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Painting a World War 2 British Paratrooper

This guide should help you paint up those tricky Denison Smocks.

There are two differing patterns used on the Denison. The first pattern was hand painted camouflage and has a very wishy-washy appearance. The second pattern was silk screen printed pattern based on an artists drawing of the camouflage and is a little bit bolder.

This painting guide is to be used to paint the 2nd type pattern.

The pattern itself is made up of a sand coloured base with flowing brush like patterns in red brown and pea green that overlap occasionally but, more often flow next to each other in long swathes. Pockets and other attached fabric often break these swathes.



The figure used is an AB 20mm figure

A) Preparing the figure

The trick to getting good results is often patience and good preparation. I always wash my bare figures in warm soapy water, file away any mould lines and superglue them to a steel washer.

The washer isn't essential, but it does create a sturdy base for the figure and it has the added advantage of been able to use on magnetic card.

Next, I use an old plastic bottle top and bluetac the figure to the top. This provides an excellent stable platform to grip while painting the figure.

Once this is done, I mix a little *Vallejo Black 950* paint with *Windsor and Newton Acrylic Flow Improver* (you can use water, but the finish isn't as good) and give the bare figure a wash with the mix.

The wash when dry will still show all the detail of the figure and also of created a decent primed surface for painting on. Using black as the base coat also means not as much black lining later.



A



B

B) The Base Colours

Using a size '2' brush, I liberally applied an undiluted coat of *Cam Med Brown* and painted the smock, webbing and flesh areas taking care to leave the black undercoat showing where cloth overlapped, or equipment ended. I also painted the trousers *Black Brown* and the helmet *Olive Drab*.

C) Battledress and Flesh Hi-lights

Switch to a size '0' brush and paint the trousers *English Uniform*, leaving the base colour untouched in the creases. Next mix your preferred high light tone (I used buff) and high light raised areas of the trousers.



Now, as the trousers look so very bright, I always like to paint the flesh tones next. Use your preferred mix of flesh colours.

D, Adding the base smock colours

The Denison smock tends to have a yellow base colour. If you intend to highlight this colour later, used a mustard shade and paint over the brown, again leaving creases and recessed details in the base brown colour. If you don't intend to high light later, paint this tone as sand yellow.

E) The Camouflage

Still using the size '0' brush, take a mid to dark green and paint thick broad lines all over the smock. Be sure to leave plenty of room on the smock for the next colour. If you can try to end some of these lines in zig zag patterns (to represent the brush stroke effect on the 2nd pattern Denison). Don't worry if you can't. I also painted our troopers neck chief green.



D



E

F) Continuing the pattern

For the brown pattern, I used *Mahogany* and repeat the steps in E. I then used a bit of the sand colour and mixed it with my green and high lighted the Dark green pattern.



F



G

G) Woodwork and Webbing

Now that the figure is taking shape, I like to paint up the woodwork *Beigebrown* and the webbing *Russian Uniform*. Some people prefer to leave the webbing this colour as it is more realistic. The helmet netting is now drybrushed with the webbing colour.

H) Black and tan

Now that the figure is almost finished, I repaint the metal work and boots *Black*. The webbing is highlighted using *Tan Yellow* and any other highlights for the smock are added using *Sand Yellow* and *Mahogany* plus *Sand Yellow*. The Netting straps are dry brushed *Olive Green*.



H

I) Final touch

To finish off, I paint any metal work gun metal



Happy painting

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