

## Hints and Tips -

# Colour Guide - German Infantry

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### German Infantry Germans in Greatcoats Late War Germans



Crusader figures painted by Mick Farnworth

Artizan and Crusader figures are fully compatible and can be mixed in the same unit. Crusader figures represent early war uniforms and Artizan represent later uniforms and weapons. Figures may be selected from both ranges can be used for the major campaigns. The main thing is to take care of the weapons. The MG42 was introduced in 1942 and the StGw 44 was introduced in 1944.

Item	Colour	Vallejo Model Colour
Helmet	Dark Grey	German Dk Grey 70.995,
Uniform	Field Grey	German Field Grey WW2 70.830
Uniform (variant early war)	Reed Green	German Uniform 70.920
Greatcoat	Field Grey	German Field Grey WW2 70.830
Webbing	Black	Black 70.950
Bread Bag, Shovel Cover	Khaki Green	Russian Uniform 70.924
Gasmask Tin, Canteen	Dark Green	German Dark Green 70.896
Canteen (late war)	Khaki Yellow	Desert Yellow 70.977
Water bottle Cover	Brown	German Camo Red Brown 70.826, Flat Brown 70.984
Water bottle Lid & strap	Black	Black 70.950
Anklets / Gaiters	Dark Green	German Dark Green 70.896
Boots	Black	Black 70.950



## Introduction

This guide will help you to quickly paint units of soldiers to look good on a war games table. Uniform notes, paint references and painting tips are included.

## Historical Notes

### Uniform

Uniforms were produced in field grey (Feldgrau) but the colour changed during the war years. At the start, it was a dark grey with a blue green tone. Towards the end of the war, cloth supplies were limited so many variations ranging from mid grey to brownish grey were used. Late war variations can be made by mixing grey or brown to the standard shade.

Vehicles in the early war period were grey. From 1943 onwards, new vehicles were painted in yellow ochre. Camouflage was added using red brown and dark green.

Metal items such as heavy weapons, ammunition boxes and mess tins were grey in the early period and ochre in the late period. However, even towards the end of the war, grey items were still common. Bread bags and anklets were produced in field grey but being cotton faded rapidly. Water bottles had a black painted aluminium cup which served as the lid and a brown wool cover.

### Squad Organisation and Equipment

### Insignia

German army soldiers wore Heer symbols on the collar. In the early war period, this went on a dark green patch but later, it was onto grey fabric. These can be simulated by painting a small white = symbol on the collar.

On the left breast the eagle symbol was worn. This can be painted in white or light grey. The same was often on the front of cloth caps.

Shoulder boards were black with coloured piping on the edge

- Artillerie (artillery) - Red
- Aufklärungs (reconnaissance) - Yellow
- Feldgendarmerie (field police) - Orange
- Infanterie (infantry) - White
- Jäger/Gebirgsjäger (light infantry/mountaineer) - Light Green
- Panzergranadier (armored/motorized infantry) - Dark Green
- Pionier (engineer) - Black
- Sanitäter/Artz (medic/doctor) - Cornflower Blue
- Panzerjäger (tank destroyer) -Pink
- Panzer (black wool center w/pink piping; same as SS).

## Painting Tips

German soldiers often look best if the bread bag and gas mask tin colours are clearly different from the uniform.

### Bases

It is worth deciding on the rules that you are going to use before you start to base and paint the figures. For WW2 skirmish games, most rules suggest individual bases. Some rules suggest 25mm diameter bases and some suggest 20mm diameter bases. Mass battle games often specify multiple bases to represent regiments.

Plastic bases (e.g. Slottabases), wooden bases, washers or coins are all suitable. 20mm steel washers can be used with magnetic bases so that the figures can be adapted to many different sets of rules.

With heavy weapons, it is nice to make the base into a small diorama. Dependant on the size and shape of the weapon, you can use circular bases, rectangles or irregularly shaped bases. Large plastic and wooden base are available from many wargame suppliers. For circles, you can use such as mini CDs and CDs. With CDs, the flat side is the one with writing. Build some ground onto the base using epoxy putty, and then cover with sand and grass.



To make casualty removal during game play easy, this base has a removable figure. The loader is mounted on a 20mm steel washer. The base has a 19mm self adhesive magnet from Litko. When the large base was made, the washer was held in place on the magnet whilst the putty was built up to the edge. Then the washer was “wiggled” and removed before the putty set, leaving a circular hole. Similarly, the gunner was “wiggled” and removed for painting.

## 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.
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 green mixed with black. Next, I did this again with the khaki green. This gives a very quick shading effect. For the last coat, vary the shade by adding light brown or yellow beige so that some are more brownish and others greenish.





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 lighter flesh tone (e.g. GW Elf Flesh).
9. Paint the base in brown
10. Paint the boots, rifle stock, boots, ammo pouches and belt in brown. I found it easiest to also paint the backpack, gasmask bag and small pack brown and then pick out the canvas.
11. Paint the backpack, canteen and gasmask bag in khaki green. The gasmask bag is square with two small side pockets. Leave the straps brown. Here, you can vary the shade (lighter) so that it stands out from the uniform. Russian Uniform 70.924 would give a highlight shade.
12. Paint the small pack (same size as the gasmask bag but with two front pockets) a paler colour than the other items, so I suggest a beige khaki tone. Note - the diagonal strap on the infantry in the picture below should be beige rather than brown.
13. Paint the metal parts of the weapons and the canteen with a mix of black and steel.



14. 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.



15. Using a fine brush and dilute paint, paint the eyes as a horizontal white dash.
16. 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.
17. 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.
18. 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.
19. 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.
20. Touch up any mistakes and add highlights as desired. The collars were painted with white = signs to simulate Wehrmacht insignia.
21. Add static grass if you want to.



Crusader figures painted by Mick Farnworth

## Painting Camouflage

See Artizan website for detailed notes in **Farnworth German ww2 patterns**

Contrast is important so that the pattern will be visible from a distance.

Start with a dark background shade and over brush with lighter tones until you have a base with a pale ground and deep shadows.

Next, paint in the colours as stripes or blobs. To increase the contrast, highlight the coloured shapes with a brighter shade.

For sharp edged patterns, repaint the edges with the lightest background shade.

For diffused or faded patterns, lightly dry brush or stipple the coloured shapes with the background shade.

A dark wash of Army Painter Strong Tone or GW Devlan Mud will bring out the details.

### Splittermuster 41



Item	Colour	Vallejo Model Colour
Splinter Camo - Base	Grey	Light Grey 70.990 or Deck Tan 70.986
Splinter Camo - Camo	Dark Green	Luftwaffe Camo Green 70.823
Splinter Camo - Camo	Dark Brown	German Camo Black Brown 70.882



**Painting Tip** > Paint the garment in mid grey then over brush with a lighter tone so that you have a pale ground with darker shadows. Add green and brown blobs. Note to increase the contrast, mix the dark green with a brighter shade e.g. German Camo Bright Green 70.833. If you are careful, you will get angular shapes with sharp edges. If not, paint over the edges of the green and maroon sections with pale grey to make the angles sharper. Wash with a dark brown shade to bring out the details. On small scale figures ignore the rain overprint.

**Sumpfmuster 43**



Item	Colour	Vallejo Model Colour
Swamp 43 - base	Beige	German Camo Beige 70.821 with Iraqi Sand 70.819
Swamp 43 - camo	Dark Green	German Dark Green 70.896
Swamp 43 - camo	Maroon	Flat Brown 70.984



**Painting Tip** > Paint the garment in beige, then over brush with sand to get a bright ground colour with darker shadows. Add green stripes and maroon blobs. If you are careful, you will get angular shapes with sharp edges. If not, paint over the edges of the green and maroon sections with coffee to make the angles sharper. Wash with a dark brown shade to bring out the details. On small scale figures ignore the rain overprint.

**Sumpfmuster 44**



Item	Colour	Vallejo Model Colour
Swamp 44 - base	Tan	US Tan Earth 70.874 with Iraqi Sand 70.819
Swamp 44 - camo	Dark Green	German Dark Green 70.896
Swamp 44 - camo	Maroon	Flat Brown 70.984



**Painting Tip** > Paint the garment in tan, then over brush with sand to get a bright ground colour with darker shadows. Paint the garment in tan, and then use dilute flesh ink and PVA wash to create shadows. Add green stripes and maroon blobs. Wash with a dark brown shade to bring out the details. On small scale figures ignore the rain overprint.





## Further Reading

### 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 are also very good but there are several which touch the subject, so it is difficult to recommend one item.

#### Germany

Jean De Lagarde: **German Soldiers of World War Two** (Histoire & Collections)

A very useful book with colour photographs showing original uniforms and equipment.

Andrew Steven & Peter Amodio; Europa Militaria No6: **Waffen SS Uniforms in Colour Photographs**. (The Crowood Press)

A very useful book with 150 colour photographs showing original uniforms and equipment.

Calvin Tan; **Osprey Modelling 23: Modelling Waffen SS Figures**. (Osprey Publishing)

This is a master class for detailing and painting 54mm scale figures.

Daniel Peterson; Europa Militaria No 17: **Wehrmacht Camouflage Uniforms and Post-War Derivatives** (The Crowood Press)

Daniel Peterson; Europa Militaria No 18: **Waffen SS Camouflage Uniforms and Post-War Derivatives** (The Crowood Press)

These books are aimed at military uniform collectors and contain details of real and fake garments.

## Websites

TMP The Miniatures Page

<http://theminaturespage.com>

TMP is a news forum and discussion site for miniature wargaming of all types. It has a large and active membership and good trade support. It is probably the first site with industry news and new product releases. The forums (Message Boards) are superb and most questions will get useful answers within an hour or two. The Message Boards can also be searched so that you can look up previous threads on a subject.