

Hints and Tips -

Colour Guide - German Infantry

By Michael Farnworth

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German Infantry Germans in Greatcoats Late War Germans



Artizan figures by Andrew Taylor of Ares Painting



Artizan figures painted by Mick Farnworth

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

Notes

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.

Painting Tip

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

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. Infantry wore white piping, Panzergrenadiers wore green piping and artillery had red.

Camouflage

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



Item	Colour	Vallejo Model Colour
Splinter Camo - Base	Grey	Light Grey 70.990
Splinter Camo - Camo	Dark Green	German Dark Green 70.896
Splinter Camo - Camo	Dark Brown	German Camo Black Brown 70.882
Swamp 43 - base	Beige	German Camo Beige 70.821
Swamp 43 - camo	Dark Green	German Dark Green 70.896
Swamp 43 - camo	Maroon	Flat Brown 70.984
Swamp 44 - base	Tan	US Tan Earth 70.874
Swamp 44 - camo	Dark Green	German Dark Green 70.896
Swamp 44 - camo	Maroon	Flat Brown 70.984

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.

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 book 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.