

Painting Figures In Oils – Very Fortunate Son



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LIST OF MATERIALS

1. Dorlands Wax, a flattening wax used to remove the shine from the oils.
2. Grumbacher Medium 1, a liquid flattening agent used to remove the shine from oil paints. It is also used a thinning and mixing medium for the oil paints and for Dorlands Wax.
3. Turpenoid brush cleaner and thinner, colorless and odorless. Do not use turpentine.
4. Brushes, for this diorama Pro Stroke Red Sables were used. Sometimes Andrea Red Sables and Weber Red Sables are used, but the Pro Strokes are very good. They hold their point very well. properly cleaned, they will last a long time.
5. Pallet Paper, Tara Pallet Paper is used. Use the dull side as it absorbs oil from the paint.
6. Oil Paints, Lukas 1862 were used. Flesh from Gamblin and Sepia from Rembrandt. The Lukas 1862 colors used are Burnt Unber, Mars Black, Burnt Sienna, Titanium White, Naples Yellow, Alzarin Crimson. The main uniform color was Bohemian Green Earth.

Lukas 1862 oils are not student oil colors. They are professional. Made in Germany, they have produced a high value color hue with all colors being very intense and true. The have a creamy and buttery consistency that mixes well, not dry and not wet. If you look at the picture of the pallet on the first page, you can see how one color, Bohemian Green Earth can be used to give so many uniform and equipment variations all by adding only Titanium White, Naples Yellow or Burnt Sienna.

This one piece of four by six Tara Palette Paper was used to mix all the different shades of green, brown, black and flesh to paint all four of the figures. You can also see how the pallet paper has absorbed a lot of the oil from the paint. A mixture of Dorlands Wax and Grumbacher #1 is made on this paper. This mixture, mostly wax is painted over the acrylics just as a clear coat. This will ensure a dead flat finish while mixing only #1 with paint.



The uniforms painted in oils show the subtle color changes that are usually found. Most shadows and highlights are present.

When this mixture is applied, it should appear flat. More Dorlands can be mixed with the paint, but the paint will spread better if only Grumbacher #1 is used to thin it.

Only the lower part of the figure has been painted in oils on the one in the top right corner. You can see the difference between the oils and the plain acrylic. The creases and belt outlines can be enhanced by diluting Burnt Sienna and applying a fine line while the green is still wet. If the straps are lightened with a mixture of added white to the green, this will all stand out very well. Straps, canteens, ammo pouches, shovel covers, etc. are all different shades of green from the uniform. The added white makes the green look washed out. Naples yellow will make it look like a richer green. Adding some Burnt Sienna or Raw Umber to the green will give it a darker and dirtier look. Umbers are earth tones but have green in them. Raw Umber shows it's green properties much better than Burnt Umber, which gives a harsher brown look. A mixture of Burnt Umber and Burnt Sienna can be used to paint any brown leather straps, like shoulder holsters.

Always make the fatigues and shirts a slightly different shade. The colors were never constant. If you're unsure look at actual pictures. Oils unlike acrylics can be blended. Only blend the edges of where the two colors meet. As an example look at a crease. The darker shadow color goes into the crease and gradually as it goes into the raised portion of the crease get feathered into the main color. Then the raised point of the crease gets the highlight color which is a lighter version of the main color. You can see this for yourself by looking at you own pants or shirt. You will see the darker shadow area gradually getting lighter as it gets to the top of the crease. You can see this on these figures and also on the figures used in "Run" and "Ten Minutes". The figures you see here will be enhanced even more just before they are placed, smoothing off some of the rough edges. Once on the diorama, earth tone pastels will be used to make them look as if they are part of the environment.

The best way to see this is to try painting with oils. The following pictures show how the subtle highlights and shadows will actually show up when viewing. Notice all the slightly different shades of green along with the creases and their highlights & shadows.

Notice the different green in the pilots uniform in the picture on the left and the washed out uniform of the figure on the bottom left.



See the use of earth tone pastels on the figure with the shotgun in the above and picture on the right. It can also be seen on the other standing figures.