

Painting a -LATE WAR- Tan Water Pattern



After painting a splinter pattern (see article splinter pattern), the next challenge is to paint a tan water pattern on my Late War German paratroopers. The big question is do we paint the rain drop of the Tan pattern or not?



The colors I have used for the figures are:

All references given are from the excellent Vallejo's paint range.



Helmet:

 896 Extra Dark Green




Pants:

 980 Black green for base
 920 German Uniform for main color

Cap and coat:

 816 Luftwaffe Uniform
 903 Intermediate Blue for highlight

Tan Water camouflage:

 823 Luftwaffe green camouflage
 824 German camouflage orange ochre
 846 Mahogany brown

As I have explained in the article on base coat comparison, I find that most of the time it is easier and nicer to work with a dark brown base coat.

Here is the base I am going to work with. I have painted before the camouflage all the equipment for aesthetic purposes. By the way, the soldier leaning forward is carrying a Late war copy of a Sten machinegun which I found totally cool.



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Although it is completely counter intuitive, I strongly suggest covering the uniform with 823 Luftwaffe green camouflage first. The overall effect will be better than starting with the lighter color.



Next, the color I really like is 824 German camouflage orange ochre. You will notice that this color is slightly transparent and don't have a strong coverage. Don't worry, transparency is your friend! Indeed, it will render perfectly the blurring of the rain patterns drawn on the smock. Paint horizontal zigzagging and continuing bands that do not cross, letting appear thin bands of green.

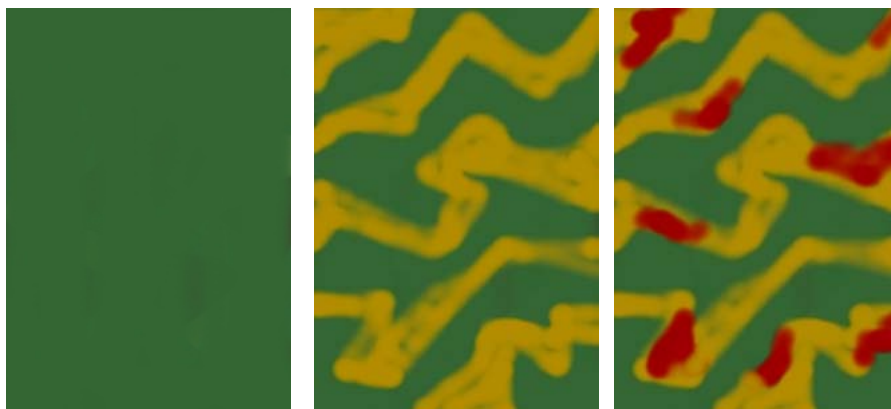


Next and final step is to paint, within only the 25% of yellow area, small patches of 846 Mahogany brown



To recap briefly: paint green, yellow bands, very few red/brown patches.

The yellow bands should be at most 2mm wide. I have exaggerated the size of the picture; however, at 1/100 scale this will look like super realistic Tan Water pattern.



So, do we paint rain drops for the Tan Water camouflage? It is just not worth the time... mostly if a better effect can be achieved.

Have a bit faith, fun and see for yourself.

Giles