – The Pacific War

By Mick Farnworth

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Japanese Imperial Army



Brigade Games Miniatures figures painted by Mick Farnworth

Tropical Uniform

Item	Colour	Vallejo Model Colour
Helmet	Khaki	English Uniform 70.921
Uniform (Tan)	Khaki Yellow	Middlestone 70.882 (highlight Iraqi Sand 70.819 or Buff 70.976)
Uniform (Green)	Khaki Green	Russian Uniform 70.924
Webbing & Pouches	Sand	Dark Sand 70.847
Boots (two toed)	Black	

Temperate Uniform.

Helmet	Dark Green	German Camo Dark Green 70. 979
Star on Helmet	Yellow	Flat Yellow 70.953
Uniform (Temperate)	Khaki Brown	Khaki Grey 70.880 or Japanese Uniform WW2 70.923
Helmet - 979 Ger. Cam	dark green	or 822 Ger. Cam brown
Field Cap - 921 English uniform		then highlight with 923 Japanese uniform

General Colours

Star on Helmet	Yellow	Flat Yellow 70.953
Skin		Mix 50% GW Talarn Flesh with 50% GW Sunny Flesh
Rank patches	Red	Flat Red
Pistol Holster,	Brown	Mahogany Brown 70.846, Flat Brown 70.984
Officers Scabbard	Brown	Mahogany Brown 70.846, Flat Brown 70.984
Webbing (variant)	Beige	German Camo Beige 70.821 or Stone Grey 70. 884
Anklets / Gaiters	Beige	German Camo Beige 70.821
Boots	Brown	Mahogany Brown 70.846, Flat Brown 70.984

Painting Step by Step

There are many ways to paint 28mm figures. Many people paint the clothing with a dark shade then the main colour and then a highlight colour. For wargaming, where you want to get reasonably good results quickly, it is easier to paint only the main colours and then add shade with a wash of dark transparent stain.

Here is a basic assembly and painting sequence for typical world war 2 soldiers. This method is designed for painting about 20 figures at a time. It is always a good idea to do a practice run on 5 figures first. The painting sequence is designed so that minor mistakes can be corrected at the highlight stage. There is no need to correct minor mistakes as you go along.

1. Remove mould risers, mismatch, and flash. Mould risers are typically found on hands, elbows, feet and weapons. Sometimes they can be flicked off with a fingernail but usually tweezers or needle nosed pliers are needed. Occasionally they must be filed away with a needle file.

TIP - With Japanese, check the area between the head and collar for flash.

2. Sand the base flat. Easiest way is to place a sheet of coarse sandpaper on a workbench. Hold the figure firmly and vertically in your right hand and push it over the sand paper. Two or three strokes should be enough to give a flat base. The base is flat when the underside is covered in scratches from the sandpaper.
3. Glue the figure to a base. If you are going to use individual bases, this will be the final base. Use cyanacrylate adhesive (superglue) for a permanent bond. If you are going to use multiple bases, use a coin as temporary base so that you can hold the figure for painting. For temporary bases, use PVA glue, as it is easy to remove later.
4. If you are using slotted bases, glue on some small squares of thin plastic card to cover the slot.



5. Using epoxy putty (e.g. Milliput), blend the figure base into the base.
6. Prime and undercoat the figure. This can be done with brush on enamel paint (e.g. Humbrol Matt Black) or with a spray paint (e.g. GW Chaos Black Spray). For plastic figures spray undercoat usually works well. Metal figures often need touching up afterwards as the spray rarely reaches into the recesses. A black undercoat is usually easiest as it also acts as the darkest shade. I used GW Chaos Black Spray.

TIP - It can be difficult to get the spray paint on the under surfaces of the figure. A simple method is to lay the figures on their side on a paper and spray. When the paper has dried to

matt black, turn the figures over and spray again. Then stand the figures upright and spray from all sides.

7. To get a good base to work from, I damp brushed (i.e. a heavy dry-brush using damp paint) the figures with khaki brown. Next, I did this again with the khaki brown mixed with beige. This gives a very quick shading effect. For the last coat, vary the shade by adding light brown or yellow beige so that you have a variety of colours.
8. Paint the hands and face with a basic flesh colour (GW Tallarn Flesh or a mix of GW Dwarf Flesh and Elf Flesh is a good base coat for flesh). Highlight with a quick damp brush of a light yellowy flesh tone (e.g. 50% GW Elf Flesh and 50% GW Sunny Flesh).
9. Paint the base in brown
10. Paint the boots, rifle stock, boots, ammo pouches and belt in brown.
11. Paint the metal parts of the weapons and the canteen with a mix of black and steel.
12. Paint red tabs on the collars and yellow stars on the hats.



13. Shade the whole figure a dark wash applied with a brush (Army Painter Strong Tone or Vallejo Transparent Smoke 70.939 or GW Devlan Mud Wash).

TIP - Army Painter Strong Tone worked very well. Be careful not to let it pool too much. I prefer the result from a brush as the results from a dip is rather dark. Dipping is also very messy. Note that Army Painter is also an oil based gloss varnish and needs at least 24 hours to dry.



14. Using a fine brush and dilute paint, paint the eyes as a horizontal white dash.
15. Dot the eyes with black or dark blue. A cocktail stick can be used instead of a brush. You can also do this with a fine gel pen.

16. Varnish with a spray of gloss varnish to protect the figure. This is not necessary if you have used Army Painter Strong Tone. After this has dried overspray with matt varnish.
17. Decorate the base. The easiest way is to paint on PVA glue and dip the base in sand. I glued on the sand in two stages. The first time, I covered the upper surface of the base with PVA and dipped it in sand. Once the first stage was dry, I added more glue and sand to make sure that the step left by the plastic base was hidden. Once the glue is dry, shade the base with a brown wash mixed with a little PVA glue. This also fixes the sand.
18. Highlight with a pale sand colour (GW Bleached Bone 61.17) lightly dry-brushed onto the sand. Painting sand will destroy an artist's brush in minutes, so use a cheap pig bristle brush.
19. Touch up any mistakes and add highlights as desired. The collars were painted with red bars to simulate insignia.
20. Add static grass if you want to.



Books

General

Andrew Mollo: **The Armed Forces of World War 2** (Little, Brown and Company)

This book is a very useful overview of uniforms and insignia. There are 250 colour drawings and 100 photographs which cover every nation involved in WW2. The original 1981 version is a large format book. There is an A5 reprint that does not include the Eastern front.

Andrew Mollo et al: **Army Uniforms of World War 2** (Blandford)

This book is similar to the one above but with a completely different set of illustrations. This was originally published by Blandford in 1973. This one is also available as a combined 1981 volume called "**World Army Uniforms Since 1939**". It is worth investing in both Mollo books.

Chris McNab: **20th Century Military Uniforms: 300 Uniforms from Around the World** (Grange Books PLC)

This book is similar in style to Andrew Mollo's books and has many of the same illustrations.

Osprey Books

Osprey books are also very good but there are several which touch the subject, so it is difficult to recommend one item. There are at least 20 Osprey titles covering the ground war in the Pacific.

Osprey Men-at-Arms 020 Japanese Army of World War II

This was one of the earliest Ospreys and looks rather dated now.

Osprey Men at Arms 362 The Japanese Army 1931-45 Part 1

Osprey Men at Arms 369 The Japanese Army 1931-45 Part 2

The Japanese Army 1931-45 Part 2 is probably the best as it deals with infantry uniforms from 1942 -1945

Osprey Warrior 095 Japanese Infantryman 1937-45 Sword of Empire

The campaign books are generally very good.

Osprey Campaign 018 Guadalcanal 1942

Osprey Campaign 077 Tarawa 1943

Osprey Campaign 110 Peleliu 1944

Osprey Campaign 146 Marshall Islands 1944

Osprey Campaign 137 Saipan Tinian 1944

Osprey Campaign 139 Guam 1941 1944

Osprey Campaign 081 Iwo Jima 1945

Osprey Campaign 096 Okinawa 1945

Films

Flags of Our Fathers

Letters from Iwo Jima

The Thin Red Line

Windtalkers

Sands of Iwo Jima

The Pacific - HBO Series