



BASICCLASS

11 TIP FOR PAINTING



Before start

I have been able to get some useful tips in the process of painting miniatures for a long time. Some of this was obtained through other famous painter's guides, and some through mistakes while painting the model myself. Today I would like introduce to you to some of the tips that I found useful and that actually helped me improve my painting skills.

I have been teaching these tips in the course of several private lesson recently, and the students showed a significant improvement. I wonder if it would be helpful to many other people, so I writing this guide. It may not be as detailed as giving a lesone in person, but I hope it it will be helpful to the subscribers.



GRAY PRIMING is good for detail work

The most common priming color in miniature painting is black. This is because if black priming is applied, the color look heavy and easy to paint shadows. However, with black priming, it is difficult to paint bright colors such as yellow or white. And since the base color is very dark, it is easy to miss out on details such as small decorations.

When priming in gray, it's easy to paint dark and light colors. Normally, black paint has very easy to paint, so if you need a heavy color, you only need to paint black again on that area. Also, since the details are clearly visible, it is good to paint thoroughly without missing any areas. That's why I prime it to gray in most cases.



Priming with a **SPRAY**, not a brush

Primer is a product designed to adhere well to the surface of smooth plastic or resin. It means a product with very high adhesion. Therefore, when priming with a brush, there is a high risk that paints that are not properly diluted and stick together, fill the small gaps, or form bubbles. Priming with a spray allows you to spray the primer evenly over the model. In addition, since the primer flies as small particles, there is little possibility of foaming or entanglement on the model surface. I know that in apartments it is difficult to use because of the strong smell. Nevertheless, I recommend finding a way to use the spray for good quality.



PRIMING doesn't have to be too meticulous

The most common problem when using a spray primer occurs when you are 'too meticulous'. If you spray it until you can't see the plastic color at all, sometime small details like decoration disappear. This is because it is difficult to control the pressure and range of the spray.

In miniature painting, priming is the process of creating thin, irregular scaffolds on the surface to make it easier for the paint to rise. Therefore, as long as the paint goes well, the basic role is fulfilled. Fortunately, acrylic paint has a very good adhesion, so it hardly slips if it has a small footing. So, unless you plan to paint with an airbrush, it's okay if you see a sparse underneath color like the photo above.



WET PALLET is cheap and useful

The wet palette is a useful tool that I would recommend to everyone. Using a wet palette makes it much easier to control the density of the paint, makes color toning easier, and helps save paint. Plus, it's very easy to make it yourself. Because you can make with paper towel and baking paper that everyone at home has.

If you don't like homemade palettes, buy products from various companies. The most famous Redgrassgames product is also around 25 dollar and and AK Interactive are available in the around 15 dollar. Once purchased, it costs only paper money afterwards, so maintenance costs are also low.



HAIR DRYER saves time

Waiting for the paint to dry is quite annoying. It's often make you rush a brush before it's dry and spoil the previously painted layer. Sometimes fingerprints remain after holding a model that is not dry without thinking. Using a hair dryer can solve this problem.

Even cheap dryers under 10 dollar are fine. After applying the paint, apply hot air for only 5-10 seconds at medium strength. Acrylic is a paint that dries quickly, so it dries quickly when exposed to heat and air. Be sure to use it at medium strength. If you blow it too hard, the shade or contrast paint will be pushed and can leave coffee marks. If you shoot it too hard, the plastic or resin surface may bend.



Using side of brush for **EDGE HIGHLIGHT**

Use the side of the brush when highlighting on protrusions, such as the edge of a sword or armor, or the tip of an ornament. Edge highlighting can be done very easily by applying the side part of the brush to the protrusion at an angle.

Do not apply too much force to brush when you paint like this. This is because the brush will bend and the brush hair may touch other areas. As lightly as possible, place the side of the brush against the corner, and paint it smoothly.



BASIC is yogurt. **GLAZING** is milk

The dilution is one of the most important parts of painting. Dilute it to the consistency of yogurt for base coating or basic painting, and to milk for glazing. The only cases in which the paint is used without diluting is freehand or final highlighting. In all other cases, always dilute.

Please note that the dilution ratio is slightly different for each paint. Vallejo and GW are of course different, and even with the same Vallejo, Model Color and Game Color have different properties. Sometimes they are different even within the same Model Color. Therefore, the exact dilution ratio must be learned by experiment. Please think of the above as a basic principle.



Use a **GOOD BRUSH**

If you realized the importance of diluting the paint or felt that the brush was quickly broken so it was difficult to draw small dots or lines, now is the time to buy a good, expensive brush. The natural hair brushes like Kolinsky have advantages when painting details, and because they have good elasticity, they can recover sharp brush hair even if used for a long time, which is a great help in improving skills.

My favorite brush is Artis Opus, which is designed for painting miniatures. If you are having trouble finding this brush, I recommend Raphael's Series 8404, Winsor & Newton's Series 7 (not Miniature, just Series 7), or Redgrasgames' brushes.



Use **MATTE** paints and finishes

All paints have slightly different degrees of light reflection after drying. For example, GW's Abaddon Black is more shiny than the Vallejo Model Color's Black. This glossy-textured paint reflects the light and sparkles, make you easy to miss details because hard to see which part need to paint. Plus, because of the greasy feel, the viewers often feel that it's not finished. This is the reason why most of the professional painter do not want light reflection for final photo(except for the metallic paint part). AK, Kimera, and Scale75 produce paints that focus on matte properties. If you cannot find these paints, apply a matte finish after work. After realizing this concept, I got a huge improvement in painting skill.



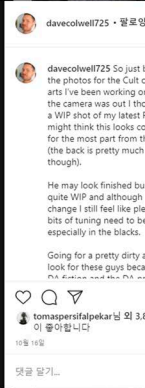
WIPE the excess paint

The diluted paint is very moist. Therefore, when you apply paint with a brush, a larger amount of paint is sucked into the brush than you think. If you paint the model right away in this state, there is a high possibility stains will remain due to the excess paint. In my experience, this is the main reason glazing fails.

After applying the brush on the diluted paint, apply the brush lightly to the paper towel to wipe the excess paint. After wiping off the excess paint, you can get much better results. This tip greatly improved my skills. This is because from realizing this method, glazing and NMM, which were difficult before that, became much easier.



INSTAGRAM is for inspiration,
not for comparison and frustrated



When I paint hard, sometimes there are moments like this. After completing the model to satisfaction, accidentally walk around on Instagram and see the work of great masters. Suddenly, I feel deprived, motivation disappears, and feel as if I've just stepped back. It was the biggest reason I didn't see much progress in the 8 years I started painting. However, famous painters is not meant to frustrate me, but to inspire me. Rather, it's a free guidebook that teaches you how to combine colors and brush techniques that you never thought of. Do not be frustrated by seeing the works of famous painters. Admire it, study it, and get inspiration and ideas.



The tips covered in this guide do not apply to everyone. Each has their own tastes and styles, and they have their own direction. Also, since I am in a position to continue learning, there may be facts that I am mistaken. Please think of this guide as a summary of my thoughts on the questions often asked by painters.

If you have any additional questions or questions about the contents of the guide, feel free to leave a comment. I will definitely answer you.

Thanks for reading the long guide!