

Quick Guide to Painting Japanese

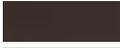
OK, for these guys, I don't have specific recommendations. Finding accurate references for the Japanese is extremely difficult. Couple this with the fact that, as the war went on, the Japanese uniforms tended to be made of very different fabric and quality. Then, anything goes...

What I really suggest is to go with what you like most for your troops, and what you think is your idea of Japanese uniform. I frankly admit it's the best I can come up with at the moment. I went with what looks good (to me) rather than what it should be. For instance, you may have yellowish helmets, but I didn't like it on the figures, so I chose the green option...

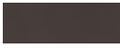
UPDATED 9th of January 2006: I have discussed the matter with a Japanese figure modeler, a top guy (master level) and specialist of the Japanese Imperial army. He reviewed the figures and gave me a few observations that I have included below. The original colors I have used weren't so much off, but the helmets mostly should be brownish rather than green. For the rest, it seems I was pretty much spot on and he could even point the places where the vegetation on each stand could be found!

To sum up: I have tried many different colors for the uniforms (I have all the paints in the Vallejo range). You can go for different colors for the uniforms that I think work quite well:

Variant 1 (dark beige) This variant works mostly for mainland China campaign

	822 German Cam Black Brown	Figure base coat
	880 Khaki grey	Uniform - you can highlight adding white

Variant 2 (Yellow/Greenish, the one I used for the figures) this is the one you should use for combat against US troops in the Island hopping campaign.

	872 Chocolate Brown	Figure base coat
	882 Middle Stone	Uniform - you can highlight adding white

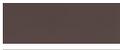
Variant 3 (Yellowish) this is the color you should use for Malaysia, all the other front, etc...

	872 Chocolate Brown	Figure base coat
	914 Green Ochre	Uniform - you can highlight adding white



NOTE: *Do not use the bottle called "923 Japanese Uniform", its way off, it has nothing but the name linked to Japanese uniform...*

Equipment

	875 Beige Brown	Leather equipment and shoe highlight
	921 British Uniform	Helmet
	884 Stone Grey	Canvas Equipment

Important note: the colors in the square don't represent accurately the actual paint color. They are provided as described in Vallejo's colors chart. Please, do not use what you see on the screen as an indication for color as it may differ from the actual one.

As a conclusion, I'd say that I went into this project a bit blindly. Finding info here and there, having access to only very few documents. In the end, after discussing the matter with some Japanese specialist of the Imperial army, the colors turned out to be a good match! Besides of course the helmet that I initially painted in green, while they really should be brown Khaki... Not too bad. I suppose this make this painting guide a good sort of "certified" reference. Of course, I'm always open to remarks and comments, and ready to learn more.

Happy Painting,

Giles aka Tilfast.