



Tutorial: **Painting your Memoir '44 Tanks**

Introduction

The objective of this tutorial is to allow you to quickly and effectively paint the tanks that come with the Memoir '44 base game. With just a little effort you will transform the look of your game. Let's get to it. Print these instructions off and keep them handy to help you go through all of the steps below. Read the

instructions fully first and assemble the 'what you'll need' in your painting area.

Step 1: Preparing to paint

Step 1 is broken down into two parts. For the first part you will need to wash your tanks to remove any of the residue left from the molding process and the oil and dirt that may have accumulated from playing with the pieces.

To wash, simply place all of your tanks in a sink with some soapy water and give them a good scrubbing with a soft scrub brush. Let dry.



For the next part you will mount your tanks for ease of painting.

What you'll need

Glue Gun

Foam block (big enough to take on as many tanks as you want to paint at a time)

Nails with a head that will fit on the underside of the tank

Heat your glue gun up. Once heated apply some glue to the top of a nail head. Before the glue sets place a tank on the top of the nail. Place the nail with the tank in the top of the foam block.

Another preparation is to re-bend any bent barrels. Simply get a hair dryer and heat the figure for a bit until the barrel is pliable (not too hot!). Then with a nail just push the barrel back into a straight shape.

You can paint half of each set of tanks at a time so that you will still have half of the set to play with while you paint the other half. Of course, you may find that using this tutorial you will be able to quickly paint a whole set so you may want to do them all at once.

I've found it is much easier to paint the tanks this way. The roundness of the nail allows you to get a good grasp of the figure and allows for good rotation. Once all of the tanks you want to paint are mounted you are ready to go to the next step.

Step 2: Painting the base color

This is the first real step to making the transformation and for some, may be enough to stop here once this step is done. The Panzer grey and the olive drab base color will instantly improve the look of your set.



What you'll need

Paint brush (small but not too small, I use a #3 size that you can get from your local hardware store or craft shop)

Paint

- For the Axis tanks I recommend a Testor Model Master Acryl acrylic paint called German Uniform Grey – code: FG02014
- For the Allies, Testor Olive Drab – code: 1728
- You could also get some basic craft acrylic paints from your local hardware store that will be close enough. Just make sure you don't have to mix the color otherwise you won't have consistency from one tank to the next.

Water with cup for washing out the brush

Tissue to dry the brush after cleaning

The key to painting the base color quickly and effectively is to stay consistent in your painting method. For example start on the left side, do the front, right side, back, top and then underside. Once you get into this groove you will not only quickly paint them but will ensure that you don't miss painting a back or a bottom etc...

Make sure you get the paint into every little crevice and then quickly examine each piece to make sure you covered it all.

Let dry completely before going on to the next step.

Step 3: Painting Details

After you do this step you could stop and skip to the last step of the tutorial and have excellent looking tanks. I have found the method I am about to describe to be the easiest way to get great looking tanks in a hurry. The purpose of this step is to add the detail parts of the tank like the wheels and tracks etc... They will really start to look like tanks when this step is done.

What you'll need

Paint (flat black and the base coat color)
Detail Paintbrush (I use a #10/0)
Paint tray
Water
Tissue



The best place to start here is with the tanks tracks and wheels. Using your fine brush paint the side outline carefully not to get any of the black on the rest of the vehicle. Don't worry if you are a little sloppy here, you can always cover up any mistakes with your base color later.

Get the insides of the tracks and the lower road wheels. The easiest way to do it is to completely paint the road wheels black, then later we'll put the base color back on the inside of the wheels. Make sure you also get the spare road wheels on the left side of the PzKw IV and you'll want to do the heads of the shovel and axe. You can also get the



pliers on the PzKw IV and maybe if feeling adventurous, the tow cable on the Sherman. Of course, don't miss out on putting a dot at the end of the barrel.

Once you have added all of the black detail, you can go back with your base coat color and clean up any mistakes. At this time too you'll want to paint the inside of the road wheels.

Let dry completely before going on to the next step.

Step 4: Blackwashing the tanks

This next step is perhaps one of the trickiest to do but will be very rewarding. It isn't hard to apply but getting the 'blackwash' the right consistency is the trick. The purpose of doing the blackwash is to add shadow to your figure. The thin wash will run into all the little crevices and really add depth to the figure. I do consider this step optional but it is very rewarding for the end result so I suggest you give it a try.

What you'll need

Paint brush (try to get a stiff bristle brush about the same size or larger than your base coat brush)
Paint (any flat black will do)
Simple paint tray
Water (not only for cleaning your brush, but will be an active part of this step so make sure you start with clean water)
Tissue for cleaning off

The trick with 'blackwashing' is to get the consistency right. Get a drop of black into your paint tray. Using your brush, add water to it to thin it out. A ratio of 1 drop of black to about 8 drops of water should work but that is a rough guide. The real way to tell is once you think you have enough water mixed is to drag your brush across your tray; if it comes out as a thin watery black then you should be good to go. Be careful not to make it too thin, if it is too thin it won't show up at all when it dries. How it looks when it goes on and how it looks when it dries will be very different in any case.



Once you think you have it right, fully charge your brush with the mixture and drag across the model. Make sure you get the wash into every crevice. Also ensure you completely cover the tank, even the flat surfaces. Any part missed by the wash will look quite odd and will be very noticeable.

Don't be alarmed at how different the figure looks, it should be darker (if it is black, you have too much paint to water...wipe it off with your tissue and try again. If it is really black you can always go back to step one and base coat it again).

Once you have blackwashed your tanks, let them dry. It will take awhile as it is more watery than normal paint. When you come back to check on them you will see that they look nothing like how they did when you started. Be sure they are completely dry before going on to the next step.

Step 5: Drybrushing

This step can be a little tricky but not in the same way as the last step. While the paint will be consistent it is the technique here that carries the step. The purpose of drybrushing is to help contrast the blackwash or if you have opted out of that step, will provide you with some 'weathering' of your base coat. Either way, it too will be very rewarding in the final out come and I do suggest you try it.

What you'll need

Paint brush (you can use the same one as for the base coat)

Paint tray

Paint

- For the Axis tanks the original base coat color and a lighter grey acrylic from your local hardware or craft store
- For the Allies the original base coat color and a lighter green acrylic

Water

Tissue

Paper Towel

Mix together some of your base coat color with the lighter color listed above. Not too much lighter color or your tanks will look frosted. Once mixed to a color you are happy with get some on your brush. Wipe your brush off on the paper towel until there is very little left on the brush.

Starting on a hidden spot on your tank (ie. The bottom) lightly brush to see how it comes out. If the paint goes on like it did with your base coat, then there is still too much paint on your brush, wipe it again on the paper towel. What you are trying to do is very lightly at first catch the surfaces and angles of the figure so that a light bit of your color takes. As you use the brush you can apply more pressure. At some point you will have no more coming off the brush and will have to get more paint. Repeat the process of getting rid of the excess paint and keep going.



Drybrushing will eventually clog up your brush and clumps or dry paint flakes will come off of it. If that happens simply clean and dry your brush then continue.

This step will be immediately rewarding. The catch here is if you go too heavy with the paint and feel you need to correct it...you might have to go back to the base coat step and start again. After doing one or two tanks though, you'll quickly get the hang of it.

Step 6: Detail Touch-up

This step isn't as hard as blackwashing or drybrushing but does require attention to detail. Being the final painting step, this one really ties the figure together. It isn't hard to do but does require some patience. You'll find this is the step that takes the longest but well worth it!

What you'll need

Paint (flat black and if you want to get advanced, some gun metal color)

Detail Paintbrush (I use a #10/0)

Paint tray

Water

Tissue

After drybrushing, you have no doubt covered over some of your detail work from Step 3. Not to worry, simply take your detail brush and cover over any spots of black that the drybrushing has covered. For the most part, it will be very surface and will be easy to fix.

For the more advanced, once your cover ups have been done you can get a little bit of the gun metal color and cover over any metal parts (ie. The shovel and axe heads, pliers etc...).

Allow to dry before going on to the next step.

Step 7: Finishing for play

Now that you have painted your tanks you will certainly want to get them into action but before you do that you will want to protect your lovely new tanks so that you can get hundreds of hours of play out of them. There would be nothing worse than going through all of these steps just to have the paint come off after a few dozen plays. With the finish I have had literally hundreds of hours of play and am still able to store them in the original box (that's right, I just throw them in) and not one of them has shown any signs of wear.



What you'll need

- Paint Brush (base coat size will be fine)
- Matte Ceramcoat Finish
- Paint Tray
- And/OR
- Krylon Matte spray Finish

Here is how I get my armor armored. Gently brush on the Ceramcoat Finish using your brush. Be careful not to go too fast or use too little of the finish. This stuff will get little bubbles if you do. Make sure you cover as much of the figure as you can. Apply two coats allowing to dry completely between coats. While this step can be slow it really gives the figures a solid coat of protection.

For the final touch, I actually spray on the Krylon matte as well. You could skip the above step and just do this one, but the protection won't be as good. I recommend doing both.

Allow to dry completely before playing with.

Conclusion

That's it! If you follow these steps you will have a great looking set of Memoir '44 tanks to play with and a new skill learned. I hope you have enjoyed painting your tanks as much as I do.

If you have any questions, feel free to email me at mac@brummbar44.com

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