

Portal

an insight into **WAMP**

Portal
THE UK'S ONLY
MONTHLY MAGAZINE
DEDICATED TO
MINI PAINTING

IN THIS ISSUE
ALL ENTRIES
FROM THE
AOW CONTEST
TWO GREAT
STEP-BY-STEP
TUTORIALS
NEWS AND
REVIEWS
PLUS MUCH
MORE!





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Well it's a hectic time at the moment for me. WAMP2011 is rapidly approaching with less than 3 weeks to go. Trophies are here (and rather snazzy looking if I do say so myself), certificates should be ready any day too yet there's so much still left to do. Lots of those niggly little things that are so easy to forget. Simple things like Pens or printing out category signs that need doing though no doubt some things will be forgotten. As a first time event I have 3 hopes for it. Firstly that we get a decent turnout, I keep imagining an empty room with tumbleweed rolling by! It's such an unknown quantity and makes things hard to plan for – I mean how many certificates should I order?

Secondly that it goes reasonably well without too many hitches. Things won't be perfect – it's a first time attempt and I've never done anything like this before but if we can get things done reasonably well it provides a base for future events were I can polish things a bit.

Thirdly I hope everyone that does turn up have a good time! I'm sure things will be fine but you can't help worrying over these things. An even bigger worry for me is whether I can even turn up for my own event! My 3rd child is due in a week but there's every chance he will be late (the other 2 were!) so it may end up I can't attend and so have to plan on how to get the trophies and everything else over to another person to sort!

Whatever happens it should be a great day. The venue is great, Maelstrom sell a great range of products at great prices and the building is brilliant with its own bar and restaurant. We have some fantastic judges in place for the contest and it will just be nice to get together with fellow painters to swap advice, see what people are working on and just to put faces to names we haven't met yet. The night out after the event should be fun too judging by previous events so if you can stay over and come for a few drinks your more than welcome.

Don't forget to bring your kids along too, there's a special under 16's category for them and if you're not in the UK we even have a special on-line category for you folks!

The next time I write I will have a new son and WAMP2011 will be in the history, whatever happens it's going to be an eventful few weeks for me!

Cheers

Brett



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News

Well with WAMP2011 fast approaching I hope everyone is slapping paint onto lead (or the material of choice) at a hectic pace, adding those finishing touches to the creations that we hope will bring us glory and fame. The day itself promises to be a pretty darn good one. Maelstrom Games is a great place to host the show because if you want anything to feed that hungry desire that our hobby brings, chances

are, they have it. Plus you'll get to meet the rest of us in person (Okay, maybe that's not a real selling point but go with me on this☺) and we'll also get to meet some of the hobby giants in the flesh and we promise to not let them go home until they have answered everyone's questions about all our minis. So, all in all I'm really looking forward to it and I hope you all make it.☺



Relics Rules Alpha now available!

The alpha release of the Relics tabletop wargame rules is upon us!!!

What better way to celebrate with the final part of our story? Click Here to read it now!

Once you have finished reading the story, download the rules and start testing!

Whilst you are there, why not sign up to our forum? It is the easiest way to stay up to date with the latest news and info about Tor Gaming and Relics.



MH May Madness Sale!

So with the start of a new month I've decided to spring clean the shop with a sale. Many ranges are half price, and some are even better. All the pre-owned, the new Warhammer & 40K Blisters. Hasslefree, Magpie, Shadowforge and Joek. The sale only applies to what I have in stock, but come and have a look, there are bargains galore!

www.miniature-heroes.co.uk



1000 MEMBER MILESTONE

On the 6th May 2011, WAMP passed quite a major milestone on its way to world domination. It's 1000th member joined. I would like to offer my thanks to Brett Johnson aka Darklord, aka OGL who, through his own blood sweat and tears has made WAMP the best miniature painting and gaming forum on the Web.

Use this [link](#) to add your own comments.



A new company, Cthulhuminati, has released its first set of Cthulu based gaming scenery with several more planned for the future.

Living Icon of the Cthulhuminati, Way Marker of the Elder Gods, Herald of the Abyssal Hordes. 80mm high, 58 mm across each face, pressure cast in resin.

For more information and to see future releases or to purchase Living Icon at an introductory rate visit their website.



MASTERCLUB FIGURES



Richard Kent imports the Masterclub range of 1/35th figures and need to have one of each figure painted for display at shows and on the website.

www.masterclubuk.com
www.masterclub.ru

If you are interested in painting some figures we would provide them on a paint one get one free basis. I would need to see examples of your work and if the big boss in Russia says yes I would send you some figures to paint.

Please either contact me here or directly on my personal email shadomobile@talktalk.net



Our ability to laugh at ourselves is one of the things why people who play tabletop games or paint miniatures are the coolest of the cool (;p). A new, low budget movie is in production called "Zero Charisma" which pokes fun at us all and is well worth a look.

Twenty-nine year old Scott Weidemeier spends his time in exactly three ways: working a menial job at a local donut shop, caring for his ornery and abusive grandmother, and playing table-top fantasy games. Dungeons & Dragons is more than a game to Scott--it's a calling, and as the Dungeon Master, he wields referee power over his players with an iron fist.

That is, until a new player enters the game: Miles Butler, a stylish, funny "neo-nerd" hipster who quickly charms everyone he meets. In his desperation to outshine Miles, Scott alienates himself from his peers, and eventually loses his game to this interloper. On top of that, the health of Scott's grandmother takes a turn for the worse, and his estranged mother Barbara



swoops in to take the house right from under his nose.

As the humiliations pile up, Scott struggles to retain some shred of dignity, even if it means a final duel with his greatest adversary.

Visit the link [here](#), have a look at the teaser then spread the word.



As Wamp is such an international site and not everyone is able to come to WAMP2011 in person I wanted to still get you folks involved anyway.



So there will be a special WAMP2011 category known as the 'International Category' sponsored by Offensive Miniatures

This category will be judged by the WAMP2011 panel on the day of the event with the winner receiving a beautiful Black Onyx Optical crystal award in line with all the other categories.

I will not be advertising this category outside of Wamp as it's for all you that made the effort to get here!!

Don't forget only previous Wamp contest entries are not allowed - you are free to enter anything else even if its been in other contests or even shown on Wamp so pick your best shot and have a go.

The gallery is open for entries:

[WAMP2011 International Category](#)

For More details about this new competition category and to read the rules for entering visit the thread [here](#).

Local Painting Groups

We at WAMP and Portal Magazine want to support your local painting group in any way we can. If you are trying to set up a local group or already have one and want to spread the word, have some news, even show some of your groups works, then please drop us a line and we'll help get the word around.



WHAT IS THE WAMP LADDER?

Quite simply its a fun painting league. You challenge another painter on the ladder to a 'paint off'. Choose a theme and have upto 6 weeks to complete your mini - both your entries are then judged by fellow members - the winner gains points and moves up the ladder. Its free to use and you can challenge people to suit your ability.

The ladder can be found [here](#).

Darklord vs Wag **VOTING OPEN**

Theme: space marine diorama with a barrell and a funny metal thing no one really knows what it is

MamaGeek vs. Wag

Theme Female Elf

MaGie vs ScottRadom **VOTING OPEN**

Theme: AoW Contest

knott47 vs mercius

Theme: Paint Off No Theme

Jens vs Vern

Theme: 54mm Andrea Pirate

Waghorn41 vs Captain Sprout

Theme: Hisroical (WWII) 54mm or above

Captain Sprout vs Malebolgia

Theme: One Bad Mutha

TheBugKing vs ScottRadom

Theme: The Executioner vs the Hooded Rider

TheBugKing vs MaGie

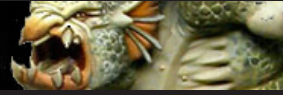
Theme: It's a Sewer Life

| STATS BOX | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Portal Downloads | 20755 |
| Memberships | 1016 |
| New Memebers this month | 62 |
| WAMP posts | 131064 |
| Wiki Pages | 98 |
| Blogs | 32 |

WAMP The last 30 days NEWEST MEMBERS

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Paintgrot | Marney |
| wGlonk | m1chalder3BD78 |
| Moirla | Sol Akwara |
| SolonaDusk | Janek |
| melangepa | Birch10 |
| nickhastings63 | Infinity_Drive |
| Abaddon | bachtere |
| Stellin23 | felcaller |
| aly_r | Pretaboire |
| rasaug | rollthebones |
| lilloser | Inquisition |
| Mpenne | Belnor |
| Minileed | Moradin |
| peppepeo | olliesan |
| A.I. | ! arjxrt |
| timeforacatnap | albreck |
| Bishop odo | Ross Mahoney |
| killshot | Isthael |
| lunutdu1984 | jeffersonk25 |
| DarkSwordJim | g33k |
| TTG Bunker | mikailah |
| filthymitts | mquarmby |
| Hector | wickedcarrot |
| Aleph | james.morgon |
| Trygle12 | kinslord |
| BaT | BernardoGui |
| Westy66 | Synthet |
| hamstersamourai | dragonstriker |
| Snudge | screw_ball69 |
| Bloodsbane | Bayushiseni |
| drachem | Ermintrude |

 FigureWorld 2011
July 23rd



In 2010, FigureWorld hosted a demonstrators area, with several top British painters and sculptors working to show attendees how they produced the beautiful pieces that they thrill us all with.

In 2011 we've gone one step further, and whilst there will still be several highly skilled demonstrators working through the day, there will also be two special seminars hosted by Chris Clayton.

Chris is well known for his superb fantasy models that he sculpts or heavily converts to produce stunning pieces of such high quality he's won several Golden Demons, three Euro Militaire Gold medals and in 2010 won the Euro Militaire Best of Show for his Dragon Slayer.

Chris has agreed to host two seminars at the show, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, allowing people the chance to hear him speak about his modelling and some of the techniques he uses to produce certain pieces.

Each seminar will be approximately an hour long and open to limited numbers (approximately 30 people per seminar)

There is a small charge of £3.00 per person for each seminar, and tickets can only be bought on the day at the entrance desk. All profits from this are being donated to charity.

For those who might be interested in the Chris Clayton Masterclass later in the year, this is an ideal opportunity to see Chris hosting a seminar and allows you to see just some of the things that he will be covering in a lot more depth at the weekend Masterclass.

Late last year Chris began his own kit company, and a display of his painted models, plus a trade stand carrying his products will be at FigureWorld 2011.

As usual, the Basement team are working to make FigureWorld 2011 an even better event than in 2010; the Chris Clayton Seminars are just one more reason that you should be there.



Most of you are aware I think that this year we have been setting in motion some changes to how we operate including full review of pricing structures and reorganisation of the webstore to make it more efficient. Other things in progress are working with other manufacturers to provide pre-packed box sets plus also talks and negotiations with a major distributor for them to produce our ranges under license to service North America, Canada and South America, thus reducing pressure and workload in our Ripley Office.

It seems a long way from our shed in Suffolk and i would love to say that it has all been plain-sailing but for those who have followed us loyally for many years you know that we have had an absolutely horrendous time, even when it seems like nothing else can go wrong we get dealt even more chaos. Our (okay mine!) stubbornness along with our needs to provide for our young family has meant that we have persisted through it all and hopefully the changes that we have already implemented this year plus those detailed below will help us to keep making toys soldiers for many years to come.

We are now ready for the next phase which is the biggest and most scary part.

As part of the transferral of everything to Limited Company status we need to close the webstore for 4 weeks in order to facilitate getting everything done properly and in the order that the government says we need to do it. This will involve full stock take of everything in the Ripley Office plus also a full inventory of equipment, consumables, supplies etc. and implementation of a Sage accounts system which will work

with the existing stock levels. This is not going to be an easy task and certainly not one we can complete with limited staffing levels whilst still sending and processing orders via the webstore, however it is completely necessary and is part of our long-term plan to conquer the world with HF goodness!

This means that from Monday 16th May 2011 we will only be processing retailer orders until we have completed everything that we need to do. We estimate this to take approximately 4 weeks but if we get it done sooner then we plan to spend the rest of the time in the pub congratulating ourselves for being so efficient!

The main shop catalogue page will be replaced by a list of retailers with links who stock not only existing codes but also who will be able to order in the next set of releases.

Tomorrow i will be collecting the latest set of metal figures from our caster and once the stock is checked in then the retailers will be able to stock these new releases for sale from Friday 20th May 2011. Providing there are no major casting issues that were not picked up during mastering the releases will be Aaron, Brooke and Pirate John.

On our re-opening the next set of resin castings will be available to purchase, these include a blue resin Tomoko, Resin Pirate John plus Resin Privateer Godwin.

However it isn't all doom and gloom, for those based in the Midlands there are still two trade shows that we will be attending this month. Firstly there is Triples in Sheffield which is next weekend 21st and 22nd May 2011 and the week following that (Sunday 29th May) we have been offered at the last minute a cancellation slot for Partizan in Newark. All of the new releases will be available for pre-order at those shows including the resin figures of which we have some limited stock in the workshop. To place pre-orders please PM me. Sally

Review: Offensive US Paras "Pathfinders" & US Paras Fire Supp3



REVIEWED BY SHANE ROZZELL

Manufacturer

Offensive Miniatures

Price

£8.00 & £10.00 respectively

Material

Metal

Contact

www.offensiveminatures.com

Other Information

Both sets are part of Offensive's Elite Range.

Quality 8
Assembly 8
Value 9

Overall Score

8.5



When I was asked to review these miniatures I had not heard of Offensive so I checked out their site and was pleased to find they were fairly local based in Stockport Cheshire. Offensive specialise in Wargame pieces and looking at what they produce they have some pretty interesting stuff that could easily be used as collector or display pieces.



To my surprise the miniatures arrived the very next day with a nice note so I can honestly vouch for their speedy service which is always a good start. Two sets of miniatures arrived, 4 US Paratrooper "Pathfinders" and 6 US Paratrooper "Fire Support" number 3. They were packed in a good sturdy jiffy bag and then each set in its own blista pack doubled up with a ziplock bag to stop them bashing around in the blista.



The second set contains 6 Fire Support miniatures, again all the details are nice and sharp and the sculpts are pretty dynamic. This set contains two 30 cal teams, one in static fire role, as well as two snipers. The static fire pair needs some assembly and the fixings are pretty rudimentary so some reference images will come in handy. Mould lines are present on all these miniatures but again nothing extraordinary that can't be easily fixed.

Ratings

Quality: Top notch sculpting and well above average casting.

Assembly: Only a couple need assembly and each are fairly easy to do.

Value for Money: Both sets are very well priced.

Overall: Overall I like these miniatures and know they'd fit in well in any army of the period. They also offer a good challenge to the display painter.



It's time for our latest painting contest and it gives me great pleasure to announce our newest sponsor in the form of Maelstrom Games. Many of you will be aware of Maelstrom's excellent store, both on-line and the one at Mansfield. The focus of this contest will be on Maelstrom's very own range of rather nice miniatures from their Banelegions range.

This contest will be slightly different to our usual fare!

PRIZES

- » 1st: Gold Trophy and £75 credit
- » 2nd: Silver trophy and £40 credit
- » 3rd: Bronze trophy and £20 credit

You may enter a single miniature, diorama full 300 piece battle scene - whatever you like as long as its inherently Banelegions. **Please folks make sure you read the rules (especially the new work one!!)**

Maelstrom Games will be judging the contest and will include consultation with some of their Studio painters: Matt Cexwish, Ben Komets, Raffaele Picca and Sebastien Picque. The Banelegions are a great range with some stunning (and frankly massive!!) monsters as well as more human sized figures if you prefer something smaller.

To view the range [please click here](#)

So there you are folks - should be a great contest and you get a little longer than usual. So get painting!

Oh wait! You want more? Well, OK then how about this, if you are attending WAMP2011 then you will have a 2nd chance to win even more!

Any Banelegions entries at [WAMP2011](#) will be judged by Maelstrom Games and Wamp with the following prizes available:

- » 1st: Gold Maelstrom Trophy and £75 credit
- » 2nd: Silver Maelstrom Trophy
- » 3rd: Bronze Maelstrom Trophy.

These prizes are in addition to the on-line ones so you are eligible to win prizes in the on-line section and at WAMP2011 too - You could walk away with 2 trophies and up to £150 worth of credit!! These are also in addition to the category and best in show trophies at WAMP2011!

Even better Maelstrom's very own tame photographer Stu (ex GW Studio Photographer) will be on hand to take pictures of your entry if you wish. These photos can be used for the on-line section of the comp - a great chance to get some top quality photos of your work.

Now that really is everything. As always any questions feel free to Post them on the forum [here](#).

The Deadline for entries will be

6pm (BST) 6th June 2011

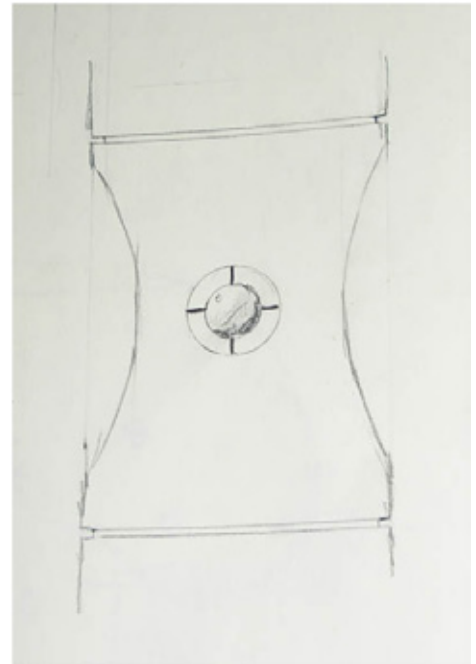
(Supporters deadline will be 6pm 9th June 2011)

THE RULES

- You must be a Wamp Member to participate. Membership is free and you may register [here](#).
- You may enter as many times as you like but each entry may only submit one photograph so if you need more angles it MUST be a montage.
- Images must be no larger than 800 pixels wide by 2500 pixels high. (It is your responsibility to check this).
- any additional photographs of that entry will be removed.
- You give Wamp and Maelstrom Games permission to use your pictures for publicity (but you do retain ownership).
- You may post pictures of WIP or final shots both here and elsewhere.
- Judging will be conducted by Maelstrom Games.
- Submissions must be posted to the [Banelegions album](#)
- Credit is eligible at Maelstrom's Mansfield store or on their website

Step by Step - Dark Makes a Sci-fi Temple Base

By Darkmessiah



Right, so what's going on here then, ah yes! Hello and welcome to my sci-fi base step by step. One of the things I love about our hobby is how painters can take minis and construct stories, develop atmospheres around what is essentially a lump of metal (resin and or plastic) and really grow and develop its character. One way which I enjoy trying to do that is with basing, so I've been taking a lot of pictures of recent base builds with the aim of sharing a few step by steps with you lovely people with the hope that you'll learn and try out some new things!

WHAT'S THE BASE?

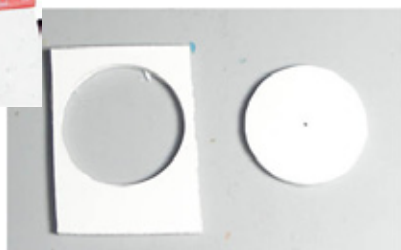
The base in this step by step is for a Knight of Santiago from infinity, I was trying to create the idea he is running through a futuristic temple like building.

THE STEP BY STEP

Above, you can see a quick mock up of the base with the mini, the line on the floor is the step down and the plasticard tube is there to show the column and a of course a little doodle of what I want the column to look like.



I started by measuring the diameter of my base and then cutting out a circle to fit it with



a very useful compass cutter (nice accurate circles every time!). Now the circle is made from a product called Foamex, it's a very, very tough foam board that's easy to cut and gouge sharp lines into. If you're struggling to find Foamex you can use plasticard or stuff like Uriel.

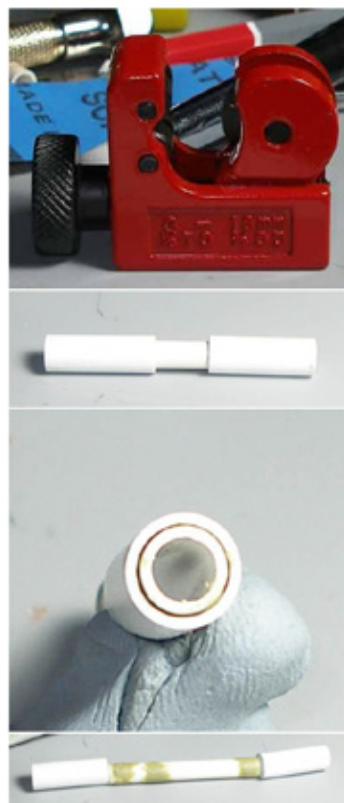
The compass cutter did a pretty good job, but not perfect, the Foamex circle is glued down and filed flat with the side of the plinth. To help create a smooth join between the



the wooden plinth, both the plinth and the Foamex were heavily sanded with fine grit sandpaper, I then smeared milliput over the join and spread it very thin with a well licked thumb (other less toxic friction reduction methods are available). I chose milliput to cover the join because I

know I can spread it to a very thin layer and it's fantastic to sand smooth. In the final picture you can see the front section I've removed for the step.

To speed up the process I used a putty oven, this heats the putty up so it cures quicker, I can get a full cure of milliput in about 25 mins (compared with 2 hours+). As you can see it's a lamp put over and inside a tin can (a Jean Paul Gaultier tin can to be precise), inside there's a spray can top sat on Lego bricks, the spray can top holds what am curing and the Lego controls the height, obviously the closer to the bulb the hotter it is, the quicker it cures, it's a very useful tool. Be careful with plastics, things like slotta bases will warp if left too long.



THE COLUMN

So now the column and a lovely new tool I bought especially, a pipe cutter, lob the tube in, twist it round, and get a nice clean straight cut, makes things so much easier! So I've taken the original tube I had, cut it in two and slipped a smaller tube down the middle, if you're lucky and well stocked you'll have two tubes that fit perfectly together, unfortunately I didn't and had to plug the gap with some milliput.

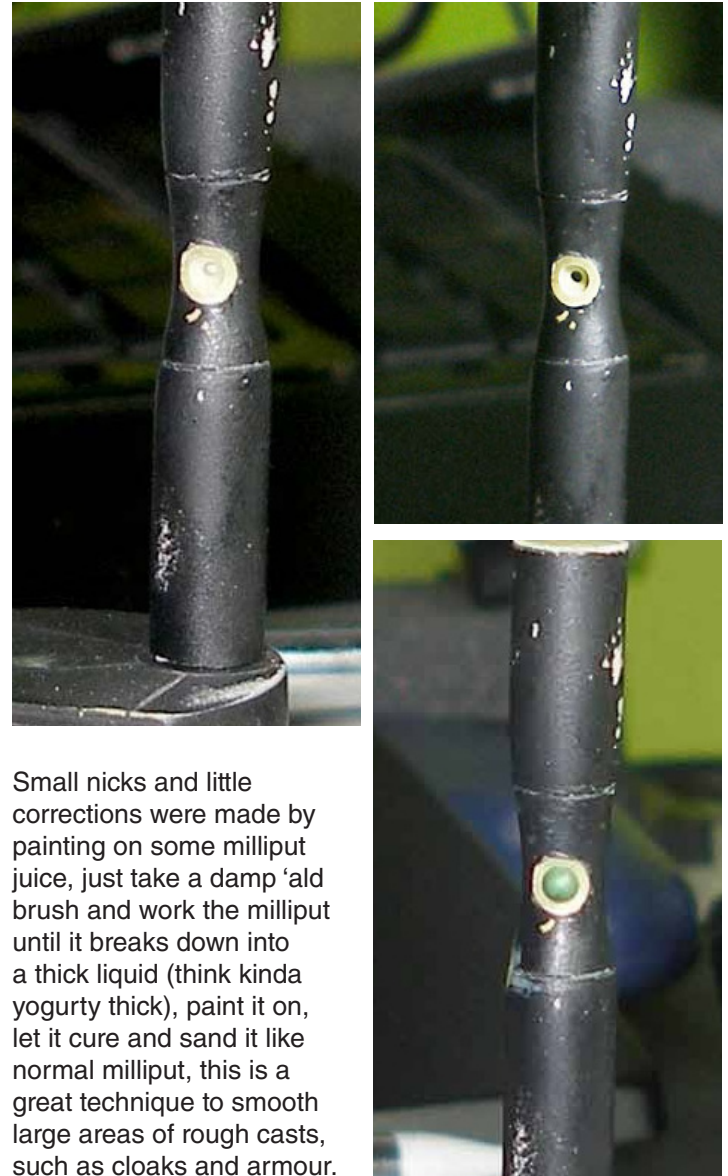
The column was left to cure in the putty oven and I actually started on the step at this point, but to keep the step by step easy to read I'll separate the column and step work. You can see in the above pics I've scored the column in two places, this was done gently using the pipe cutter. You can also see I've smeared milliput into the gap at the end of the large tube down on to the smaller, middle tube, this created the curved angle, I didn't use any tools, just the old thumb. This was left to cure.



Once cured I smeared more milliput from the edge of the curve on to the middle, smaller column, this was to help make the curve smoother, again the column was left to cure. Then began the very long and boring process of spraying the column black (why black? Because it makes it easy to see problem areas and areas that need more work, in the 2nd picture you can clearly see that the line where the milliput meets the tube) and sanding it back, spray it black, sand it back. This was done several times until the column's curve was VERY smooth. I've used an airbrush to apply the black paint, it sprays a nice thin layer that won't obscure details, if you're using a spray can to do this, be careful! Make sure you use several thin layers of paint.



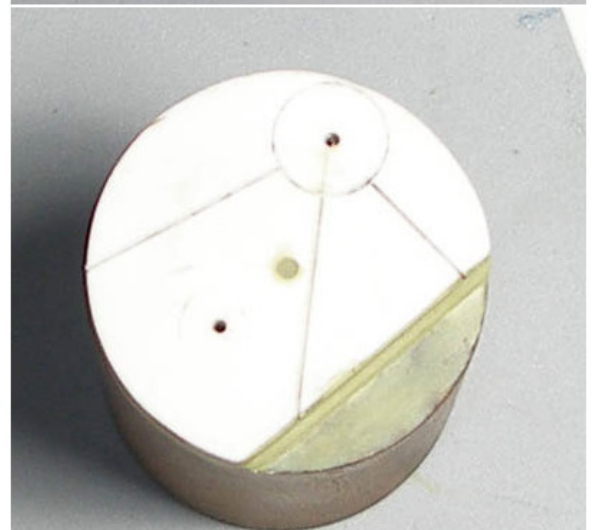
about my fussiness than the technique), so I just decided to sculpt one. It can take a lot of tweaking and messing about to get it right, but if you're comfortable sculpting have a go, if you're not so comfortable, the GS ball technique will work if you put the time in, if you're still struggling, go buy an assortment of different size ball bearings, they can be very useful.



Small nicks and little corrections were made by painting on some milliput juice, just take a damp 'ald brush and work the milliput until it breaks down into a thick liquid (think kinda yogurty thick), paint it on, let it cure and sand it like normal milliput, this is a great technique to smooth large areas of rough casts, such as cloaks and armour.



So, now on to the centre piece, I drilled a hole out, filled it with milliput and left to cure. Once cured I lobbed one of my round grinding Dremel bits in to my pin vice and gently created the concave half sphere the gem would sit in. Now the easiest way to make a gem is using ball bearings, you drill the hole, glue the ball in and Bob's your uncle! Now if you like me and you don't have the right size ball bearing (or haven't got the patience to track down a place that sells the right size, buy 'em and wait a few days for them to arrive in the post) you can make one out of green stuff. You take a blob of the 'ald green stuff, roll it in your fingers so it's nice and smooth, place it in to the palm of your hand and using the tip of your finger draw circles with it, the tighter the circle the rounder the gem will be. Now this is a great technique I use for making lots of small gems, in this case, despite rolling around 20 of the bloody things I couldn't make a round enough ball (this says more



THE STEP

So with the column 'finished' I started work on the step, now I didn't have a plan for the step, but I knew I wanted some curves, so lobbed some milliput down, smoothed it out so it's was nice and even and then pushed some thick brass rod (1.5mm I think) along the step and made two half cylinder indentations, I came in with a Taper Clayshaper just to ensure the lines were straight and to do a little smoothing. As you can see in the last pic, the curves weren't perfectly smooth or round but the great thing about milliput is that those corrections can be made easily enough with some fine grit sandpaper.

The sanding begins anew! The back was just sanded smooth (600 grit sand paper), it was sprayed black like the column to bring out the faults and then re-sanded until smooth. The steps I approached in the same way, but I folded the sandpaper back on itself a few times to get a nice curved edge so it would follow the contours of the sculpting I had already done. In the last two pics you can see I've used the compass cutter to make a circle around the column and marked lines out to score to create pulsing energy lines I'll paint in later. The lines were first scored with a scalpel (or Xacto knife) and then widened with the compass point; I only used half the lines as I wanted to keep the base simple.



From their I decided I wanted to do a base with pulsating energy lines and glowing gems, typical anime sci-fi stuff, to give the base a focal point I wanted to use a column. Now the column does a few things, it allows me to control where the viewer looks on first glance, in conjunction with the step they creates the top and bottom of a frame, a boundary that the viewer isn't allowed to look outside of, but is forced to look in to the middle of. This effect is further exaggerated by fixing the middle of the column with a gem, the gem is placed level with, to me, the most important parts of this mini and that's his face and his sword. The column also increases the level of complexity to the piece, but is simple enough not to draw attention away from the mini, it also adds a story element, columns are usually associated with large, important, powerful buildings, as a knight the mini may well be attacking or defending such a building. The curves of the step also adds to the simple complexity, as does the circle and lines around the column, once painted the energy lines on the floor will draw the viewers eye to the column, then to the gem and then to important parts of the mini. Because there's so much focus on the minis face and sword, if their painted to a high standard they will distract the viewer away from areas that may have little mistakes or areas which may not be as strong, giving the impression that the mini is at a high standard then it actually is, this idea I picked up from Alfonso Giraldes (banshee on CMO), it's an idea he has used on a lot of his trophy winning minis.

Bon Appetite!

John



THE FINAL BASE

THE THEORY BEHIND THE BASE

I decided to lob the theory of the base at the end because it's a lot of text and didn't want people to have to wade through the heavy stuff before getting to the fun stuff, hopefully this will give you a little insight into how I approach my bases and show you that when I approach serious pieces a lot of thought goes into how the base interacts with the mini and how I try to use basing to enhance the mini I'm working on.

So, I was looking to get away from the sorta' typical realistic sci-fi paintjob a lot of people paint infinity stuff with so I decided to try and push it towards a more anime sci-fi style. I had a quick look for some inspiration and quickly found some reference pictures Tron and Zone of the Enders. Both pictures were a good fit with the style I wanted and each had some element of the mini in them.

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Wamp Review: Dark Sword Miniatures Steam Punk Jen Haley



Group Review

Manufacturer

Dark Sword

Price

\$14.99

Material

Metal

Contact

www.darkswordminiatures.com

Other Information

Sculpted by Tom Meier

Steam Punk Jennifer Haley from Dark Sword Miniatures is the latest in their list of tribute miniatures designed around real people.

This homage to the prolific painter is a limited edition Anniversary casting.

To see how it fares we sent a copy out to several reviewers to get their opinions.

Each reviewer received a different casting to see if the quality is consistent.



DARKLORD

Dark Sword Miniatures are a prolific company with a well established pedigree so its something of an honour for them to portray a real person into miniature form. This is what they did with one of their painters the well known Jennifer Haley. This homage to her takes the form of a rather lovely steampunk lady that exudes style.

The first thing that strikes you about this piece is the delicate nature of it. It's often easy to forget from the photos that she's around 28mm scale. The detail on this piece is fantastic. Sculpted by the prolific Tom Meier he has achieved a fantastic piece of work. the details are crisp and delicate and this is carried off perfectly in the casting. Dark Sword's metal casting is probably the finest I have seen and is even superior to a lot of resin work.

Jen comes as a four piece assembly with the head and arms separate. Assembly is simple enough though the delicate nature of the arms would make pinning tricky though I don't think its necessary in this instance.

Overall this is a beautiful piece and one that would really reward subtle painters out there. the dress opens the way for a strong injection of colour if desired though a soft palette would be equally favoured. It's a piece that would sit well within a more elaborate base or vignette. The sculpting, subject and casting combine well to create a miniature that will be a pleasure to paint and reward the artist that uses their imagination a little with this.

If the subject is your cup of tea I can recommend you pick one up - you won't be disappointed.

RATINGS

Quality: 9.5/10, top class sculpting and the probably the finest metal casting you can find.

Assembly: 8/10, a four part construction but assembly should be simple enough

Value: 8/10, price is higher than some other metal miniatures of this scale but you get what you pay for with this. Well worth the price.

Overall: 9/10, a beautiful little miniature that exudes quality. Go buy one!

CAPTAIN SPROUT

Jen comes as a female Steampunk character with period Victorian style dress, jaunty hat, detailed bodice with flowing skirt and small boots with decorative spats. The steampunk touches are subtle but well realised, from the goggles on the hat to the backpack powered ray gun and arm band. Its a very detailed and well rendered piece of sculpting and the clothes cling and flow realistically in just the right places. Of additional note is the hair, where the stylish curls are very well done. Its a good looking mini that salutes its genre.

The mini comes packed in a Dark Sword branded blister, with foam insert. Its good to see the sculptor's name on the packing materials, it allows you to go and find more of their work if interested and gives appropriate credit where it is due.

Sculpted by Tom Meier, the mini is small, elegant, in 28mm scale and comes in five parts. These consist of the body, head, two arms and a small scenic base. The arms and head are attached to a small sprue and will need to be removed carefully before assembly can begin. The mini has a small box cast onto one foot that it is resting on and the pose is well rendered with the right hint of arrogance. The box could be removed and the mini's foot could be placed on another raised surface, if so desired, but its a well designed touch nonetheless and well worth using as is. The round base has some cast dynamite moulded on and a plank floor texture. The dynamite neatly offers a theme and matches the box cast onto the figures foot, immediately telling a story. If you don't want to use it you can make another base (its good not to have an integral base to deal with to achieve that). The casting on the base is very clean with little flash to remove.

The mini has some flash and casting gates to remove, including on the non rested foot and some fine mould lines that need to be cleaned off. There is nothing to greatly trouble the more experienced modeller here and the clean-up time will be well rewarded, but it is worth noting this isn't a plain one piece casting with no mould lines in any case. The assembly of the mini might prove a little more tricky, the arms are very small and there are no connecting plugs. As the parts are little it will be a detailed pinning task if you want to add them. A reliable glue should mean things stay in place however as the parts are not heavy and won't have much 'drag'.

Once cleaned and together the mini should be very striking and tempt the painter to carry on.

Steampunk is a justifiably popular genre and this is a great example of it. Its popular for gamers and for painters too in various scales(the 1/35 scale focused company Smart Max shows the appeal of this style of mini across the board). There are a few companies to look at to find complementary items, as well as competing figures. Armorcast, for example, do some nice Steampunk accessories, like a Buddha and mushroom which would look great with this figure and are well worth looking at. Wyrd miniatures do some cool Steampunk figures and robots too. This mini holds its own among the competition however.

The mini will appeal to gamers looking for a stand out character and painters inspired by both the other great paint jobs on show and the mini itself. There are different textures and materials to paint and enough room (even in a small space) for some freedom of expression. It might prove a little detailed for someone wanting to whack out a quick paint job, but in my view it would be worth spending that little extra time on.

RATINGS

Quality: 9/ 10. The mini exudes quality; its well sculpted, the details have cast out really nicely and its well packaged.

Assembly: 7.5 / 10. The small parts may prove rather fiddly and the clean-up will probably take some time, so the rating here has to reflect that, but the reward will be an attractive mini and most modellers can wield a file and glue well enough.

Value: 9 / 10. The mini retails at \$14.99 (£9 approx) which is a fairly high price for a small mini in metal but the proceeds are going in a decent cause as well as giving the modeller something cool to boot.

Overall: 9 / 10. One of my favourite minis from the examples sent for review, this is a great little miniature with loads of classy little touches and well worth picking up.

SHANEROZZELL

I was really please to be asked to review Steampunk Jen Haley, Dark Sword Miniatures 8th Anniversary miniature. I had already seen the amazing paint job Jen had done of the miniature and wanted a crack at it myself so I was eager to see what it is like sans paint.

Like all the Dark Sword Miniatures it was packed in a card backed Blister pack with a good wad of foam for protection. The miniature is in five pieces, the main torso then with both arms and head separate and a sculpted base. My first thought upon seeing the mini was that Jen has very good eyesight because the detail, sculpted by Tom Meier is breathtakingly accurate and minute. The pose is brilliantly simplistic with her left foot raised onto a small ammunition box. She is glancing over to her left with her right hand raised to the shoulder while carrying a steampunk powered ray-gun. I really like Mr Meiers "realistic proportion" sculpting style so her hands and head are not oversized, this give the miniature a very nice balance.

Pinning this model is going to take a very steady hand as the parts are so delicate and thin but once done it will make a superb addition to anyone's collection. Most of the parts have some thin mould lines which is the norm for most metal miniature but these are all in places that are easy to get to so will not cause any problems when it come to removing them, A small amount of filling will also be needed to make the joins smooth and invisible.

As I have said the detail in the mini is amazing and although the miniature proportions are accurate and sized correctly nothing has been omitted, this is Mr Meiers style, everything is there, no matter how small, the ribbed pipes that connect her steampunk paraphernalia are superbly done as are the buttons on her boots.

RATINGS

Quality: 9/10, Tom Meier's sculpting is amazing and the cast quality is very well done, the surface of the miniature is very smooth and the detail sharp.

Assembly: 8/10, Not for the faint of heart because of the



limited room for pinning but straight forward none the less.

Value for Money: 9.5/10, \$14.99 is less than a tenner in real money so I think it's amazing value for money considering the amount of detail that has gone into the miniature.

Overall: 8.75/10, A truly fantastic miniature.

CREGAN TUR

If you're familiar with Darksword miniatures then you know they have a history of creating unique and offbeat miniatures of the owners, their dogs, and some of the painters that work with them. For their 8th anniversary they celebrated by recreating the beautiful and talented Jennifer Haley in miniature form. As the story goes, Jen wanted to be portrayed as a Steampunk character and was reportedly involved in the design and creation of this very unique miniature.

The figure portrays Jen standing in a wary and defensive posture, like she's heard an unusual noise in the night, brandishing an interesting looking gun that reminds me of the Golden Age era of sci-fi. An interesting generator like contraption that looks like a tiny jukebox from the 50's is strapped to the small of her back. The miniature is made up of 4 pieces: body, head, and both arms. It also includes a metal base.

The quality of this piece is exceptionally high. First of all there are very few mold lines and I couldn't find even a hint of the slag that sometimes plagues metal minis. Even the most delicate detail is portrayed crisply and cleanly from the ribbing of her corset, to the ruffles on her dress, and even down to the individual buttons along the sides of the boots. There is a nice balance between the details and open spaces which keeps this figure from feeling overly detailed.

The collar is sculpted onto the neck, which means you can only attach it one way unless you want to do some conversion work. You also may have to do a tiny bit of gap filling either around the front of the neck or back of the collar, Assembling the arms can be a little tricky because you need to line up the tubes that run to the gun and flash-light with the tubes sculpted on her back that lead to the generator. They have tabs and slots, but couldn't get the tabs to fit in place. This is another spot where you may need to do some tiny gap filling as well. This assembly isn't hard, but it is delicate and could be difficult for those new to the hobby.

The base is a little bit of a different story. The display surface is excellent- the detailing of the wood planks has a lot of character and detail and the sticks of dynamite are a fun little touch. The sides of the base are pretty rough, though. A very noticeable line ran around the central diameter that took a good bit of filing to clean off and there was also a divot that needed to be filled in. None of this obscures the top details, but it's something you're going to want to fix to make the whole piece look good.

Steampunk has become very popular in the hobby over the past few years and there are a lot of miniatures out there.

This miniature is unique because it's a special anniversary piece and because it's designed after a prominent member of our hobby. There are a few steampunk women with guns available, but I think this is the most successful piece in adhering to the spirit of that style. It also seems to be better quality because of more realistic proportions and greater details. At \$15 it is one of the more expensive options available, but I think this is a case of getting what you pay for.

RATINGS

Quality: 9.5 / 10

- » Superior level of detail
- » Very few mold lines or blemishes on the figure
- » Ring around the base and hole in the side that needs to be filled

Assembly: 7.5 / 10

- » Parts don't fit flush, so you'll need to do some delicate gap filling
- » Base requires a good bit of filing

Value: 8 / 10

- » More expensive than most comparable figures
- » Very high quality for your money
- » Higher price than similar Darksword minis

Overall: 8.3 / 10

While the higher price of this figure could simply be attributed to it being an anniversary piece, I don't think that should keep you from getting such a great miniature. It looks like it will be a lot of fun to paint because it has so many different but complementary parts to work on. Assembly will require care and patience, but your work will be rewarded with a great looking miniature.

NEATPETE

Just when I was thinking resin was the way to go, I get a copy of Darksword's "Steampunk Jen Haley" and my faith in metal miniatures returned. The detail on this mini is incredible. If you don't know, Jen Haley is a bad ass mini painter. You can see her work on her website. She posed for pictures so Tom Meier could sculpt the mini just like her. A steampunk version of her that is, holding an "Aetherial Inversion Ray-better known as a plasma pistol"

Quality: 9.5

The casting of this mini is super clean

with very few mold lines. The detailed ribbing of her corset is so delicate that I'm impressed such small ribbing can be achieved in a metal cast. The only spot I had an issue with was on the box she is standing on. One side of the box is concave and creates an unreachable flaw that I'll have to fill with Greenstuff or post a sticker on top of to hide.

Assembly: 8.5

The mini comes in 5 pieces: head, 2 arms, body, and base. They line up quite nicely and some spots even have pre-drilled leads for you to start your pinholes. The seams line up well and very little Greenstuff will be required on gaps. The only spot that could be tricky is connecting the power lines that run from the battery pack on top of her buttocks out to her hands.

Value: 8

Costing 15 USD (@10 GBP) the mini isn't exactly inexpensive. However, considering the quality of this mini is so high, I do think it's worth a high value score. This does not have much of a typical gaming purpose and is much more of a show mini. When I spend a lot of time painting a mini for show, I don't mind paying a bit more for the fine details this miniature brings to the painting table.

Overall: 9

This is a great miniature that any painter will be able to appreciate and do some nice work on.



Conclusion:

A well sculpted and well cast miniature that exudes charm as well as character. It offers a great platform for painters of all abilities and will reward those that push themselves in the process. A little more than similar miniatures but the quality is worth that little extra. If you get the chance to buy one go for it, you won't be disappointed.

Final Ratings

Quality: fantastic sculpting and high quality casting.

Assembly: simple enough 4 piece assembly

Value: Well worth the price

Overall: A fantastic miniature that shows it's quality.

| | |
|----------|-----|
| Quality | 9.3 |
| Assembly | 7.9 |
| Value | 8.5 |

Overall Score

8.8



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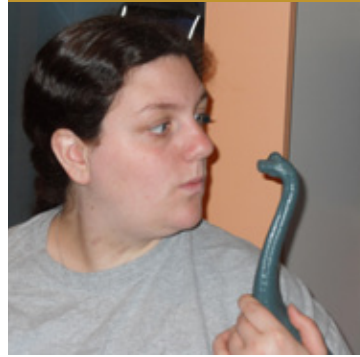
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Profile: White Tiger



Real Name: Amy Wagstaff

Alias: White Tiger

Website: www.edufire.com/amyw (not painting related I'm afraid!)

Wamp member since: 26th October 2010

Bio: Hullo! Um what to say really? I'm a tall, fat girl with frizzy brown hair who you wouldn't really pick out from a crowd. I like reading (I own about 500 books now), crafts of all kinds (including cross stitch: comes in handy if you've ever seen my dark angel's standard bearer), Cooking (see my sushi tutorial on my Wamp blog :P) and writing to various pen friends.

Currently finishing my PGCE (please gods let this torture be over) in post-compulsory education, specialising in biology. I'm a bit mad about biology in fact...did you know they made soap in the shape of red-blood cells? Amazing...

Paint, sculpt or game? I like converting things more than painting/sculpting/gaming. However, I like painting in my own simple little way...I'd like to try sculpting...and my fiancé keeps threatening to play a battle with me *ulp*

Favourite mini company? Oh...that's got to be between Games Workshop, Miniature-heroes (I love Sablesinge...), Scibor who's stuff constantly amazes me and Microarts (they do make the Terry Pratchett minis...)

Favourite sculpt? Lady Sybil by microart studios at the moment, the detail on her is amazing, especially the hair at the back.

How long have you been in the hobby? I started in my last year of high school so eight years, though I did have a long break whilst at uni.

How often do you visit Wamp? When do I leave? Oh right to do that work and sleep thing... Aside from that though I'm usually lurking :P

Best thing about Wamp? The shoutbox! I like to talk to people in real time as well as getting advice through the forums ☺

Tell us something interesting about you? In my very rare spare time I code for an online game based on the books of Terry Pratchett called Discworld mud. (Discworld.atuin.net I'm known as Nokomis) In fact, I once coded a swan that could have broken a players arm....except the code for that was broken...

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DARK SWORD

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Well folks as Wamp grows so does its appeal to sponsors and we have another new one stepping up to offer you some rather lovely miniature goodness and this ones a cracker!

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You can visit dark Sword's site [here](#)

If you can't access any minis post a thread and ask as others may be able to sell or swap some for you

This should be a cracker!

Brett

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- » You give Wamp and Dark Sword Miniatures permission to use your pictures for publicity (but you do retain ownership).
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EFS Ogress Step by Step

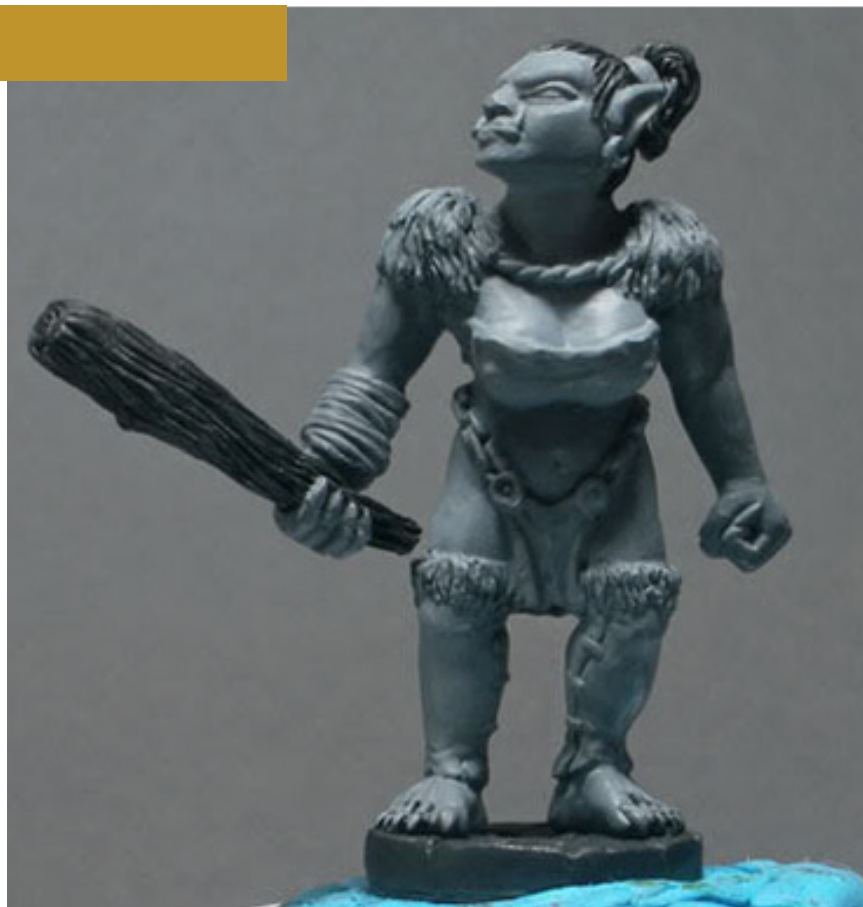
By Jabberwocky

I decided to do a detailed step by step on how I painted my Eastern Front Studios ogress miniature. I had painted her once before several years ago, but got the chance to paint her again and improve (hopefully!) on my previous piece.

My first step after prepping is to apply a coat of primer to the miniature. This provides some “teeth” for the following layers of paint to adhere to. I also find this initial primer will uncover any mould lines I may have missed during the initial prep work. For this particular mini I mixed black and white primer and brushed it on. Sometimes, I will do a specific area in black or white as an undercoat, as I did with on this model with the club and hair. My next step is then to take my brightest lamp and place it down close to the mini at the angle where the lighting will be coming from to give me an idea where the shadows and highlights will fall.

SKIN TONES

I generally paint my miniatures “inside-out”, that is I start with the skin tone, then the deepest recessed areas/clothing and working my way out. I find this helps to minimize errant brush marks if I would try and reach something deep on the model. Here I have laid down my base coat in 2 or 3 thin passes with Reaper Master Series (RMS) Green Ochre and I’ve also done the work on the eyes. The eye socket was painted with RMS Brown Liner, then the eyeball, painted with Vallejo Model Colour (VMC) Ivory, followed by RMS Brown Liner again for the pupil. Finally, I placed a very small light reflection point on the iris with VMC White. Personally, I prefer to do the eyes very early on in the process as it is tough for me to get everything just right and I frequently go back and touch up here



and there. Once again, this helps to minimize the effect of an errant brush stroke if all I have to fix is a base coat on the cheek instead of an area that has been fully highlighted and shaded. I had some left over Ivory, so I did an undercoat on the teeth and nails.

The next step is thinned down RMS Uniform Brown in the areas of the skin that will be shaded based on the light source (zenithal or overhead in this case) I have chosen and seen in the initial primer picture. I've also added just a bit of the Uniform Brown to the base of the nails and painted the base of the lower lip, which is a combination of RMS Rosy Shadow and Bruise Purple 1:1.



Taking the shading deeper, I'm now using RMS Russet Brown, keeping to the areas in darkest shadow, under the jaw, elbow creases, inside of the arms and legs, and under the buttocks. Again, I've add just a hint to the base of the nails. Some of the shadows here are from the lighting of course. I've also begun lining where the skin will meet

everything else. My dark lining typically is done with RMS Brown Liner, although black can also be used if you are looking for a more "cartoonish" look. Dark lining, IMHO, is a simple way to help get your mini to "pop." At the scale I usually work at (28-32mm), it helps to accentuate the areas of separation between two adjacent objects on the miniature. At life size, the ambient light will naturally do this, but on such a small scale, I need to help that along as the recess between the arm and fur shawl (for example) on the sculpt will be very shallow and not go into deep shadow.

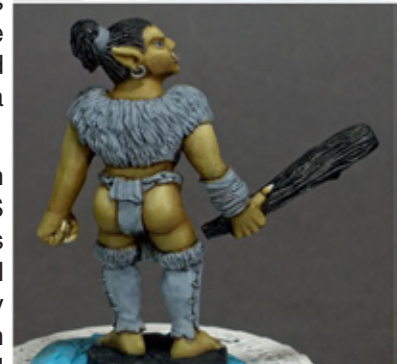
Here I have completed the dark lining and gone back and began smoothing the transitions between the various shades that were quite evident on the previous pictures. For me this is a time consuming effort and one that is difficult to capture with photos. It is very much a back and forth process with multiple thin glazes of paint. I tend to paint with thin paint but use few steps between colours. One method to combat this



is to have mix more steps between pure colours. For example, as you transition from Green Ochre to Uniform Brown start out with pure Green Ochre, then 2:1 Green Ochre to Uniform Brown, then 1:1, then 1:2 Green Ochre to Uniform Brown, etc. If you have a prolonged period to paint or use a wet palette, that may be a good choice. I paint fairly

erratically and usually for short periods of time, so I don't like to mix colours often and I paint rather slowly as well, which complicates the process in that my paints end up drying out. Personal preference, of course, and I am sure there are much more efficient ways to do it.

Now comes the bane of my painting—highlighting. I find this to be one of the more challenging parts of painting and it's something I am constantly struggling with. Here I have added RMS Yellowed Bone to the mix and have begun highlighting the forehead, cheeks, chin (the so-called "cross" on the face) and well as the upper arms and breasts, and top of the forearms, buttocks, and thighs. You can also see a hint above the belly button.

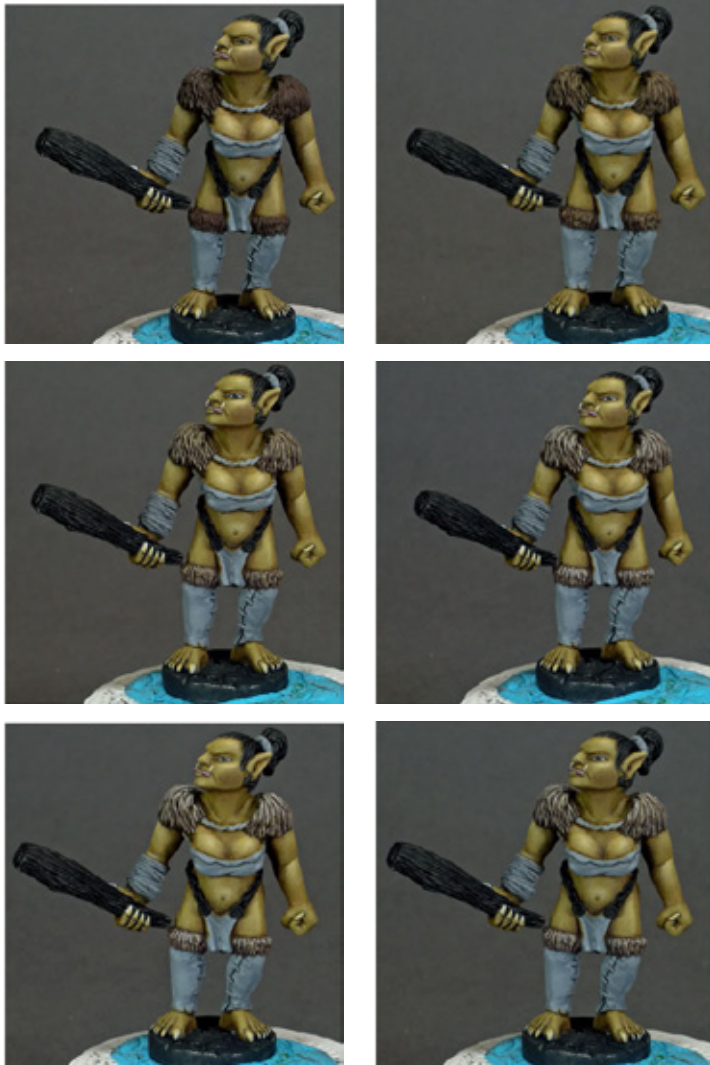


The final step on the skin tone is just a touch of RMS Linen White on the cheeks and breasts. Whew! All done, although I will likely go back and smooth transitions more and will need to touch things up after the application of the tattoos.

FUR SHAWL AND LEGGINGS

The painting will hopefully go quicker at this point. The reading certainly will. ;D

For the fur, I've based with Vallejo Game Colour (VGC) Charred Brown, then RMS Shield Brown, then a 1:1 mix of RMS Shield Brown and Aged Bone, then pure Aged Bone, and finally Linen White. I then went back and glazed some Shield Brown to smooth some of the transitions. Lastly, very



thin RMS Blue Liner was utilized to do deep shading of the fur. For fur, I tend to use a nearly dry brush for the technique. I also find it easier to rough things in and actually over highlight a bit, then use my base coat and deeper shaded to glaze over areas to smooth the transitions and tone down the highlights if needed. Since I prefer to work with glazes, it is just easier to control the paint by allow the natural capillary action of the water to “pull” the paint into the recesses as opposed to trying to keep thinned highlight paints out of the recesses.

LEATHERS

This next part was fun for me. I try and do something new or different on nearly every mini I paint. For the leathers, I decided to utilize a technique I had initially seen demonstrated on CMoN by Automaton. He does a wonderful job of breaking it down and comes up with some stunning results ([Link](#)). It gives some “texture” to the leather and adds some visual interest. The leathers were based with RMS Earth Brown. I then began stippling VMC Smoke, RMS Mahogany Brown, RMS Midnight Blue, RMS Leather Brown, and RMS Rainy Gray in a random pattern over the base coat. All colours were applied on all over the leather bits; however, the darker tones (Smoke, Mahogany Brown, and Midnight Blue) received

more stippling where that shading would naturally occur and the lighter tones (Leather Brown and Rainy Gray) were applied preferentially on the highlighted areas. I then placed a few scratches with thinned down black and an underline of Linen White for light reflection. The reverse side of the leather bra was simply RMS Tanned Skin with a glaze or two of VMC Smoke.



LOIN CLOTH

The red portion of the loincloth was based with Reaper Pro Paint (RPP) Crimson Red, then highlighted with RMS Blood Red, a 1:1 mix of Blood Red and Privateer Press (PP) Menoth White, then the deep shading was done with RMS Blue Liner, and finally the highlights were glazed back down a bit with Blood Red as they were getting a little pinkish. The checks along the bottom of the loincloth were a succession of VMC Black, then highlighted with VMC Gray-Green, and RMS Rainy Gray.

CLUB

The club was based with RMS Bone Shadow and then shaded with RMS Blue Liner. Successive highlights were done with RMS Aged Bone, through RMS Polished Bone, then RMS Leather White. I then went back and glazed some RMS Wood stain Brown and Muddy Olive to add a bit of variety and colour to the club. The Bone Triad from Reaper is a gray brown colour and is very neutral.



WRIST WRAPS AND ROPE

For the wraps, I based them with RMS Ruddy Leather, shaded with RMS Blackened Brown and subsequently with RMS Blue Liner. The highlighting was done with mix of 1:1 RMS Ruddy Leather and RMS Burnt Orange, followed by a mix of Ruddy Leather and RMS Yellowed Bone

and then finally pure Yellowed Bone.

The rope was RMS Stained Ivory, shaded with Uniform Brown and Russet Brown, and highlighted with RMS Creamy Ivory.



METALLIC'S

Over recent years, I have become a fan of a technique called "shaded metallic's". It involves taking true metallic paints and shading them with acrylics to obtain more realistic metallic's; it is difficult at times to capture this photographically, but I feel look very good in hand.



The metallic's on the ogress are started with an acrylic black undercoat. I typically will use a black primer for this and touch it up with regular black if needed. The first step is Vallejo Air Colour (VAC) Silver. Since much of this technique involves successive shading, I prefer to start with a brighter metallic and work down. Alternatively, you can begin with VAC Gun Metal, then work up to Silver. The next step is to knock down the reflectivity of the true metallic with GW Devlan Mud followed by Badab Black. I will typically go back with thinned down Silver and bring back just a hint of the shine of the metal. Very bright pin point light reflections are done with VAC Aluminium.



Rust weathering is accomplished with an initial application of RMS Dark Skin, followed by a 1:1 mix of RMS Chestnut Brown and Rust Brown. The most rusted areas (generally reserved for cracks and other areas where water might accumulate for longer periods of time) is glazed with small amounts of RMS Lava Orange. If the end result is too strong, I will sometimes go back with the darker colours or thinned VMC Smoke to tone it down.

FINISHING UP

Nearly there! If you are still reading this essay, hang in there. I'm almost done... I was getting tired of taking pictures myself, so things got a bit abbreviated, hehe. The stone base was the RMS Stone Triad, followed by RMS Leather White. I think I jumped from RMS Shadowed Stone in the top picture to nearly completely done in the next. Sorry!

The hair was done in a progression from black primer to RMS Rainy Gray to RMS Misty Gray and then selective shading with RMS Midnight blue to tone things back.

Now comes the last bit which can actually take me a while to finish. I'll put a bit smoothing blends. I added some stronger highlighting on the skin. Tattoos were done with RMS Blue Liner and then were "sunk" underneath the skin with another glaze of the skin basecoat, RMS Green Ochre. Leaving the paint unglazed will generally impart more of a war paint look as opposed to a tattoo. I added some green and purple glazes to the stone work on the base for some

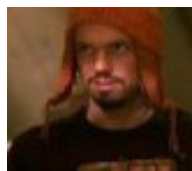


additional visual interest and a bit of scenic grass as well. The final photo is then taken under much better lighting and adjusted with Photoshop to get a more accurate representation (should have done that all along, but there were a lot of pictures!) of the piece and I'm all done!

I hope you enjoyed this step by step and neither crashed your computer from all the pictures or fell asleep. ::)



WAMP Review: Kabuki Models Shinomi



REVIEWED BY HINTON

Manufacturer

Kabuki Models

Price

€19.99

Material

Resin

Contact

www.kabukimodels.com

Other Information

character design: Aurelio Lecis

sculpture: Juan Navarro Perez

studio paint: Jennifer Haley

Quality 9

Assembly 7.5

Value 8

Overall Score

8.5



With Shinomi, Kabuki Models have released their first 54mm miniature. Cast in resin, it shows a young woman standing atop a pedestal with a domed top, a sword in one hand and a mask in another. This model displays an elegant grace and litheness; a dynamism without moving into the area of an over-the-top pose to try and convey movement.

The lines of the mini, the stance and set of her face, evoke a sense of playfulness that contrasts with the deadly weaponry at her disposal. One could almost imagine her coltishly exacting her revenge upon those that have sought to harm her, revealing her identity as her enemies, now just broken shells, lay scattered at her feet.

The pieces for the mini proper were sealed inside a bag; the pedestal and 50mm round base were on their own, but stored safely inside the clamshell. Everything seemed to survive the trip just fine as none of the pieces were broken or bent.

Turning our attention to the cast, it's easy to see that the sculpt hasn't been done any disservice as mold lines are very few and far between. There are a few bits that will need to be cut off, but they're obviously a result of how the piece is cast; not due to poor casting techniques or poor molding processes. The details are crisp and clean and most of the mini is incredibly smooth. While there will be very little in the way of clean-up or trimming, there are some minor problems with putting it all together.

In the places where the parts of the mini join up, there are a few small gaps. Nothing major; some could probably be covered quite easily with just paint. But still, it does seem that there might have been a bit of haste in taking the mini apart for casting. A small amount of green stuff or Milliput might be needed to fill in slightly larger gaps, such



as where the left leg attaches to the torso.

While it isn't overly difficult to assemble, you may need to reference the photos on Kabuki's website to be sure that you're putting it together correctly. Also, be aware that some areas will be harder to reach if you glue everything into place prior to painting it, as sometimes is the case with multi-part miniatures. Pinning is highly recommended.

With this miniature coming in at 19.99€ (about \$28 - \$29), it's a pretty decent value, even with it being cast in resin, as it is 54mm. For that, you get the display pedestal and a mini that, for the most part, doesn't require a ton of work to clean up and put together.

All in all, Shinomi is a miniature worth getting. Kabuki does some very nice miniatures and they don't disappoint as they step into the 54mm arena with this lovely piece. You could easily place it in a diorama showing a beautiful, peaceful garden - littered with the bodies of vanquished foes as she makes good her escape.

THE RATINGS

QUALITY

A very nice sculpt that has been excellently cast. The mold lines are minimal and easily removed.

ASSEMBLY

You might have a bit of difficulty getting some of the pieces to fit together without first doing some filing/sanding or find that you need to fill gaps with GS/Milliput after it's all in place.

VALUE

I've seen other 54mm miniatures go for more than the cost of this one that weren't nearly as good in quality.

OVERALL

A well done miniature that looks to be a great deal of fun to not only paint, but to come up with fun ways to display.



Minipainting Wiki is a community project set up to create a place of information on all aspects of miniature painting and its related aspects. The content is entirely driven by you the users. Each month in Portal we will highlight a some of the information people are adding to the wiki.

The more information we can gather the better, anything from details on painting contests, tools, painting and sculpting techniques, clubs, games and even famous painters, sculptors and miniature companies. You can add as little or as much as you like from a single sentence to entire pages of useful content, its all welcomed from everyone.

Here's just a few of the things added over the months.

BLOOD BOWL

Blood Bowl is a Fantasy Football game created by [Jervis Johnson](#) for [Games Workshop](#) as a parody of American Football. The game was first released in 1987 and has been re-released in new editions since. Blood Bowl is set in an alternate version of the [Warhammer](#) setting, populated by traditional fantasy elements such as human warriors, [goblins](#), [dwarves](#), [elves](#), [orcs](#) and [trolls](#).

The most recent edition of the game contains a printed copy of Living Rulebook 1.0. However, the most up-to-date version of the game's rules is the Competition Rules Pack, which is available as a downloadable file from [Games Workshop's](#) website (formerly known as LRB6 or Living Rule Book 6.0).

GAMEPLAY

Blood Bowl is a two-player, turn-based board game that typically uses 28mm [miniatures](#) to represent a contest between two teams on a playing field. A board containing a grid overlay represents the field. Using dice, cards, and counters, the players attempt to outscore each other by entering the opponent's end zone with a player who possesses the ball.

The "Blood" in Blood Bowl is represented by the violent actions available to players. Game play is based on a hybrid of American Football, Rugby, and ultra-violent fictional sports events such as Rollerball. Players may attempt to injure or maim the opposition in order to make scoring easier by reducing the number of enemy players on the field.

The player races are drawn from the ranks of [fantasy](#) races and have characteristics that reflect the abilities of those races. [Elves](#) tend to be agile and good at scoring, while [Dwarves](#) and [Orcs](#) are more suited to a grinding, physical style of play. Players are also divided up into positions suited to their role on the field, including Throwers, Catchers, and Linemen.

In league play, players gain additional skills and abilities

based on their accumulation of experience points. Players face potential injury or even death on the field throughout their careers. Teams improve by the purchase of off-field staff such as cheerleaders, assistant coaches, and apothecaries.

KEY COLOUR

A key colour is a colour chosen, usually as a [basecoat](#), to act as a visual anchor for a given area, so that all [shading](#) and [highlighting](#) works its way back to the key colour.

KINGDOM DEATH

Kingdom Death is a small, independent miniatures and game company owned and run by [Adam Poots](#).

The name, "Kingdom Death" is lifted directly from the planned game release, billed as a boutique horror [fantasy](#) board game experience:

Kingdom Death :Adventures into the abyss is an independent, lovingly crafted, high-quality, hobby board game. Pitting a table full of friends against countless abominations, terrors, and challenges. Gorgeous 35mm scale miniatures represent survivors in a world where humanity is a speck of dust living a pitifully fractured, and unchronicled existence. Only the deeply deranged would attempt to fight back. Accept this land as your deathbed. Wave goodbye to your sanity and dare to challenge the impossible!

At present Kingdom Death has only released [miniatures](#) as the game is still in the design stage.

The [miniatures](#) are high quality, resin, multi-piece casts and are often produced in limited runs. On the whole the releases have been very well received by collectors.

External Links: [Kingdom Death](#)

[Legend](#)

[Link to page](#)

[Page doesn't exist](#)

Gallery



High Elf Lord by Landreth
Avatars of War Contest 1st place

We apologise if we missed your picture out of the gallery this month but, as you know gallery space in Portal is very limited. We will endeavour to include you images next month. Please also understand that re-production size is limited to the original size of the image upload. There will be more gallery pages next month so there is plenty of motivation to put brush to lead!





Goblin King by Daveyboy
Avatars of War Contest 2nd place



Bor Dragonbane by MaGie
Avatars of War Contest 3rd place



Only the truly pious dare hunt at night...
by Sparks



AoW Marauder Lord
by Sparks



Scott Radom's AoW Ogre...
by ScottRadom



Marauder of Chaos
by aphorys



AoW Elf Lord
by mule



Bör
by Janek



Dwarf Lord of Chaos
by Duck21



Nathan's Lizardman
by nathanr



2011-04-25
by MiniT



AoW shaman
by fellcaller



Warrior Priest's Prayer
by Inquisition



Vampire countess
by Tigershark



Light Elf Mage
by Endor

AoW Daemon Champion
by Robert



Orc Shaman
by bachtere



I Hate Snakes.
by JoeK



AOW Vampire Countess
by Bohemond

Dwarf Slayer VS Goblin King
by pirobicikli



warrior priest
by ogreninja



Mega Barbarian
by megazord_man



Deamon Champion
by weareblind





AOW-Chaos-Ogre
by Shane Rozzell



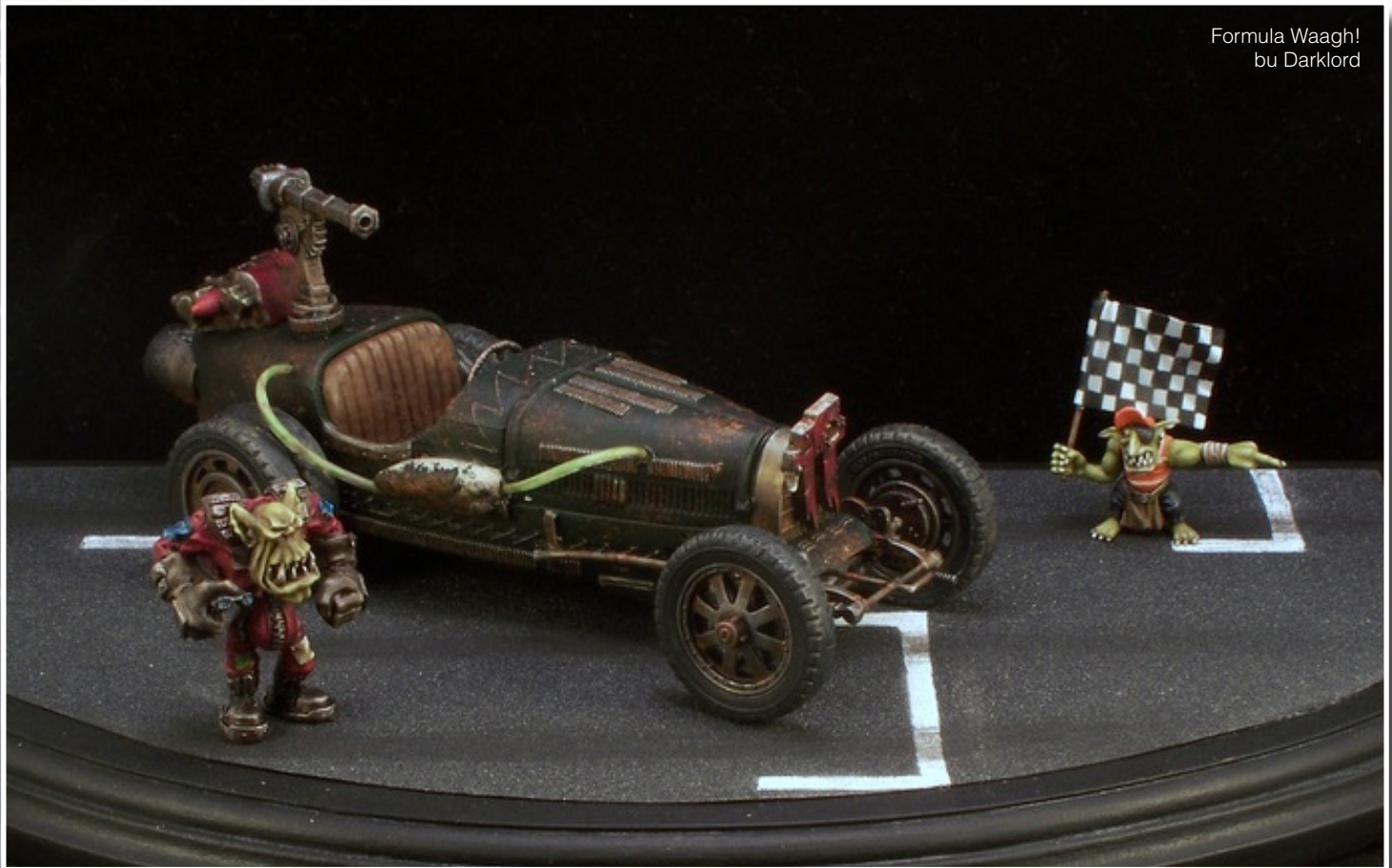
AoW Lizardman Hero
by Shades



Death from above by Synthet



Orc Boss
by king kender



Formula Waagh!
bu Darklord



Pirate Maulg, Salute Finalist
by Chameleon



don hernandez tenario di maritorne
by Relic

The first 100 people through the door will each receive a free limited release miniature courtesy of studio miniatures.



4th June 2011 @ Maelstrom Games, Mansfield, UK Opens 11am

A 'people's choice' award will be given on recognition of the piece that receives the most votes from attendees.

Best in Show, People's Choice and all category winners will each receive a high quality crystal award.

In addition all entries attaining a sufficient mark will receive a Gold, Silver, or Bronze Certificate.

Maelstrom Games will be offering £75 credit and Gold trophy to the best Bane legion entry. 2 runners up will receive a silver and bronze trophy respectively.

Entry to all aspects of the event is free.

WAMP2011 will centre around the painting contest judged using the open system.

Categories are as follows:

Best In Show

1. Single Figure
2. Monster/vehicle
3. Group
4. Large Scale
5. Diorama/Duel
6. Wamplings
7. International Online

Each entry will be entered into a free prize draw.

Entry registration begins at 11am.

www.wamp-forum.com/wamp2011

Threadomancy is where we look at some of the most interesting and helpful post from the recent past.
Click on a title to go to the thread.

Threadomancy

ANY TUTORIALS ON TRANSLUCENT CLOTHING TECHNIQUES?

LOBO:

Hi All,

I am looking for any good tutorials out there on painting translucent clothing techniques.

You know, when you can see slight skin underneath clothing.

Any help would be appreciated,

Thanks

Boonie:

Try this one ([Link](#))

seasonman:

Nice find Boonie . I missed this one . Thank you Good question LObo.

LOBO:

I just want a thorough tutorial on the sheer/translucent technique as seen here on these minis.

([Link1](#)); ([Link2](#))

Valloa:

Try this: ([Link](#)) If you have any questions feel free to ask. There is a "a lot" of info that I didn't put in that article.

waghorn41:

Valloa's article is the best - it's her work which inspired me to attempt it - and I did say attempt

Valloa:

Hey now...you did pretty darn good with that mini!

Warhammergrimace:

Thanks everyone, these are some good finds. I tried this technique once, without knowing how, and achieved a reasonable attempt, will have another go now using some of these links.

NOOBS GUIDE TO FORUM SPEAK

Terrain tight wad:

Not sure if this is even the right place for this thread (apologies if it isn't). As a noob to forums I find myself confused at times by abbreviations and forum terms. e.g. I have no idea what a Tag is. So in the spirit of "the only dumb question is the one you don't ask" I'd like to start a dumb questions thread. Any takers?

War Griffon:

Given their size could you not just put wavy lines rather than straight vertical ones to avoid them becoming bar code?

RogerB:

Don't use pure black.

JoeK:

If you look at old medieval books, you always see the first letter given lots of lavish attention - different colours and very big. Obviously I'm not going to be bugging up my eyes doing all that with a 28mm figure, but I do tend to add the small red square (or something like that) at the start - or somewhere along the line - to make it stand out a bit.

Chameleon:

Mix a bit of the basecolour of the scroll in with black (or scorched brown if you would prefer), thin it down to about 50:50 with water, add a touch of flow improver and the job should be a good'un :-)

Edit-joe's post is also a good idea - it's something I've started doing too (although I tend to just use the same colour, but make an obvious letter) - it seems to work a treat :)

waghorn41:

Well, along similar lines to JoeK's I tend to do a splash/squiggle/letter about three times the size of the lines of 'text' which are then indicated by lines/dots and more squiggles in as fine a line as I can get (believe me, it's difficult with a half inch brush but easier than the first letter in colour with a roller)

WET PALETTE PAPER HELP

zombiearts: I currently have P3 wet palette and have seen some homemade ones, that say to use "cooking paper". is this just normal parchment paper or is it something entirely different?

I need to get refills for my P3 palette but there are no longer any stores in my area that carry privateer press stuff . i have looked into wet palette paper at the local art store but you dont get much for the money spent. i want to look into using the "cooking paper" but am not exactly sure what i need to buy.

Darklord:

Greaseproof paper - just bought a roll yesterday!

Cregan Tur:

Parchment paper- the kind you buy at the grocery store for baking. I've used it for years.

The Sorcerer:

...ehrm...
Tracing paper:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tracing_paper)

[Tracing paper](#)

thank you for your attention.

zombiearts:

very intriguing, will definitely give it a try! Thanks Sorcerer

Hinton:

I use plain old parchment paper:

GreyHorde:

@ Hinton...yep, that's the stuff. I use Wilton, but that's just what the local store had on hand. Used it for several years, now.

Chameleon:

Ah, that's the stuff we call greaseproof paper in the uk!

Captain Sprout:

I just buy the wet palette stuff from Daler and cut it into bits.

Endor:

In Norway, making lunch packs is still a living tradition, and that's the paper I have mostly used for my wet palette. Not as "oily" as grease proof paper, but otherwise the same

War Griffon:

UK equivalent of parchment paper is baking paper/ parchment not greaseproof paper.



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Cost **Best Offer**

Quantity **1**

Postage **None**

Scale **28mm**

Material **Resin**

Painted ? **Yes**

Condition **Excellent**

'Don't Lick It Baby!'



Cost **£15.99**

Quantity **1**

Postage **None**

Scale **n.a.**

Material **100% Ctn**

Painted ? **n.a.**

Condition **New**

Ladies 'Evil Genius For Hire'



Cost **£11.99**

Quantity **1**

Postage **None**

Scale **n.a.**

Material **100% Ctn**

Painted ? **n.a.**

Condition **New**

Wamp Duffel Bag



Cost **£16.99**

Quantity **1**

Postage **None**

Scale **n.a.**

Material **100% Pol**

Painted ? **n.a.**

Condition **New**

Mens 'Kick your ass' T-shirt



Cost **£11.99**

Quantity **1**

Postage **None**

Scale **n.a.**

Material **100% Ctn**

Painted ? **n.a.**

Condition **New**

Men's 'I'm cool...' T-shirt



Cost **£11.99**

Quantity **1**

Postage **None**

Scale **n.a.**

Material **100% Ctn**

Painted ? **n.a.**

Condition **New**

Mens Wamp Polo Shirt With Username



Cost **£20.99**

Quantity **1**

Postage **None**


Scale **n.a.**

Material **100% Ctn**

Painted ? **n.a.**

Condition **New**

Wanted: Ar Fienel of Studio Mcvey



Hi All, I am looking for a Ar Fienel figure from Studio Mcvey for my woodelf army I am working on. If anyone wants to part with one PM me for a reply.

Thanks

Wanted: White Speaker Miniature



Description!: White Speaker figure Pm if you have a spare model please .

T-shirt with Username (White Logo)



Cost **£13.99**

Quantity **1**

Postage **None**

Scale **n.a.**

Material **100% Ctn**

Painted ? **n.a.**

Condition **New**

Baby 'Mini Painter' T-shirt



Cost **£10.99**

Quantity **1**

Postage **none**

Scale **n.a.**

Material **100% Ctn**

Painted ? **No**

Condition **New**

Mens Neon Wamp T-shirt



Cost **£18.99**

Quantity **1**

Postage **none**

Scale **n.a.**

Material **Var.**

Painted ? **No**

Condition **New**

Whats in issue 11?

Coming in issue 11 we have a great SBS from MamaGeek plus the full lowdown on WAMP2011, our first, live show! We'll also have plenty more news, reviews and stacks of gorgeous miniatures, mmmm!

... just as long as you keep posting them :-p

Member Pages

Are you a commission painter or sculptor?

If so and you would like a cheap and easy way to get your info out there without the hassle and cost of creating a full site then we may have the answer, maybe you have your own site but want another way to advertise.

Wamp is now offering 'mini sites' for just **£10 a year**.

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Each page can include text, photos, live cmon ranking, live eBay listings as well as links to your gallery, email and blogs and more.

Pages will be linked via a prominent link visible across the whole of Wamp.

For an example page visit:
www.darklordminiatures.com

8 REASONS TO JOIN



While everyone can read the content on Wamp to their hearts desire there are even more benefits to registering on the friendliest mini-painting site around. Registration is simple and FREE!!

1. You can enter and vote on all contests.
2. You can post in the forums, including the Work In Progress and display cabinet sections - great places to get feedback.
3. You get your own personal gallery on the site where people can comment and rate your work if you wish.

4. You can join the Wamp Ladder - a challenge based ranking system for mini-painters.

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