

Painting Figures Marty Vaughn MMR

There are as many ways to paint figures as there are ways to paint rolling stock or structures. There is no perfect way and no right way, it's just what ever method you are most comfortable with. This is just my way.

Every layout needs people, if there are no people there's no need for the trains! I think you need lots of people and however many you have; I don't think it's enough!



While there are lots of nice painted figures on the market, they are expensive. You can still buy a box of 120 unpainted Preiser figures for about the same price as 2-3 sets of 12-18 painted figures.



The easiest way to do this is to paint them in bulk and then use them as you need them.



- Tools: Don't forget your coupons!
- Paint Brushes:
 - Royal Set TK-J \$14 for 10 multi purpose brushes, this is the best beginners set for type and quantity of brushes
 - Royal Majestic set 104 \$12 for 4 brushes 0/0 to 10/0
 - Royal Golden Taklon set \$10 for 4 brushes 0/0 to 10/0
 - Plaid-Folk Art Extra Small Lettering Brushes set 1262 \$5 for 3 brushes. These are my favorite, but I can't find them any more
- Paint: In order of preference:
 - Delta Ceramcoat
 - Americana; Accent
 - Apple Barrel.
 - Folk Art paint is only for the metallic colors.
 - Marvy Le Plume Ink Pens (look in the scarp booking section of your favorite craft store)
- Primer:
 - d. Wal-Mart Primer Gray \$1.06 a can
 - e. Gesso \$5 for a small bottle.
- Windex: Windex with ammonia is great for cleaning figures and cleaning brushes, even airbrushes when using acrylic paint. You can even use it to strip acrylic paint as long as the acrylic hasn't been sprayed with lacquer.
- Miscellaneous: Toothpicks, straight pins, drill and small wire bits, paper towels and napkins.

Before painting, make any figure modifications you want. Cut them up and switch arms and legs as you desire add hats, etc.



Clean the figures. Windex is good for cutting mold release and will not harm the figures. I also use it to clean my hand brushes and my airbrush when using any type of acrylic paint.

Pin the figures. Drill a small hole in the figure's sprue or if they are loose drill them in the foot or butt. Insert a straight pin with the head cut off and glue in place with craft glue. Some people prefer to stick the figure in double sided tape. I prefer to pin them so I can reach the entire figure and I use the pin to store the figure safely until I find a place for it.



Prime the figures. Most figures just need a spray of Wal-Mart primer gray. Use Gesso for single figures or those made of soft springy plastic (Airfix, MPC, Revell line of soldier figures, etc.).



Paint the figures. Paint them assembly style one color at a time. I usually start with the flesh color and work my way out. Don't worry about being neat until you're painting next to other colors. If you start with the flesh slop it on and go fast! Vary your colors; don't paint the same figure with the same colors. Use your ink pens for belts, suspenders, harness on horses and in S, O or G, use for the iris in the eye.



Add shading to the figure. Using the super secret wash*, flow it onto the figure, don't brush or scrub, allow to air dry. The wash blends it all together and tones it down. The small amount of paint in the mixture will settle into the low points on the figure providing a quick and easy shadow effect. Shake the mixture well each time you use it as the paint is held in suspension in the mixture, not in solution.



Dull Cote the figure. Spray them with a good heavy coat of Dull Cote, this will kill any shine and protect the paint from wear or damage. Now just repeat these steps 2000-3000 times and you'll have enough figures for a average size layout!

Clean

Prime

Paint

Shadow Wash and Dull Cote



Happy Painting!

***Super Secret Wash Formula.**

Once you read the formula below feel free to send you checks for \$50 to Marty Vaughn!

In one pint of 70% rubbing alcohol add one tablespoon of Americana Graphite* or Ceramcoat Charcoal acrylic paint and one tablespoon of India Ink.**. Shake well before each use.

*Graphite and Charcoal are very dark gray, similar to grimy black. Do not use pure black.

**Real India ink is not water soluble and is pure black when dry. If you are not sure put a drop in a tablespoon of alcohol, mix and paint some on white paper. If the ink dries with a blue cast it won't work. If it dries black it will work.