

# Portal

an insight into **WAMP**

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

**IN THIS ISSUE**

**3 GREAT REVIEWS**

**2 PAINTING TUTORIALS**

**NEWS & VIEW FROM  
AROUND THE HOBBY**

**WAMP2011  
SHOW REPORT**

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Well what a month it's been! Certainly for me anyway with two rather big events happening. The first event was the successful finishing of my latest mini that you can see in the picture here. Matthew Henry Johnson was born on the 20th May 2011 weighing a spritely 9lb 14 oz. This weight was round about that of the Best in Show trophy at WAMP2011 (or so it seemed!) WAMP2011 was my other baby and for some strange reason I decided having them both within days of each other wasn't going to be a problem!! It was a bit of a problem but muddled through and Wamp's first live event was born. It marked a new addition to our already powerful repertoire of events and features. Wamp runs more online painting contests than any other site but a live event is a whole different kettle of fish!! The logistics still hurt my head thinking about them and I'm still recovering from the day (and the rather fun, alcohol fuelled night!!) though I think lack of sleep thanks to Matthew may not be helping with that!!

The event went great, while the numbers didn't quite rival Games Day they were sufficient and the standard in the painting contest was fantastic. Folks enjoyed the day which was always the main aim. Much of the process is now in place for next year and as word of how enjoyable this one was I think we will welcome even more through the doors next year. These type of events don't just become big overnight, it takes time to build a reputation. There are a lot of shows these days and competition is stiff but making sure the event is liked by those that attend is the best way to build it up. Come next year they'll be returning and bringing their friends!!

This month also saw us launch another Wamp Special (I do spoil you!) with Warlord Games returning for another year, so dust of those brushes and get painting!!

Cheers

Brett

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# News

Well it's been an eventful month all in all. We had a successful WAMP2011 where everyone who attended has said they had a good time. The Maelstrom Games venue has a lot to offer with its bar and shop and is a place I really enjoy going to. The painting competition we held was fantastic and drew in some excellent entries of arguably the highest standard seen in the UK this year. More of these

can be seen in a WAMP2011 special that will be available to download in a few weeks time. But for now you'll find an aftermath show report on page 32 plus pictures of the winners. Also in this issue are two brilliant tutorials from the brushes of Mamageek and Vikotnik plus loads of reviews and news. We hope you enjoy issue 11 and please feel free to leave any comments in the Issue 11 thread on [WAMP](#).©



## WAMP at Figure World 2011

WAMP has a display area for Figureworld this year and the WAMP Display will be available for all members to display their work.

Figureworld last year was quite an amazing event with figures from all parts of the hobby and displays and demonstrations by some of the top painters in the UK and this year will be more of the same but at a bigger venue which means more displays, more traders and more demonstrations and of course what we all like "More Eye Candy" to look at and gain inspiration and ideas from.

Not sure what FigureWorld is all about? Then don't worry [LOOK HERE](#) and click on the links for more information.

It would be great for all UK WAMP members to show up and of course those in Europe and else where are also welcome with a few figures to go on the WAMP Display, you will also get the chance to meet other WAMP members as well as look at some fantastic work.

Don't worry if you don't think your work is up to standard WAMP is a forum for all standards and we want to display your work so bring it along. There is two stipulations though...

1. As the name suggests its all about figures, this can be single figures, vignettes or dioramas etc but no tanks or planes.
2. Also no nudity,

So that I can get an idea of whether I need to empty my display cabinet or not could all members that are planning or hoping to come along and display there work please send me a PM or post in this thread so I can get an idea of the amount of figures for the display and allow me to best set up the display to highlight what WAMP is all about.

Don't forget each person that displays 3 or more figures will get a raffle ticket which will give them the chance to win 1 of 30 Dwarf Busts especially commissioned for the event absolutely free, this bust really is a must have, ([Click here](#)) so do please try and come along and support WAMP as well as this event. Need a name/place marker to go with your figures on the WAMP display? Then let me know and I will sort something out.



For Free RPG Day, Impressions Advertising & Marketing works with participating hobby game retailers and RPG publishers to bring NEW RPG Quickstart Rules and Adventure Modules into the hands of gamers.

Consumers WORLDWIDE will be able to grab brand new material for a variety of RPGs — no overstock, retail-priced or dead product here. The goal of Free RPG Day is to inspire gamers to play a new RPG, which will in turn, create sales through local game stores.

Free RPG Day 2011 is sold out for store sign-ups! Make sure to visit one of the participating stores through our [retailer locator](#). Free RPG Day 2011 is going to be the best one yet!

## 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.

### STATS BOX

Portal Downloads	24367
Memberships	1090
New Memebers this month	77
WAMP posts	134992
Wiki Pages	159
Blogs	34



Sheffield Irregulars, in association with Baccus 6mm and Patriot Games, are proud to announce IMP 2011.

Irregular Miniature Paintfest  
Sunday July 17th, 10am-4pm  
Free admission

Having been based at Patriot Games for the last two years, we're moving to a bigger

and better venue & an easy five minute walk from the train station, and only ten minutes from the bus station.

As with previous years, the main attraction (in our view) will be the third The Workstation, along with our infamous Speed Painting challenge - sponsored, this year, by West Wind Productions. The current category details are listed on the website, and the range of options is set to increase.

In our ongoing quest to build a better show, we're introducing Golden IMP Awards and participation games, as well as demo and two traders. So, if you fancy picking up some of the Studio McVey from the man himself, for example, this will be your chance.

We're able to announce two seminars and Q&A sessions that we're going to be hosting on the day. After all, what's the use in having conference rooms if you're not going to use them?

The first is with the Polemos Design Team - these are the guys that write the 6mm rules systems sold by Baccus 6mm. They'll be fielding questions both of the games themselves, and the process in developing them that they use.

The second is with everyone's favourite Italian games designer, Alessio Calvatore, who I'm sure needs no further introduction. He'll be taking questions on his work over the last fifteen years, be that with Games Workshop, Mantic, Warlord or even with his own games.



So after months of speculation, spoof images and gossip, Mantic Games have finally released details of forth coming Sci-Fi wargame called Warpath. Some insiders are already calling this a 40K killer but that remains to be seen but one thing is for sure, with what's happening at Games Workshop at the moment it's sure to lose some of its market share. Will Warpath make Mantic a new contender for Games Workshops crown. We'd love you opinion on this so click [here](#) and have your say. To sign up for Warpath rules beta click the logo above.



The nice people that run Portal have been kind enough to ask me for a few words regarding the latest goings on at Miniature-Heroes. Well to be honest there has been quite a change of late. Brand new shop, greatly expanded product lines, reward points on purchases and a whole host of other rather interesting things.

Firstly the change of shop. As many of you will know the old site, though looking good was a bit basic. It was also becoming a headache for me trying to keep it updated. So, after quite a bit of hunting about I was put in touch with a great shop designer and the result is now up and running. It's allowed me to expand my Reaper lines to include their popular Dark Heavens, and Warlord ranges. These along with Chronoscope, Cav, Pathfinder, P-65 and Master Series Paints, are now either ex-stock or available to order in. This usually takes around 3 weeks, sometimes quicker, and saves you having to pay customs duty and import vat. Mirliton is still present but has been expanded to include their 15mm fantasy ranges too. Mannequin and BeDerken complete the new miniature lines.

The famous MH pre-owned section is also making a return. Over 100 used miniatures up on the site already but with many more to follow, from the likes of Citadel, Grenadier, Ral Partha and a host of others. All cleaned, graded and with better than ever photographs including a scale to show how they compare to other miniatures you may already have. I'll also trade old for new, details can be found on the site.

Then there are the gold pieces you get everytime you spend with Miniature-Heroes. Its a great name for our own reward scheme, which you collect and can use to pay in part or in full for future purchases.

I hope you'll pop by and perhaps even say hello and what you think of the new shop. More things are planned and I'm always open to ideas, thoughts and comments.

Thanks  
Tim

[www.miniature-heroes.co.uk](http://www.miniature-heroes.co.uk)

Games Day tickets are now available at the gamesworkshop online store ([here](#)).

Sunday 25th September 2011  
Birmingham NEC LG Arena  
Games Day is first and foremost a celebration of the



Games Workshop hobby; a day to meet up with old friends and shoot the breeze; a chance to bump into a few of the famous faces from the pages of White Dwarf; an opportunity to re-tell tales of past glories and join the fray upon the many fields of battle that await you.



## 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](#).

### MamaGeek vs. Waghorn41

Theme Female Elf

### MamaGeek vs. Cregan Tur

Painted and Based Darksword Entry

### Vern vs. Synthet

Darksword Comp Ladder Challenge

### Endor vs. KittenCeleste

5 model Malifaux Crew in 25 hours!!!

### Captain Sprout vs. Malebolgia

One Bad Mutha

### Waghorn41 vs Captain Sprout

Hisroical (WWII) 54mm or above

### TheBugKing vs. ScottRadom

The Executioner vs. the Hooded Rider

### Simon.W vs. Sparks

AOW Miniature

### Jens vs. Vern

54mm Andrea Pirate

# WAMP

## The last 30 days

### NEWEST MEMBERS

Grimmnar	tightwad's banker
Fallen Angel	QPCloudy
malditoduende07	spliffach
Cubster	Martin Jones
BrandonPHX	darkangel21
Lady Minuet	Phoenix
Bloodthorn	ebelmont
Sean Rodgers	Steve Wren
quidveritas	yonja22
Patrick1956	crusoe76
Sascha Herm	Devils Reject
Anthony Watts	Duliniel
Iowa Grognard	Cluracan
jfariahitech	Ozuman the White
kagemusha	Guinness drinking...
ish	Whyspyr
Cylon	mcsnead17
Nomad	Sweeper
Warboss	Crownbear
shas_mal_caor	scotty kahn
Tim Allen	Medusa
magpie666	perjac
Billfred	1evilbastard
Fet	Badsmile
Kuffy	sprue
sohbetbuse	danielsmith201
Tiny tight wad	firemanrad
grifon	silverear
Ghool	Bob Olley
144artist	fishfood
Kormydigar	Firedragon Games
Alasra	miniken
Pyros	GameVaultVirginia
bish	stormwind
Shonkhor	Spoontoes
Leeja	atacam
niro	ImperialArm
Sgtoku	will05
winterdyne	

# DARK SWORD

## MINIATURES, INC.



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!

Our latest sponsor is none other than the veritable Dark Sword miniatures. I'm sure they need no introduction to most of us with a fantastic range to suit all tastes.

So no doubt your already tempted by this but if you need any further encouragement how about \$400 worth of prizes for you?

1st Place - \$200 in Dark Sword Online Store Credit

2nd Place - \$100 in Dark Sword Online Store Credit

3rd Place - \$50 in Dark Sword Online Store Credit

4th Place - \$25 in Dark Sword Online Store Credit

Honorable Mention - \$25 in Dark Sword Online Store Credit

**Deadline is 27th June 2011 (6pm GMT)**

**Supporters deadline is 30th June 2011 (6pm GMT)**

Judging will be carried out by dark Sword themselves so make sure you impress them.

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

### 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.
- » All entries must be new work. (New work is defined as any entry not previously displayed on-line in a completed state (You MAY enter pieces which have been shown as a Work In Progress (WIP)).
- » You give Wamp and Dark Sword Miniatures 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 Dark Sword Miniatures.
- » Submissions must be posted to the [Dark Sword Gallery](#)
- » Credit is eligible at Dark Sword's website
- » You may enter a single miniature, diorama full 300 piece battle scene - whatever you like as long as its inherently Dark Sword.

**Please folks make sure you read the rules (especially the new work one!!)**

## Review: British Peninsular War Casualties



REVIEWED BY CAPTAIN SPROUT

**Manufacturer**

Offensive Miniatures

**Price**

£12

**Material**

Metal

**Contact**

[www.offensiveminatures.com](http://www.offensiveminatures.com)

**Other Information**

Part of Offensives "follow the Drum" range.



The Napoleonic wars offer an iconic wargaming period and the Peninsular wars are a strong and varied division within that well known war. When I think 'wargames' I conjure up the Napoleonic games my father used to play (the less sunnier ones were his favourite but all climes were played at some point) and I recall painting quite a lot of little figures to stand in rows and march in columns when I was in my youth (I never gamed with them but there were a lot of them!).

As a result I had a bit of a trip down memory lane when I got a little package in the post of wargaming casualties from the period from the mini maker 'Offensive miniatures'. How things have moved on from the past! All seems to be considerably better in terms of detail and sculpting than in the 'old' days.

Offensive miniatures 'Follow the Drum' range covers a variety of wargaming periods from the 16th to 19th century and the figures arrived in a sturdy blister with a bright orange packing card (with a useful health warning in case the figures are mistaken for a snack or you take a fancy to poking an eye out with one) and label, with a further bag inside. This ensured the figures and accessories travelled safely and that is important as there are lots of rifles and bayonets sticking up that would otherwise risk being bent or broken. As things turned out all the casualties arrived in their original wounded state

with no further transit injuries.

Offensive miniatures describe the pack as follows;

"Give your unit some variety with this pack or just use them as casualty markers. Contains 9 figures, 4 lying dead and injured on the ground, 5 falling or sat on the ground, comprising of a mix of drummer boys and young soldiers to provide a variation to your unit. Also included are two muskets to position as you want and a pile of equipment (drum, backpacks etc)."

I really liked the additional touches with separate muskets and the bundle of equipment, which gamers could use as a marker and everyone else might find a useful space on a diorama for.

The figures are well sculpted with lots of detail (you can pick out the bandsman stripes on the uniforms of the drummer boys as well as the drum detail) and





they have character. I like the seated drummer in particular. Lots of character, good pose and an interesting take on the period. It's good to see something other than 'men marching' and 'men in rows'.

I think the two drummers (one sitting, one prone) are the most interesting figures in the pack from a painter's point of view, lots of different things to explore and some research required to get them just right. They also illustrate the historical peculiarity of sending young boys to war to beat time for marching troops. It's good to see some thought being given to the age of combatants so the modeller or the gamer can represent reality more accurately and you can see the difference in ages in the sculpts in all the models, which is a real positive. It takes the uniformity of a dull line of identical people memory indeed and slaps it to the ground with a musket ball.

All the poses on the figures are different, the rest of the men from various companies are in the different stages of being hit in the line or falling down on the ground in it and the sense of casualty is neatly done without ripping off a head and being excessive about it. The poses appear realistic enough and the faces have suitable expressions to match.

All the minis have an integral base which can be a little vexing but it could be easily clipped off or hidden inside a base / bit of groundwork and, as integral bases are quite standard stuff in this scale, its not something to make a huge fuss about. If you don't like them at least you can be consoled with the fact they are not very big!

The quality of the castings is very good and the minis are clean and tidy, there is little flash and as they are one piece, nothing complex to assemble. The proportions are good and they don't seem to have big heads or little legs as can sometimes happen with small figures.

While the pack is targeted at the wargamer, the painter would enjoy these I think and there is potential for a small vignette or diorama with some 'action' going on. Capturing a moment in time is well done in a small scale and as a result they transcend their standard market and become more interesting. There are some great colours and little differences in line, flank and centre companies of this period and they made a real splash on the battlefield.

There are a huge number of Napoleonic minis out there and recent plastic ranges from the likes of Warlord Games and the Perry's swell the ranks at a competitive price, so if gaming or painting in this scale the modeller is quite spoiled for choice. I think these little minis hold their own however in a crowded market for a few reasons. Firstly they are finely detailed and well cast and look the part, secondly they are varied and not just standard replicates of each other and lastly, and importantly, they cover off soldiers being wounded and killed which was a massive feature of wars in the line and column. They are not just counters either, they have character.

I think they would line up well with other figures from a crowded period and make a nice change for the painter too.

### Ratings

**Quality:** Excellent sculpting, good details and very well cast.

**Assembly:** None required.

**Value for Money:** Well priced for the number of figures you get in the pack and the quality of figures and packing materials.

**Overall:** I like these, they hold their own, they have character and there are individuals in the pack not just a mass of little men.

Quality	<b>8.5</b>
Assembly	<b>9</b>
Value	<b>8.5</b>

Overall Score

# 8.5



## Reaper's Blight Fang Dragon



SCULPTED BY **SANDRA GARRITY**  
PAINTED BY  
**JOY SCHOENBERGER (MAMAGEEK)**

When I first started painting minis in Spring 2008, one of my biggest supporters was a co-worker and friend named Chris, who was also a member of my weekly D&D gaming group. He let me paint minis for all his characters, and even bought new ones to replace the old as my painting skills improved. Around mid-2009 he asked me to paint him a dragon, but I didn't want to take on such a big project. Every now and then he'd bring it up again, and this year I found Blight Fang on sale, and Chris' birthday was coming up, so I showed him the dragon, and said I'd finally undertake to paint it for him if he wanted to buy it. He jumped at the chance, and thus begins this WIP of Blight Fang.



### STEP ONE: ASSEMBLY

The dragon and base took about 4 hours to put together. The casting is actually very good, and didn't require any pinning whatsoever. If this was a gaming figure, I probably would have put in a few just for good measure, but it will be for display only, so it didn't need the extra reinforcement.

Ten pieces of pewter, lots of crazy glue and green stuff, cork, sand, wooden plaque, and we're ready to get started.

The dragon is cast in solid pewter, and weighs in at 2.2 lbs, including the wooden base. (That's just shy of a kilogram, for you Brits and Aussies out there!)

## STEP 2: PRIME AND PROOF

Chris wanted a black dragon, so I decided to prime it black. I always use brush-on primer now, because the humidity here in Virginia, USA, makes any kind of aerosol spray tricky to use at best, and disastrous at worst. I primed this dragon with a mix of Reaper's black and white brush-on primers.



I had to remix the primer several times, so not all of the dragon is primed with the same shade of gray, but since the paint would cover it, I wasn't concerned. I did learn a valuable lesson about paint splatter, though. Running a brush over the scales of a dragon will splatter your paint, so cover anything you want to keep clean. Long story short, the wooden base would need sanding and restaining in a few places done. That would be done later, though, in case any paint drips ended up there, too.

Next was a proof of concept. I came up with an idea for the color scheme, and tried it out on a small section of the dragon, where I can see the black scales, underbelly scales, and backfins together.

I also painted white lines over the highlight areas of the dragon's body. This is where my proof of concept coloring will manifest itself later on.

### STEP 3: BASING AND EXTENDING THE CONCEPT

I used a technique for making coins that Andrew Pieper wrote up in a Craft article for Reaper (<http://www.reapermini.com/TheCraft/30>). I also found some weapons and a shield in my bits box, added some more green stuff ridges, sand, and static grass. Most of this will be at least partially covered with water effects, and I'll want it to be pretty bright, so it will show through. Right now it's just a base coat.

I also spent some time extending the proof of concept further down the dragon. That would get some touching up later. I used just four paint colors on the scales: black, bone white, blue-teal, and orange-brown.

The first layer of paint was either the orange-brown or blue-teal, depending on whether it is in a dark area, or a highlight area. This was painted on to cover the base of the scale (where it underlaps), to about halfway down its length.

The next layer of paint was bone white on the tips of the blue scales.

Third, I applied black, very thin, over the entire scale, brushing from tip to base, so that the base is darker than the tip. The blue and orange got muted this way. Then I looked over the area and applied more layers of all of the above wherever it looks rough, or uneven, etc. Usually the black required several layers, and sometimes I'd use some thicker black paint towards the base of the scale, if the area looked like it needs to be darker.

That last part is the trick. It's not something easily duplicated, and I wish I could explain it better. That's usually how I work. I come up with a basic formula, and apply it, then go back and mess with it using many layers until it looks right to me.



#### STEP 4: MORE BASING AND PAINTING

There's not much to talk about here. I applied varying shades of green, brown, and gray to the base, painted the treasure, and added some scenic moss.

I also continued painting the dragon in the same color scheme as before. Some areas I covered were very hard to reach. I tried to concentrate on this first, both to "get them over with," and to avoid getting splatters on something finished while going after an awkward angle.





**STEP 5: FINISH BODY, BRIGHTEN SCALES, START THE WINGS**

I continued the concept, finishing the body, then went back and brightened highlights on some of the scales that looked too dull. When that was done, I moved on to the wings. In this next photo, the only unpainted parts are the underside of the dragon's left wing, and the face.

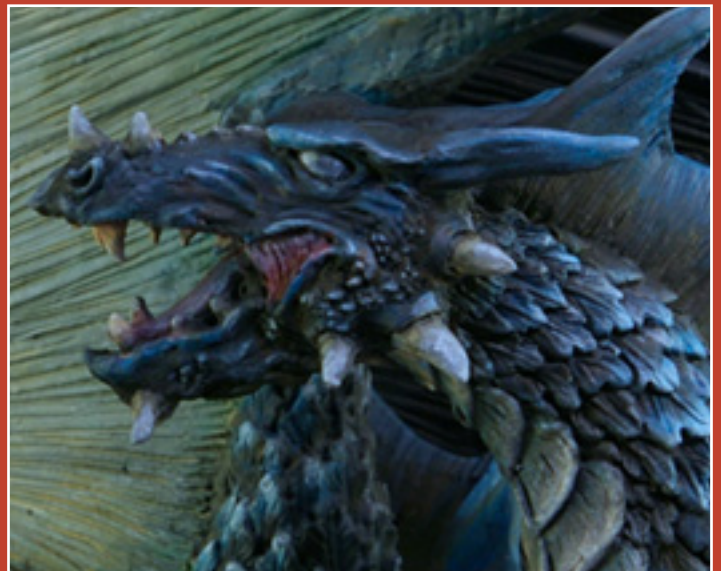
I used the same colors on the wing undersides as I did on the dragon's belly, the same colors as the scales, but with more white and brown, and less black and blue.





#### STEP 6: FACE AND FINAL INNER WING

You can see that some of the face blends will still need smoothing, and probably higher highlights. I also think the scales on his body are too blue. I'll probably blacken them more in the shadow areas. The eyes will be painted yellow, but in these photos, they aren't done yet.





**STEP 7: FINISHING**

I painted the eyes, smoothed out blends on the face, and blackened the scales. I also added the water effects. It took four pours to get it deep enough, and you still can't see it in the photos, but it looks good in person.

And that's all, folks!



# Why Advertise with WAMP?

With over 900 members and a 15% month on month increase as well as over 7000 page impressions daily not to mention Portal, the No1 free monthly mini painting magazine that averages over 2,000 downloads per month. Wamp is a growing, vibrant web based community with members based all over the world, many of whom are regular contributors to other hobby based forums. This means that advertising with WAMP will be one of the most positive things you can do to make your business grow.

If you have products relevant to Miniature Painting, Wargaming or Roleplaying then WAMP members are your targeted market. If not, our audience are also interested in related products such as Fantasy, Science Fiction, Historical and Military related media as well as Art and Photography so it is still a good idea to advertise with us because WAMP is a vast community and for a lot of its members the first place to seek advice on books, video games, movies and much, much more.



For more information go to  
[www.wamp-forum.com/advertise](http://www.wamp-forum.com/advertise)  
or email us on  
[portal@wamp-forum.com](mailto:portal@wamp-forum.com)

Apart from classified ads, which are black and white only, all adverts are full colour. If need be we can even design it for you free of charge. It will include your company logo and any images or text you require plus direct weblinks to your company's website.

Portal  
an insight into **WAMP**

## Wamp Review: Dark Sword Frog Wizard

What do you get if you combine Harry Potter with Kermit the Frog? That's right a Frog Wizard from Dark Sword!



Group Review

**Manufacturer**

Dark Sword

**Price**

\$10

**Material**

Metal

**Contact**

[www.darkswordminiatures.com](http://www.darkswordminiatures.com)

**Other Information**

Sculpted by Dave Summers

Quality	9.1
Assembly	8.9
Value	8.9

Overall Score

9.1



**DARKLORD**

While the subject may be unusual for many painters it is called fantasy for a reason and this mini sits well in Dark Swords range of Animal personifications. I must admit I have painted a Frog Ninja before so this fella kind of appeals to me anyway. He's full of character and the possible colour combinations naturally found on frogs immediately opens this up to some fun paint schemes. The sculpting is well done and has a lot of subtle details you dont notice at first, the tiny frogs hiding at his feet. The textured skin all add to the more prominent details on the piece. This is one of those miniatures that will welcome a simple paint job but leaves scope for those wishing to push the details more and really take things to the next level, this is a figure that can be enjoyed by painters of all skill levels.

Cast in one piece there is minimal assembly, just a case of cleaning up any flashing and mould lines which are around average in their prominence. He is cast with an integrated base which can make things easier or trickier depending on your viewpoint. Many painters don't like integrated bases so you would need to build this into a round lipped base as removing him from the integrated base isn't really an option. While I don't like integrated bases usually this one is fine , with plenty of detail and reasonably flat.



**SHANE ROZZELL**

The frog wizard by Dark Sword miniatures is a great concept and something I have wanted to paint for a while. Upon its arrival it was deftly nabbed by my better third who claimed it as her own. Anyway around the review. Once I'd prized him out of her evil miniature steeling clutches I had a good look at the fellow and wasn't disappointed. He's a great sculpt stood there wearing a massive pointed hat and billowing wizard robes, holding a flaming sphere in his right hand while clutching his wizard's staff in his left. Around his jester styled booted feet are his children who are hiding in his cloak while over his right foot sits a downed winged eyeball. Two spell books adorn his sides, held in place by chains that loop over each shoulder. There is plenty going on!

The sculpt is very well done with plenty to keep any level of painter happy, small intricate areas for detail and large areas where smooth blends are called for. There is even the option for some OSL with the flaming sphere, freehand for the cover of the books and some NMM for the chains.

The cast quality is overall very good with only small mould lines, all within easy reach, but on my copy of the model some filling work will need to be done on one of the spell books and also inside his right sleeve due to mould slippage but this is nothing major and easily fixed by anyone without the need of vast sculpting experience. There are a few small bits of flash to clean off as well but these are soon dealt with.

### NEATPETE

What an odd miniature. I can understand how this sort of mini wouldn't appeal to a large customer segment, but to those who find even remote interest in a large frog wizard sporting a staff and magic orb with little critters all around its feet, this mini's your dream come true. Not the type of mini I would normally go out and buy, but now that its in my hand, I'm impressed.

The sculpt is very rich with lots of details that aren't so small or forced that it gets lost in all the busyness. For being a one piece model there is a surprising amount of depth to the mini. I'll have to compliment the casters here as well. I can tell these molds have been handled with care and quality control is actually considered. Negative spaces are clean and crisp: something I've come to appreciate in a mass produced metal sculpt these days.

Mould lines are not bad at all. One line on the bottom side of its witches hat was the most noticeable on my cast, but its nothing that can't be cleaned in a quick prep. It does come on a foot place base that some people may not prefer, but the mini does sort of "drip" onto the base with robes and such and in this case is sort of required.

Painting: Four main features on this mini create opportunities for the most basic to advanced painter to lay down a great paint job:

- » 1. Frog skin/ textured reptile flesh
- » 2. Large eyes
- » 3. Magical Orb with OSL potential
- » 4. "Rich Robes" that are chunky and will really allow for some nice fabric effects.

Pick one up and slap a sweet paint job on it!

### CAPTAIN SPROUT

Dark Sword miniatures have a large number of very varied miniatures in their online store and sitting firmly in the fantasy category is this detailed frog wizard.

The mini is packed in a sturdy plastic blister on foam. The well designed card has Dark Sword branding and a useful website link. As a result of this sound protection the mini travelled safely.

The mini depicts a frog wizard and has lots of little details that add well to the whole, from the obligatory warlock hat and robes to the ball of light in the hand. Its a well balanced,

detailed mini with lots of character. It also represents quite a unique miniature concept, not something you see very often even in a hobby as diverse as ours.

The face and cloak are the largest open areas. The face has an expressive little half grin and the textures and tiny warts will reward detailed painting. The robes flow well, however they do have quite a square appearance at the back making it look as if the frog is wearing a coat hanger under the robe, or has donned a gathered curtain. This doesn't really spoil the overall impression of the model however as frogs are not human shaped and its not rendered out of proportion. It is not the finest sculpted cloth out there however. The area still attracts the painted and would enjoy some wizardly freehand.

The mini has some mould lines and flash and will need a little careful clean up. There are a few areas where the modeller will need to be careful not to remove fine details, notably the creases on the carefully rendered hat.

The orb offers an opportunity for some OSL experimentation but also looks slightly like a grenade or a cartoon bomb as the flame is a little understated. It would not be difficult to change it slightly if the modeller wanted to however, perhaps adding to the flame a little. On looking closely the flames could also be smoke, so the painter can take a variety of approaches to bring the best out of the orb effect.

The other details are well rendered, the chain is a really good piece of sculpting, it has detailed links and looks weighty too. There are some other touches that make the mini stand out and will reward a good paintjob, such as the little froglet looking beasties inside the cloak (which might be missed on first glance), the book on the chain and the feathers on the hat, all of which have cast out well.

The mini is in 30mm 'heroic' scale and has an integrated base. These are a bit love it or hate it in the modelling world, but this one does have some intricate details that add to the scene including an eye looking affair with bat wings. The wings hang over one of the feet so do need to remain in situ. The robe also closely touches the base so removal might lead to damage of that too. A base to integrate rather than remove, in my view. If you do want to remove it there will be a lot of work involved and it wouldn't make the mini look better. Its one of those times where the integrated base actually has a point and thought has gone into what is on it and it won't be too difficult to include it.

The mini would be of interest to gamers who have this sort of character in mind but the painter will find a pleasant reward in this mini as there are lots of details, some larger areas to be expressive with and a wide scope for colour and style choices to make the wizard 'yours'. There don't appear to be many similar figures out there although you might find some friends for the frog from MSB toys, who make some ninja frogs, bears and other animals, although with a slightly less cartoony style. They are a comparable size and price and worth a look if animal characters are your thing. There is

nothing quite like the Dark Sword range for cartoony D&D style beasties though so they do stand out as a range. Check out the frog 'Master of Shrews' from the same company if you want to see a slightly mad concept at work.

This is a fun model with loads of detail that will be fun for the painter and useful for gamers. I like it and although it needs a bit of cleanup and has a broccoli base, this is one that will bring a smile to your paint brush.

### **CREGAN TUR**

Dark Sword miniatures are known for producing some very eclectic and unique figures and among them is the Frog Wizard sculpted by D. Summers. It's a single piece sculpt that shows a Frog Wizard complete with staff, pointy hat, flowing robes, a flaming magical orb, and a pair of frog children peeking out from behind his legs.

This miniature packs in a lot of great details without being cluttered. For instance, a pair of spell books is held in place by chains and each link is represented very clearly. The face has hints of scales and wrinkles that, along with his long goatee, add a great suggestion of age. Combine that with the smattering of warts and the large, orb like eyes and you have a great canvas for using a wide variety of painting techniques.

The robes and hat have a lot of fine wrinkles and folds that could be painted to add a lot of contrast, but they will be time consuming to paint as some of them are very, very fine. The staff has some great wood grain and knotty protrusions that give opportunity for visual interest and create a great looking gnarled, mystic staff. The orb is also very well designed, and depending on how it's painted could change it from an arcane device into a spell effect; there's also good opportunity to experiment with OSL. I'm not crazy about the flame texture because it seems too stiff and straight. I'm also not a fan of sculpted on bases- if you want to cut this mage free then be prepared for a lot of cutting.

Another detail I haven't mentioned yet is the dead Cyclops bat lying at the frog wizard's right foot. It's an odd looking

little beastie, but when you take the hidden children into account it creates a wonderful little scene of the wizard coming to their defence. In many ways these details take this figure a step beyond and make it into a tiny and well contained diorama.

Since this is a single piece, assembly isn't an issue. There are a few mould lines, but they range from fine to very fine, but in some areas you'll need to take some extra care when removing them because of the figure's tiny details. There are also some very small gate tags that will need to be removed. I found some tiny bumps along the frog wizard's upper eyelid that you may want to remove, or they could be painted like mucus to enhance his age with rheumy eyes. Speaking of eyes, the bat creature's eyes made need a tiny bit of filler at the corners.

This is a very unique piece- I couldn't find anything comparable in my searches except for the other frog characters from Dark Sword. It would make a great display piece because it is so unique, but since it's close to 28mm scale it could be used as a replacement piece for a few different games. There are a lot of different things to like about this sculpt and it looks like a miniature that would be a lot of fun to paint.

### **OVERALL CONCLUSION**

An unusual topic but one that works well and screams character and fun. A real opportunity for strong colours and OSL if desired. Another well sculpted and cast miniature that's good value for money. Dark Sword continue to show a great ability to create a high standard across a wide range of miniatures. Well worth picking up and painting, you won't regret it.

**Quality:** Once again Dark Sword produce great sculpting and casting.

**Assembly:** A simple once piece cast. Average mould line clean up.

**Value:** Good Value for money.

**Overall** A great mini full of character and worth getting hold off and enjoying.

### **Darklord**

**Quality:** Well sculpted and well cast.  
**Assembly:** No joining required and average amount of clean up.  
**Value:** At \$9.99 (£6 approx) your getting a good miniature for the price - better than a lot you get at the same cost.  
**Overall:** An unusual subject but great sculpting and casting means its one that will be fun to paint.

### **Shane Rozzell**

**Quality:** Frog Wizard is a great concept with only a few small details that need any work.  
**Assembly:** Prep, prime and paint what could be more simple?  
**Value for Money:** At just over £6 this is fantastic value for money and Frog Mage is a big miniature to boot.  
**Overall:** A frog that's a wizard! What's not to like?

### **NetePete**

**Quality:** Great sculpt and cast.  
**Assembly:** One piece model with lots of depth, bravo!  
**Value:** \$10 its not bad, large chunk of metal for the money.  
**Overall:** Great sculpt, great cast, niche subject matter, done well in all regards.

### **Captain Sprout**

**Quality:** This is a highly detailed well cast miniature that feels like a professional product. It's well sculpted and weighty.  
**Assembly:** Although this is a one piece mini there is a bit of cleanup to be done, with some mould lines and casting flash and so the modeller will need to spend some time preparing to paint.  
**Value:** The mini retails for \$9.99 (6 approx) plus shipping. This is good value for the size and detail on the model.  
**Overall:** 9 / 10. Worth buying for the quirkiness and the style, this is a mini well worth the outlay even if your normal bon mot is Space Marines.

### **Cregan Tur**

**Quality:** Highly detailed cast, few mould lines or gate tags. Very unique miniature that creates a tight and well told story  
**Assembly:** Mould lines are small, but care needs to be taken with very fine details. Eyes may need some extra cleanup.  
**Value:** Great value for your money- you're getting a lot of detail and quality for your \$10.  
**Overall:** A lot of creativity and care has been put into this miniature and its very evident. Not only are you getting a great value for your money, but you're also getting a unique story that looks like it would be very fun to paint. It may not be for the gaming crowd, but it could make a great stand-in for certain miniature games, a unique character for D&D, or an eye catching display piece. I'd pick it up even if you only have a passing interest in it. I think you'll be happy with the purchase.



## Profile: War Griffon

**Real Name:** Martyn Dorey

**Alias:** War Griffon

**Website:** [www.modeldisplayproducts.co.uk](http://www.modeldisplayproducts.co.uk)

**Wamp member since:** It first started on EBay Groups but never really participated until it moved sites.

**Bio:** This is where you can all fall asleep...Bald, under tall, Welsh not English and currently retired after spending 34 years in the Royal Navy. I love to cook and haven't poisoned anybody yet but my former trade is Marine Engineering, I love garlic so any recipe involving that normally gets the quantities doubled as it keeps the vampires away apparently!!! I have spent the last year promoting WAMP at shows, taking the display along to shows that will have us and also trying to encourage other WAMP members to turn up and display their work.

Recently I started my own company (see web link) so I have been pulling out my hair in frustration over getting a site online up and running, still not quite there needs a bit more tweaking but it's getting there (hmm, I have heard that before).

**Paint, sculpt or game:** Bit of all really at one time or another, I used to game but got fed up of the arguments so concentrated on collecting and painting instead, until recently I limited my sculpting to filling gaps and blending in but have done a rather nice set of steps and a tree stump that I am very proud of!

**Favourite mini company:** I don't really have a particular favourite they have all produced some nice work over the years and as my interests are so varied and I have figmentia (I am a mini whore) then I will collect a hell of a lot of figures in various scales/sizes.

**Favourite sculpt:** Again because of my interests in the hobby it would be hard to pin it down to a particular figure, guess I am a bit like a gold fish really..."oh look there's a nice castle. Oh look there's a nice castle" type thing but replace castle with miniature/figure!!! There are also some very good independent sculptors out there on the market so the choice of a favourite is impossible in my eyes.

**How long have I been in the hobby?** Jeeze, hold on let me take my shoes and socks off so I can count with my toes as well as my fingers. Hmm give a short break here and there I would say about 36 years. Oh and if you are wondering I am only 18 the fact I have 32 years experience of being 18 has nothing to do with it.

**How often do I visit WAMP:** I really need to get out more I am on WAMP most days when the computer is switched on!

**Best thing about WAMP?** Probably the friendliest forum around but I wish a lot more of you would come along to the shows that WAMP attends and say hello even if you don't bring anything to put on the display.

**Tell us something about you?** Hmm, everything about me I think is boring so trying to choose something isn't easy, how about I was heavily involved with stopping a 4,600 ton Destroyer from sinking off the coast of Australia in July of 2002 or that I ran the MS Challenge 3 times in the forests of Snowdonia and that has to be the hardest event I have ever taken part in, think 10K obstacle course with a wheelchair and passenger who has MS and you will get the picture.



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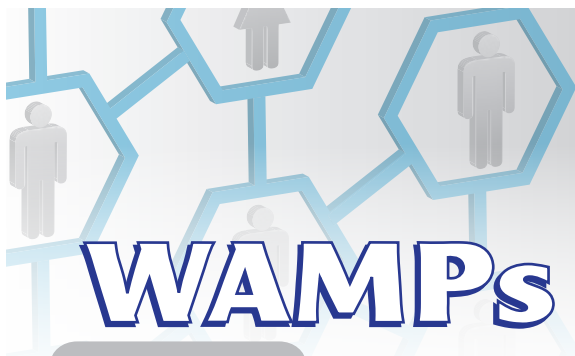
Ladies 'Primed and Ready'

You can now purchase some rather spiffy Wamp merchandise, anything from T-shirts to mugs. Available for Men, Women, Children and even pets!

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Wamps social groups are a feature where you can join likeminded fellow WAMPERS and shoot the breeze about the things that make you tick. This [link](#) will take you to the social group area where you can see what other groups are currently up and give the choice to join in the conversation. If you have an idea for a social group you can always start your own. Below is a small selection of the current crop.

# WAMPs Social Groups



## Waghorn Appreciation Society

For all those people that think Ian can actually paint despite his self-deprecating about his own abilities.

Ian this is your own personal fan group!!

Category: Painting.

Last Activity: 09-06-2011 05:20 PM

28 member(s)

Latest Discussion: Why we love the Wag



## The Bad Guys

This is a group for people who like to play as the bad guys in their miniature games. Or even people

who wish to start playing as bad guys and would like some advice.

Category: Gaming

Last Activity: 21-05-2011 03:19 PM

7 member(s)

Latest Discussion: Show yourselves



## Diorama Discussions

When a simple display base just isn't enough, come here to talk about diorama ideas and get information and advice on creating them. Novices, masters and everyone in between are

welcome here to learn and pass along what they know.

Category: Painting

Last Activity: 09-06-2011 02:59 AM

24 member(s)

Latest Discussion: American Civil War Diorama



## Second handers

Group for those who take unwanted, abused and neglected mini's and create something better.

Category: Uncategorized

Last Activity: 09-06-2011 05:20 PM

10 member(s)

Latest Discussion: Layers, like an onion...



## SE Painters

For anyone in the SE of England, who would like to get together and Paint / Convert, talk about

anything in this great hobby of ours.

Category: Regional Groups

Last Activity: 19-05-2011 09:42 PM

6 member(s)

Latest Discussion: SE Get together



## Virginia Mini Painters

For Mini Painters who are located in or near Virginia, USA to chat about local resources and events, and plan get-togethers.

Category: Painting

Last Activity: Yesterday 01:51 PM

6 member(s)

Latest Discussion: First Meeting - June 4 @ 12:30 pm, Salem Church Library, Spotsylvania

# Latest Releases

## SPYGLASS



Autumn the Sorceress



ALASSAR, BEARER OF THE DRAGON STANDARD



Ulmons, Tarask of Var



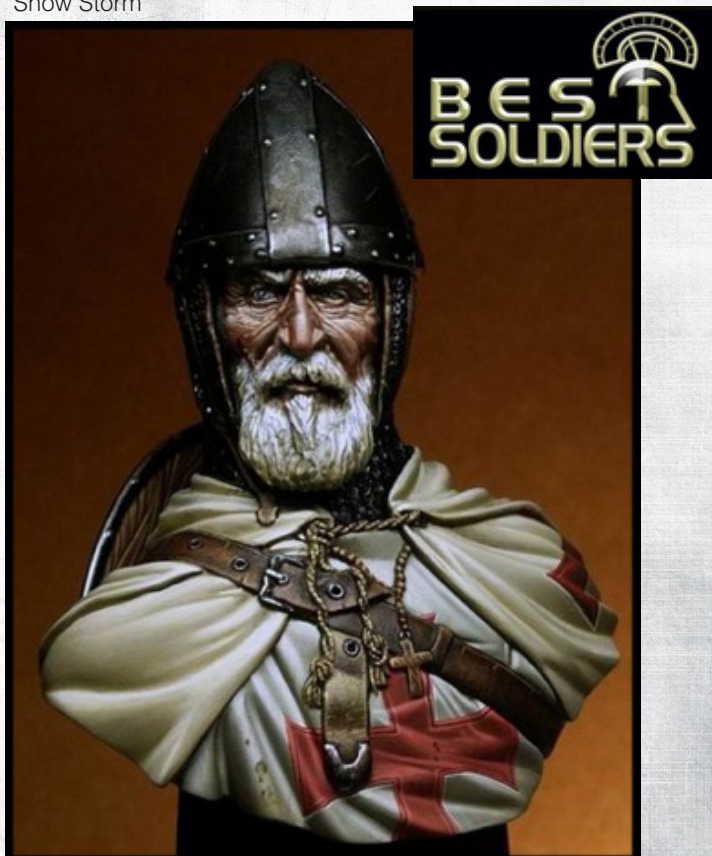


Snow Storm

Wyrd  
MINIATURES



Dead Rider



The Templar Veteran

Jack  
Minnis



The Baroness



U.S. Cavalry Sergeant



Baschi Bazouk

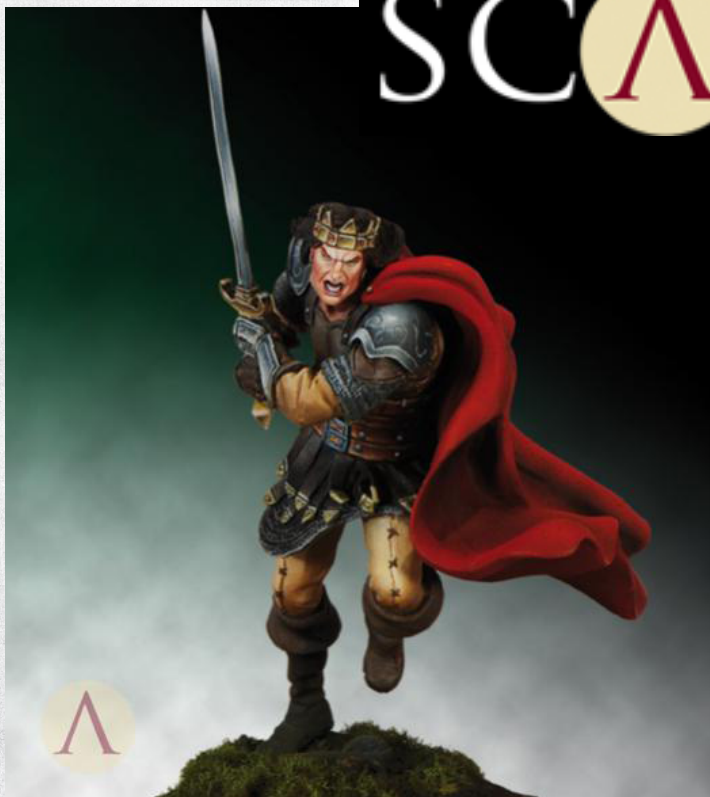


Mongol Khan

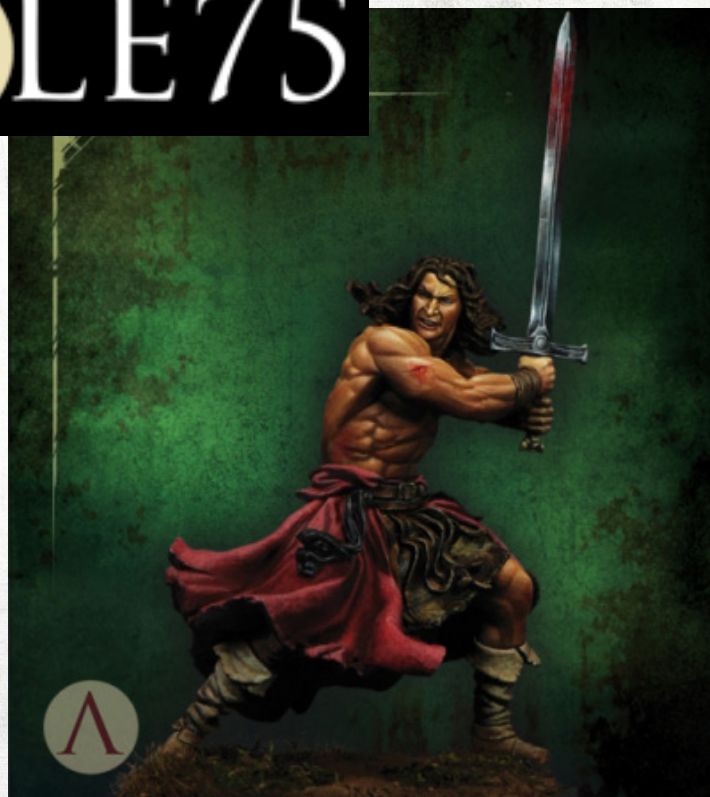


Night Hunter

# SCALE75



KING ARTHUR



THE BARBARIAN

## DARK SWORD MINIATURES, INC.



Fat King Robert



Tywin Lannister



Yes folks another month another contest for your delectation. This time we return to the sponsors of one of last years most popular contests, Warlord Games.

Warlord produce some great 28mm historical miniatures covering pretty much the whole of history so plenty of miniatures to choose from.

Our friends at Warlord have offered up some rather spiffing prizes for our worthy winners.

**The deadline for entries is  
28th July 2011 6pm GMT**  
(Supporters deadline is 31st July 2011 6pm GMT)

## PRIZES

1st Place: £50 Credit @ Warlordgames.co.uk

2nd Place : £25 Credit @ Warlordgames.co.uk

3rd Place: £10 Credit @ Warlordgames.co.uk

And to make things interesting we have an additional 'Warlord Judged' prize.

Warlord will pick their favourite entry that fits the theme 'Charge!' and the recipient will receive a copy of 'Hail Caesar' signed by non other than the man himself Mr Rick Priestly

You may enter a single miniature, diorama full 300 piece battle scene - whatever you like as long as its inherently Warlord Games.

Please make sure you read the rules (especially the new work one!!)

You can visit Warlord Games 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

So there you go folks another fine contest to tempt you with.

Best of luck!

## 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.
- **All entries must be new work.** (New work is defined as any entry not previously displayed on-line in a completed state (You MAY enter pieces which have been shown as a Work In Progress (WIP)).
- You give Wamp and Warlord 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 public vote (except the Warlord Judged prize which will be chosen by Warlord Games).
- Submissions must be posted to the [Warlord Games 2011 Gallery](#)
- Credit is eligible at [www.warlordgames.co.uk](http://www.warlordgames.co.uk)
- You may enter a single miniature, diorama full 300 piece battle scene - whatever you like as long as its inherently Warlord Games.

Please folks make sure you read the rules (especially the new work one!!)



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Battlefield Scenics | Bolt Action Miniatures | and much more...

## Painting Verdigris by Vikotnik

Hi there,  
I still owe WAMP a tutorial about how to make realistic drool (Gee, that sounds awful...) but in the meantime I got asked about how I created a verdigris effect after I posted a WIP around here. Bigmouth that I am, I promised a short tutorial as well. Well, I had already taken the photos, so here goes. This is my first tutorial, so if you have any comments or questions, do not hesitate to drop me a line.



**S**ome years ago I have tried to paint realistic verdigris several times but never really was satisfied with the results. Judging from the response I got, I seem to have pulled it off with the technique I used for quite a while now.

The main principle one has to keep in mind is that on all surfaces, water collects in the recesses where it causes

more oxides than on raised areas. This is why the verdigris always gets lighter in the recesses, like some kind of reversed blending.

This is how the finished scale armour will look once all the colours are applied:



First, I used a black undercoat on the scale armour as I think that this gives a more solid feel to metallics. Plus, one coat of the base colour on top of it usually is enough.



Then, I used Reaper Master Series #09049 Ancient Bronze as a basecoat.



Next, I applied a thinned-down wash of Vallejo Model Colour #70939 Smoke to add some definition to the individual scales and to kill the shine.



I pushed everything in a more greenish direction by using Vallejo Wash #73205 Green Shade on top of that.



I washed the whole area with heavily diluted Vallejo Game Colour #72096 Verigris Glaze that I toned down with Vallejo Game Colour #27 Scurf Green.

You can repeat this step several times, always using slightly lighter mixtures. The paints would have to be thinned down excessively then. You can even consider painting in the highlights in the recesses by hand using your favourite blending technique. Just remember: It always gets lighter towards the recesses.



However, I would only recommend doing this on statues/bronze golems or the like. This is scale mail and I leave it at the point I described above.

The final step would be to paint in some metallic highlights using Reaper Master Series #09049 Ancient Bronze again. Please make sure that you do it in a nicely irregular fashion, suggesting some scratches or the like.

Hope that helped, have fun giving it a go!©

# WAMP 2011

## THE AFTERMATH

**WELL THE DUST IS SETTLING ON OUR FIRST LIVE EVENT AND WHAT AN EVENT WE HAD!**



**WAMP2011 was held at Maelstrom Games excellent 'Eye of the Storm' venue. With a store (full of cracking products at cracking prices!) a bar and gaming areas it has plenty to offer as a venue.**



by  
**Darklord**

**R**egistration opened at 11am and a steady stream of competitors entered their pieces into the contest. It was great to see many pieces in real life after seeing them online. You really can't beat seeing peoples work in the flesh.

While registration was going on there were plenty milling around looking at the entries submitted or catching up with online friends.

Once registration was complete judging could begin. In total there were 99 entries and the standard was fantastic, higher than we anticipated and the range of subject was wide. We had everything from Space Marines, large scale busts, through to comedy dioramas and flats. It really showcased the wide ranging appeal we have on Wamp.



Judging was carried out by a high quality team. Rob Cardiss (Demonherald) was chief judge and created the judging guidelines using his experience as a Golden Demon Winner. We also had Slayer Sword winner Nigel Carmen judging and the final member was Robin Snelson, a highly respected



judge with experience of judging at Euro Militaire and other high class events. Mike & Alison McVey were also due to judge but a last minute emergency meant they couldn't attend but passed on their apologies.

Having such an experienced team of judges and painters meant we gained a very balanced approach to the judging. The system was based around the open system meaning every entry was giving a score with high scorers receiving Gold, Silver or Bronze certificates.

Judging was done to a high standard with some pieces receiving lower awards than they gained at Euro Militaire or Golden Demon.

Around 20 entries were awarded a certificate with only 4 gold's given out, so it really was an achievement to receive something!



Once judging was complete each entry received the actual judging score sheets so competitors could see what the judges thought of their piece. This was widely welcomed by the entrants.

While the judging was going on people took the opportunity to meet and greet with others or to take advantage of the demonstrations taking place. Golden Demon winner Scott Hockley was on hand to give advice and showcase his painting abilities.

The Basement team put on a cracking display with some stunning pieces as well as practical demonstrations of their techniques.





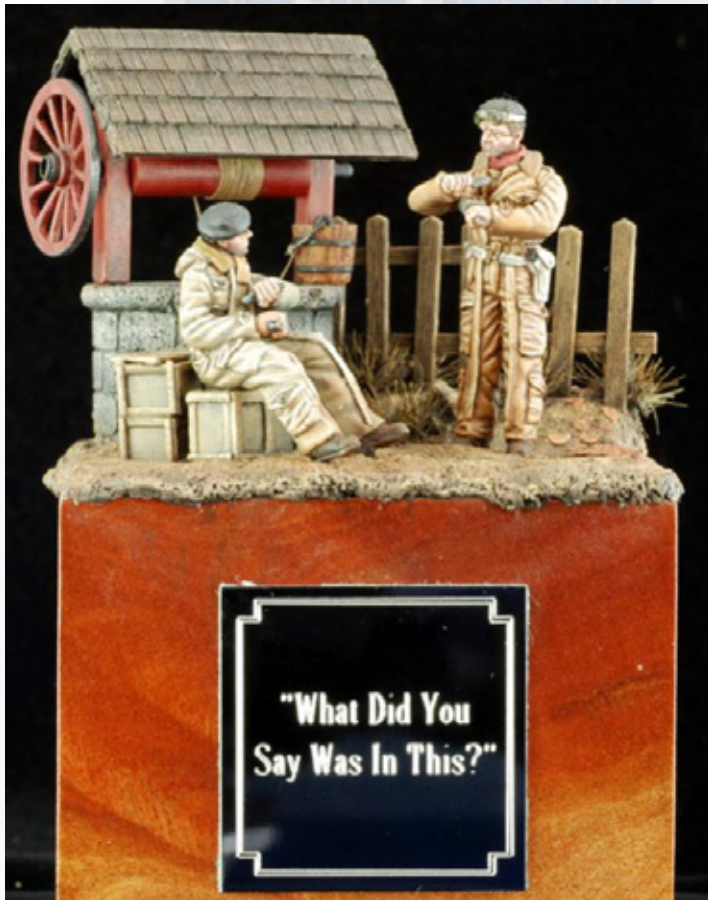
Many attendees welcomed the chance to see work from a slightly different genre than they are often used to.

Most people also took this opportunity to venture out for food or down to the bar or go splash the cash in Maelstrom's store downstairs.

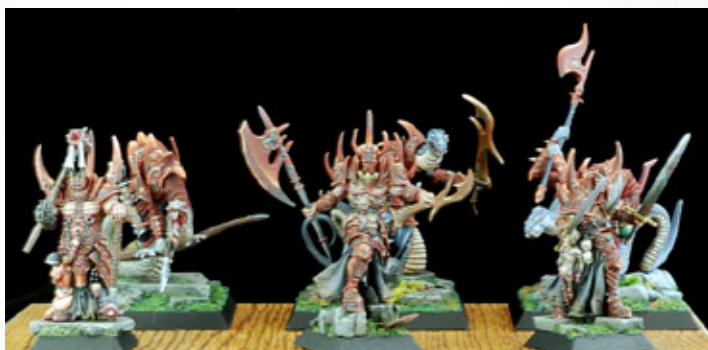
Maelstrom had even put some of their previously unseen Banelegions in the store especially for us. The upcoming releases looked great and it was nice to see the stunning paint jobs first hand.

Once the scores were sorted it was time to present the awards.

The winners were:



Diorama/ Duel - Robert Lane



Group/Unit - Hedley Coppock



Large Scale - Adrian Hopwood



International Online Category - Roman Lappat (Jar)



Single Figure, People's Choice and Best In Show - Scott Hockley (lacton)



Monster Vehicle & Maelstrom BaneLegions Winner - Adam Parkhouse (sparks)

Martyn struggling with the setup.  
Notice the taller people all rushing to help.

The real brains behind the operation



Shut-ap!



(Thanks to Martyn Dorey and Roger Bunting for the images)



Coiled like a spring, waiting for the first mini's to arrive.



All in all it was a well attended contest with a fantastic standard. The general consensus seemed to be of a well liked event which gives me a great basis to build on this for next year.

I already have plans!!

Thank you to everyone that took the time to attend the event, it really means a lot to me. We would also like to thank Soundright PA for providing the sound and video equipment.

For more photos from the event (and every entry!) - [WAMP2011 Photos](#)

Until next year, Brett.

## Wamp Review: Thief of Hearts



Group Review

**Manufacturer**

Dark Sword

**Price**

\$14.99

**Material**

Metal

**Contact**

[www.darkswordminiatures.com](http://www.darkswordminiatures.com)

**Other Information**

Sculpted by Jeff Grace

Quality	8.4
Assembly	8
Value	8.75

Overall Score

# 8.56



### DARKLORD

This miniature has a great feel to it, the long flowing robes, the off centre pose and the out-stretched wings create a dynamism that offer a visual delight. This is another instance of the ability Dark Sword have a habit of producing a piece that will welcome a simple paint job but also reward that extra effort that more advanced painters would enjoy putting into this.

The details are crisp and delicate and these details are reproduced very well in the casting process. Dark Sword are one of the best around and producing good quality sculpts and castings and this continues that reputation. The feathers are crisp, the armour sharp and the face offers a soft focal point to the miniature. The long flowing robes offer a welcoming canvas for colours both subtle and loud.

With a price of around £10 some may consider this more expensive than

similar offerings elsewhere but few others can match the product quality for this price. This is well worth the price in my opinion and isn't too expensive at all..

Overall, I really like this mini, the sculpt is very good and captures a fluidity that is not seen that often in miniatures. The price point is good and anyone that takes the time to paint this will be rewarded handsomely.

### CREGAN TUR

Sometimes subtitles are very dramatic and evocative, but I have to be honest and say that "winged female thief archer" just makes me chuckle a little, even though it is quite accurate. I'm speaking, of course, about Darksword's Thief of Hearts miniature. This figure is exactly what its subtitle proclaims: a lithe and graceful woman in light armor flying away with a sweep of her wings in

the act of firing her bow.

This is a five piece kit all of white metal: the thief's body with an integrate base, both arms, and both wings. This base would be a little bit of a challenge to remove, but it's doable. The wings fit easily into the slots on her back, just be sure to clip off the plain tabs. The arms fit reasonably well on the body, but it's not a perfect fit so expect to do some delicate gap filling. The mold lines are not bad at all on this figure, but some of them are in very awkward places, so beginners may have problems cleaning her up.

There are some great details on this mini. For starters the wings are meticulously detailed- you can clearly see the ridges in each feather. The bow has some delicate scrollwork on it that is echoed on her armor. All of the cloth also flows very nicely, which adds a real sense of movement to this piece. I've said it before, but Darksword seems to understand how to achieve the delicate balance between fine details and open spaces for painters to play with.

There are an awful lot of angelic miniatures available on the market from a number of different companies. Darksword currently has 4 different versions of the Thief of Hearts figure, each with a slightly different pose and a different weapon selection. Here your choice really comes down to what you need; if you want a 28mm angel with a bow instead of a sword, then I highly suggest picking this one up. This figure also ranks very high on the quality scale, which sets it above some of its competitors.

## NETE PETE

Darksword's Thief of Hearts mini has it ups and downs for me.

Good sense of movement to this miniature, the back robes flow to one side and give the this miniature good motion. Its motion that almost tells a story of this mini springing back in a defense reaction as it draws an arrow in its bow. Aided by giant wings such a swoosh could easily be generated. For having such good movement throughout most of the miniature, I was disappointed to see her long hair falling straight down. This sort of breaks the sense of motion to the mini when looking at the face.

The sculpt itself is rather quiet, without being boring. The



entire back is standard looking robes and wings, the front is a scanty armor clad woman that appears to be an elf. The wings are very nice and the individual feathers are crisp. A painter better than myself would look forward to showing these wings off with a nice paint job. It has a big integral base that will hold it upright but creates a bummer for anyone wanting to rebase.

Putting this 5 piece (2 wings, Body, 2 arms) kit will be a bit tricky if you plan on handling it later. The wings aren't pinnable but they do have tabs and holes in the cloak that you can greenstuff in for support. If you choose to not use the wings (as I would) you could fill in the holes pretty easily. The arms are very thin and while the fit on pretty nicely, they would be tough to pin or glue with much support. This would be "handle by base only" type of mini if you planned to use it for your Female Elf rogue archer character named "Cupid-a".

## SHANE ROZZELL

Thief of hearts is not normally a miniature I would look twice at because I never could get my head around high fantasy characters with wings but due to this review I'm mightily tempted to give her a coat of paint. First off she's a pretty big miniature for a 28mm, when assembled she's going to be around 60mm tall due to the dynamics of the pose she in; angled down to her left with her left leg extended and the right bent up. She's poised, having just fired her bow downwards.

Like all the Thief of Hearts miniatures (there are four now with this one being the first in the series) she's sculpted with totally inappropriate armour which I love! And Mr Grace has done a fine job on the fine detail of her breast (?) plate, grieves and boots. She's also wearing a long hooded cloak which is also the part of the miniature that attaches her to the base making removal difficult but not impossible if you're of a mind to make your own.

She comes in four separate pieces, the main body and base; her left arm and bow, and each wing. The arm and bow fit very well but will need a small pin the keep it in place but the wings are a bit of a problem as they are, in my opinion, too thin to get a pin into. Also the lugs on the back of the cloak where they fit are massive, twice the size of what is needed. The only solution would be to glue the wings in situ.

then secure them in place with some Greenstuff sculpted to look like part of her cloak.

The cast quality of Thief of Hearts, like most of the Dark Sword Miniatures, is very nice. The details are sharp and very well defined. The wings are brilliant and there is no pitting what so ever. Mould lines and flash are as one would expect for a high quality metal miniature and are on the whole easy to get to and remove. The only one I foresee a problem with is a small one just above her right hip that goes across the folds of the cloak so some care will be needed there.

## CONCLUSION

The review team all agreed that this is a fine miniature. We have come to expect a high standard of sculpting and casting quality from Dark Sword and this one continues in that vein. The piece has a great flow to it and sense of movement.

It is also one of those rare pieces that seems to reward painters of all skill levels and would equally suit a simple paint job or a fancier one resplendent with freehand and the like. Its appeal is widespread and the price for a miniature of this quality is good. Assembly may be a little tricky but it's nothing that causes a problem, some simple patience will ensure a clean prep. All in all a great mini at a great price. If you get the chance its worth picking on of these up — you won't be disappointed

**Quality:** Another great sculpt and excellent casting from Dark Sword.

**Assembly:** A little patience required but nothing to severe.

**Value:** A fair price for what you get.

**Overall:** A good miniature that will appeal to most - buyers won't be disappointed.



### Darklord

**Quality:** Excellent sculpting and casting once again from Dark Sword.

**Assembly:** May be a little tricky for beginners but nothing too severe.

**Value:** Good value for the product.

**Overall:** A well sculpted, well cast miniature with great aesthetics and a decent price - what's not to like!

### Cregan Tur

**Quality:** Minimal mold lines, very fine, crisp details.

**Assembly:** Some mold lines are hard to reach. Arms are a little tricky to attach and may require fine gap filling.

**Value:** Very good quality kit for the money. On the more expensive side compared to other angel miniatures available.

**Overall:** There's a lot to like about this figure: flowing lines, open areas, and fine details. Assembly will take some effort, but if you're patient you'll have a great figure that will be a lot of fun to paint.

### NetePete

**Quality:** Few mold lines and crisp understated detail, very nice feathered wings, droopy hair is a big drawback for me.

**Assembly:** Would be very challenging for a beginner to assemble and game with later with much success.

**Value:** Not over priced for a fine multi piece kit.





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 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, it's all welcomed from everyone.

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

## PINNING

Pinning is a technique that uses a stiff rod or wire inserted into two adjoining parts of a miniature to create a strong bond between them. It is particularly useful for large metal assembly where the weight of parts can be too much for a simple glued joint. Pinning these joints helps keep the piece together. It is also used to attach a [miniature](#) to its [base](#).

Brass rod is sometimes used though many people will actually just use a paper clip.

To pin a piece requires two holes to be drilled using a [pin vise](#) or something similar. The holes must be drilled so they align with each other. Once drilled the rod is glued into one of the holes and then once dry glue is applied to the other end of the pin and to the join surface and the two pieces are firmly pressed together. In some cases double pinning is done to form an even stronger bond or to help prevent lateral movement.

## BASECOAT

A "basecoat" is the term given to the coat of paint added after the [primer](#) coat. It is usually applied by [paintbrush](#), although an [airbrush](#) can also be used, especially when the basecoat will be applied to an entire model or to a majority of a large model. The basecoat lays down the [key colour](#) of the selected area. The typical approach, following priming, is to apply a [midtone](#) as a basecoat and then add [highlights](#) and [shading](#) to create [contrast](#) by using lighter and darker variations of the midtone.

### TECHNIQUES

There are three techniques of applying basecoat, assuming one is using a [paintbrush](#). One can either work by colour, by model or by zone, with the choice reflecting the amount of time and focus one intends to put into the work in each case.

Applying basecoat by colour is used when one is [batch painting](#). Every part of each model in the batch that will be painted in the [key colour](#) has that colour applied to it, with the painter applying that single colour to each miniature in turn until all are done. The painter then moves on to the next key colour and begins again with the first miniature.

Applying basecoat by model is used when one is focussing on a single model, but not necessarily aiming to paint it to the best possible standard. The painting technique is the same as when basecoating by colour, but once one has finished applying one [key colour](#) to the model in hand, one immediately begins applying the second [key colour](#) to the same model.

Applying basecoat by zone is the most time-consuming painting technique, used when painting models to the highest standard. The painter first defines the zones that comprise the model. These may be defined by material (flesh, chainmail, hair, wood, leather etc) or by location on the miniature (face, shield, boots, breastplate etc). In each case, the painter not only basecoats that zone but also [shading](#) and [highlighting](#) the zone in question, taking it to or almost to a completely finished state before moving on to the next zone.

In all cases, the best basecoat is one that is a single, flat colour without streaks, bumps or deviations in colour. As with almost all paint, a basecoat should be applied with a [dilution](#) consistency so that two, three or even more coats may be required to complete the perfect basecoat. The best paints to use for basecoating are those with the highest pigment content, of which the paramount example at time of writing is the [Citadel Colour Foundation Paints](#) range.

Legend

[Link to page](#)

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# Gallery

Ever since I saw the chimera model for the first time, and Ben Komet's fantastic paintjob (which is far better in person!), I knew I'd want to paint this model at some point. After an impulse eBay buy, I'd ended up with one! I have to thank the people involved at WAMP and Maelstrom for actually giving me the motivation to finish the model within three months of owning it, which is a rare thing in my painting!

The main painting started a month before the WAMP 2011 event. I had also purchased two smaller models for the comp in case all else failed on the big beastie! I didn't want to produce a carbon copy of the original paintjob, so I asked on PB for help initially, before opening it up on WAMP as well after I had started making progress. In the end, two things were decided after some discussion. One, I would be trying a grey/white undercoat (I'm usually pretty adamant on black undercoats!), and two I would be trying out a complimentary scheme with a common highlight colour to (hopefully) tie it all together and try and keep the components coherent.

In real terms, this meant using P3's Hammerhead Khaki as the 'neutral' colour, with GW Scaly Green and Vallejo Model Red as my complimentary colours. I was advised to mix the two for my first shading, and also to create a neutral brown for the



goat's head. In the end, this seemed to work really well. I started with the dragon's head, as it gave me the greatest opportunity to practice the red scheme and the khaki highlights. The scorpion sections came next,

as they would also be the most experimental.

After I'd played around a little with shading/highlight colours (and posting for feedback of course!), I then tackled the lion's head as a bit of a reward (it's my favourite part of the model by far!), which really paid off and made me think finishing it to a high standard was an achievable goal. The week before the competition was a bit of a mad dash, leading to a couple of almost sleepless nights (yay for half term!).

The base was a tricky concept, and I continually toyed with various ideas (waterfalls, three 'stripes' of terrain to match the beasts, etc). However, I'm happy with it as it stands with enough variety on there to provide some interest, and what I hope is a fairly even transition from rocky mountain to forest floor. Finally came the big day at WAMP, where I saw some great models and got a lot of nice comments on the model. I'm still shocked that I managed one, let alone two first places with it, and I've certainly learnt a lot along the way. If you check out my WIP thread, I should be doing an extended debrief of what I've learned during the process in a week or so. Massive thanks to all at PB and to War Griffon for the pics and Captain Sprout (most dedicated poster in the WIP thread!), and to all that have enjoyed the journey from start to finish!



Terror of Fortriu: Winner Banelegions Contest by Sparks

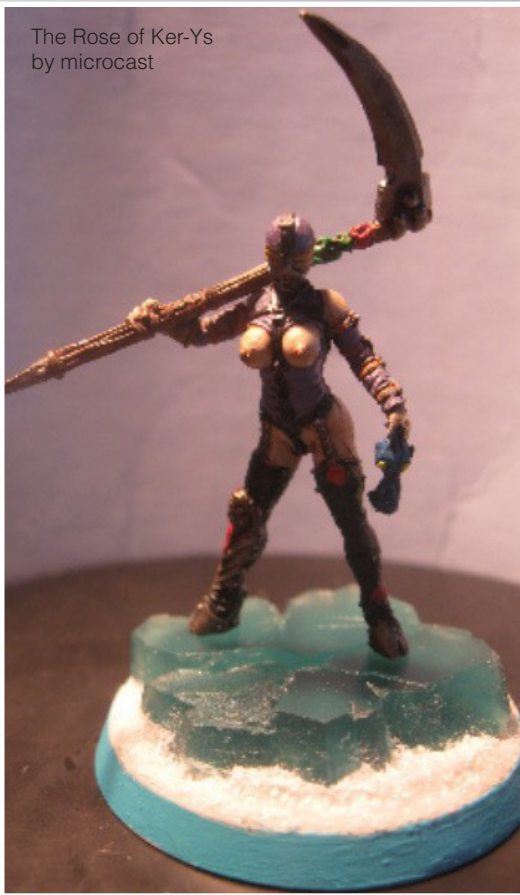
Terror of Fortriu: 2nd, Banelegions Contest  
by Nectron\_99



Hell hath no fury like a.....  
by shanerozzell



The Rose of Ker-Ys  
by microcast



Scott's Bane Lord: 3rd, Banelegions Contest  
by ScottRadom





Ulric the Defiler  
by Oni



Games Day Chaos Champion  
by Darklord



Slaanesh!!!  
by amon chakai



The Rose of Ker-Ys  
by Necron\_99



Vagrant Knight  
by NetePete



Erec returns to where 'it' happened  
by megazord\_man



Khorne Lord on Juggernaut  
by kdlynch



Strohm, Earth Sorcerer  
by piratemama

Female Cyborg Warrior  
by lacton



Cygnar Centurion Heavy Warjack (Repose and Conversion)  
by Ghool

Bishop  
by lacton



Vlad  
by earthpig23



Iron Guard Scrunts  
by Bob Olley



Caliphate Infantry  
by killshot



Little Princess  
by Sleipnir



Anima Tactics Celia  
by Paintgrot

Ariadna Squad  
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Threadomancy is where we look at some of the most interesting and helpful post from the recent past.

# Threadomancy

## WASHING BRUSHES

### Darklord:

Sounds a bit daft but I have trouble getting my brush clean in between coats. I dont mean using brush soap but rinsing the brush in water - I always seem to still have paint on the brush even after several rinses and wiping onto kitchen roll.

Any tips?

### Cregan Tur:

The last time I had that happen I ended up replacing the brush, but then again it was an old brush I had been using for a long time.

Use some regular hand or dish soap on it to clean it and see if that fixes the problem. If not, and if brush soap doesn't solve this issue, then it's time to replace.

### Orki:

After brush soap comes thinners. You can rejuvenate brushes that are in a right state (as it's usually because of crusted up paint in the ferrule).

Give the tips a soak in cellulose thinners (dont get it on the handle as it will strip that too!), followed by a liquid soap wash, then hair conditioner. Works a treat. :)

### Darklord:

its not dried paint (as its the colour just used) I can clean them fine with brush soap - its just the water rinses in-between - I guess I need to just swish more!!

### shanerozzell:

I suppose bristles, like hair, gets fractured. I have heard some people use hair conditioner on their brushes to stop this happening.

### Synthet:

I use to have the same problem, but I have started to use a small drop of dish soap in my water (don't know if it's bad for my brushes, but it works) and now it's almost never a problem.

### Orki:

Nah, it's all good mate. Liquid soaps and detergents act as a surfactant and so will help provide a more even deposit of pigment when painting with it too. :)

### Captain Sprout:

I like a couple of cups, one to keep my colours having a bit of harmony for mixing so I don't change it and one for swishing that I change more often, that way like CT I find the brushes clean up more effectively mid session.

## TABLE TOP LIGHTING SUGGESTIONS

### Belnor:

Hi, all:

I would like to know what you guys and gals have for your lighting set up in your painting stations, which bulbs you use, and why to help me get started on the proper foot. If it isn't too much trouble, feel free to upload a few photos of your painting station with the light setup in active use. Thanks so much! Can't wait to prime this new Pathfinder miniature! Bel. :)

### Valloa:

I use two little table lamps, one on either side of me. (My little sculpting desk has one overhead too, but my painting desk can't fit one) I currently use the GE Daylight bulbs in the blue "cool natural light packs". I like how clear things look with those to me and most importantly, those do not give me migraines like anything in the warm spectrum bulb wise does. You can also find some pics of people's light set ups in the "[post your workspace](#)" thread. :)

### kdlynch:

I use two swivel desk lamps and 1 gooseneck clip-on at my desk here, and have another 2 gooseneck clip-ons I take with me to the FLGS. All 3 goosenecks (but not the 2 swivels) are used for photos. All 5 lamps have GE 6500K daylight bulbs in them. I use the 26w ones (which are equivalent to 100w 'normal' light bulbs). I get them at walmart in the US, but they can be found pretty much anywhere that stocks a variety of light bulbs (lowe's, home depot, etc, as US examples).

### Captain Sprout:

I use two of these [lamps](#) with a daylight bulb in each. I use the spiral energy saving daylight bulbs which are meant for photography use and have a 5000k value. I find the blue ones have an odd tinge for me (but I think these things are pretty individual). I had two different lamps and now find having two the same makes a big difference, more balanced and less glare from one side. You can see the light I get as a result in the dirt cheap lightbox thread [here](#).

## PAINTING SCARS?

### shanerozzell:

Hi all. I'm going to starting a bust of a dwarf soon. In fact this [one](#) and as you can see he has some old scars and I was wonder if anyone had any good tips for doing these?

Thanks in advance.

### ScottRodom:

I'm curios too! I have a couple mini's I'd like to try some scar work on as well. Cool Bust Shane!

### seasonman:

I'd also like to know the best way too. Nice Plinths both of them . Shane . . I could not find anything online directly tied into this question . sorry . ! Maybe you'll have better luck . Are the plinths your own? please.

### lizcam:

I think it would be about the same as painting a bruise. Lay down a dark pink and shade it and then go over the top with VERY diluted skin tone to make it look older. [Here's](#) my artical on Cmon on painting bruises. I think you can adapt it to scars. It's similar to tatoos and painting viens under the skin. The thing to remember is to make the under coat darker than you want it to be and keep the over-coat very very thin and apply several layers. Of course you could go for shock factor and paint it as a fresh cut.

### Orki:

I've got a pic around [here](#) somewhere thats relevant to this... Ang on...

The scar tissue is just a bit of transparent purp (leviathon purple in this case) over the scar, and then some trans red around it to make it look sore (baal red). Easy peasy. :) Edit - Or was it red over scar then purp around it? lol :D (Either way theres a bit of bb/rr on top of the scar too)) For things like the pustules, I applied the same red glazes around them to look sore, and a bit of rotting flesh highlighted with bleached bone to get the pus tones. Edit - Oh, yeah - The bruising is just purp moving into black (glazed again).

### shanerozzell:

The plinths I use are all supplied by MDP. They're a new company and to be honest the MD is a bit grumpy but he's not a bad sort (*cough it's War Griffon cough*)

# Whats in issue 12?

In issue 12 we'll be one year old so help us celebrate by continuing to make Portal the best magazine dedicated to Miniature Painting. Also we have more great tutorials, reviews & news.

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

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