



Guide to Miniature Painting

What is miniature painting?

Lots of tabletop games encourage the use of miniatures. However, minis are often unpainted. How do you take a piece of grey plastic and make it into something fun? By painting it!

Step 1: Primer/Undercoat

Most minis will need to be primed before you start painting. It helps the paint stick to the plastic. Primer comes in a spray can and is generally white or black. It is also called an undercoat.

Spray the mini carefully, using a series of light coats until the mini is completely covered. If you put on the primer too thickly, you could cover up some of the model's details. You should spray your miniatures outside when it is not raining or very cold, as weather can affect your undercoat.



Step 2: Base Coat

A base coat is the first layer of paint that will go on the model. Use a paint brush to transfer a little bit of paint from the pot to a palette. Thin it with a little bit of water - you just want the paint to be a bit thinner so your coats aren't too heavy. Then apply to the model. You may need to put on a couple of layers of base coat before the colour looks even.



Step 3: Washes

Washes are a special type of paint. It is very watery and will settle in the recesses of the model. It makes the illusion of shadows and adds more definition to the model. Washes come in a variety of different colours, so use a colour that goes well with your base coat. When adding a wash, take the paint directly from the pot. Apply a thin layer to the model.

Step 4: Highlight

A highlight paint is a thin paint you can apply to all of the raised areas of a model. It provides more definition and can make details stand out. Transfer some paint from the pot to your palette and thin it with a little bit of water. Use a fine brush to apply it to the raised areas of your model.





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Tools for getting started

- Side cutter for plastic.
- Plastic model glue.
- Craft knife.
- Small paint brush. It's a good idea to have a brush for the base coat and a smaller brush for layers. Games Workshop sell some good brushes, but you can also pick some up at any art shop.
- Palette or palette paper.
- Undercoat/model primer.
- Acrylic model paint such as Citadel, Instar, Vallejo or Army Painter paints.
- Water pot.

Assembling Models

Some models are sold un-assembled on plastic sprues. To assemble the model, you will need to cut it out carefully with side cutters. You may have to trim some of the edges with a craft knife.

Glue it together with plastic model glue. Just be careful and don't use too much. The glue will slightly melt the model.

Finding Female Minis

If you are looking for a female figure, there are some companies that provide more options than others.

- Bad Squiddo Games.
- Frostgrave Minis from North Star Military Figures.
- Dungeons and Dragons Minis.
- Anvil Industry.

Additional Resources

- Dana Howl's Hobby Basics video series on Youtube.
- The Citadel Paint App. Very useful if you are using Citadel paints. It will tell you what specific paints to use to get specific colours or fleshtones.
- Warhammer TV on Youtube.. They have a number of painting videos.
- Social Media. There are lots of really friendly painters online. They share painting tips and videos, and can be a great place to learn a new skill.
- Your local hobby shop: most hobby shops will run painting sessions or workshops.