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## WORLD WAR II MINIATURES

### 6mm GHQ Infantry Painting Tutorial

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Below is a short tutorial for painting 6mm Infantry. All paints are Vallejo acrylic except when specified. If you have further questions about these steps, feel free to visit the Contact page and drop me a note.



To effectively paint miniatures (especially tiny 6mm) you need something to hold them securely during the process. For infantry I like to use popsicle sticks; primarily because they are cheap and you can buy a large bag for only a couple of dollars. I use simple Elmer's white glue to fasten the miniatures in place and once dry I coat them with white undercoat. I have found that normal spray primers are extremely difficult to use for GHQ; I can never seem to get a good coat.....either too thick, or too grainy (and as a result the details get obscured). I've switched to applying thinned down white paint with an airbrush.



The next step is to thin down your basecoat color and apply it kinda like a wash, so that the white undercoat shows through. Draw off the excess with a brush. For these German grenadiers, I used German Fieldgrey (830).



Once your basecoat is completely dry, start applying the details. I used Beige Brown (875) for the rifles, leather, and trench tools. German Grey (995) was used for the helmets and gas mask canisters; hands and faces were painted with Dark Flesh (927); boots Black (950). All of the paint for these steps was thinned using the Vallejo brand thinner; this has a thicker consistency than water and prevents the paint from spidering everywhere (which seems to happen when thinned with water.)



Once you're happy with your packs, helmets, flesh, etc. it's time to apply a wash to your figures. I've tried using water based washes countless times and I never seem to get the effect that I'm looking for. Recently I've begun using 502 Abteilung Oils, thinned with turpentine for my washes. I would say I'm still learning how to use it, but so far I like it much better than other washes I've tried. Apply the oil wash and draw off the excess with your brush. Let this dry overnight.





Some people may like the way a dark wash looks, and may want to skip this step. I personally don't like an overdone wash. With a turpentine dampened brush carefully remove the wash from the larger area panels, such as sleeves and legs. Let this dry for a good couple of hours and then coat your figures with some type of matte varnish (lately I've started using cheap Krylon Artists Matte Finish, seems to work just fine).



Very carefully remove your figures from the popsicle sticks; I use the sharp end of my tweezers to pry them off. Glue your figures to the bases of your choosing. I cut my bases from a thin sheet of basswood (25mm x 15mm). CA glue should hold them on just fine.



At this point, you are ready to start decorating your bases. I like to use Vallejo pumice gel; it mixes well with the Vallejo line of acrylic paints and is fairly easy to apply. Mix it up with a few drops of earth colored paint and it's ready to apply. I used Vallejo Game Color earth (062) for this platoon. Desert colors can be adjusted accordingly.



Paint your pumice gel mixture on using a small cheap paintbrush. The pumice gel is pretty hard on brushes so you don't want to use your best. Once this is applied it will take a couple of hours to fully dry. Once dry, apply a black oil wash over the pumice gel (same type of wash that you washed your figures in)



After your oil wash is dry, carefully drybrush your ground with a lighter color; I used Stone Grey (884). At this point you may need to go back over your boots with some black..... it's so tough to drybrush and miss the boots. Paint the edges of the bases, this gives it a nice touch; I used Fieldgrey to match the German uniforms.



Add your grass and landscaping details. Use a fine brush to apply glue and grass between boots and hide any details of the infantry bases that still may be showing through. Finish everything off with a few more coats of matte varnish and you're all done.