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Step-by-Step Finishing German Armor

**2nd SS Das Reich
I./SS.Art.Regt. 2
Sd.Kfz. 165 Hummel**

By Glenn Bartolotti



Step-by-step guide to painting and finishing WWII German Armor

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A complete easy to follow step-by-step
guide to painting and finishing WWII
German Armor



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Materials Used

The materials I use are very easy to obtain and simple to use. Most are inexpensive and found at most all art supply stores.

Over the years I have learned to use these basic materials to obtain finishes that look very realistic. **Consistency** is very important and following each step is very important to obtain the desired finish.

You will notice that in none of the steps will you see the method of dry-brushing. I do not like to use this method as some armor modelers do. I prefer a more subtle look in which I feel represents the look of a full scale armor vehicle.

The materials below were used to finish the 1 model in this volume.

Mr Surfacer 500

Orderless Turpentine

Micro Sol Decal setting solution

1 each No. 3 round paint brush

1 each No. 0 round paint brush

1 each No. 1 flat paint brush

1 can generic flat grey spray primer

1 can Testors Model Master gloss spray

1 can Testors Model Master lusterless flat spray

Testors Model Master flat enamel paints-colors specified in text

Testors Model Master airbrush thinner

Single action airbrush

Model Color Vellejo acrylic paint

Brown

Black

Armor Yellow

Red Brown

Artist oil paint

Black, White

Raw Umber

Burnt Sienna

Pastel Sticks

Yellow Ochre

Raw Umber

Rust

Olive Green

No. 2 Pencil



**Note: Materials used for painting and weathering only.
The figure seen in some of the photos used more
paint colors than listed above.**

Sd.Kfz. 165 Hummel

Das Reich was an important key to the defense of France since its 209 tanks and assault guns formed fully one tenth of the German armored forces in France. 2nd SS would be relied upon to strike swiftly when the Allies landed on French soil. However, much to the chagrin of Rommel and others, Das Reich was placed some 450 miles from the northern French coastline, which is where most agreed the Allied invasion would occur.

Throughout April and May, Das Reich trained in the countryside surrounding Montauban. The raw recruits began to resemble fighting men. Das Reich was seriously lacking in motorized transport for its infantry regiments, but the men of Das Reich tried to make due with what they had. Training was constantly disrupted by harassing Resistance fighters and Das Reich spent considerable time and resources pursuing these partisans. In mid May, Das Reich received orders to begin a reconnaissance of the local railway and road systems in preparation for a move northward. It was also at this time that Das Reich received Panther tanks and Panzer IV's to bolster the tank regiment. This influx of vehicles brought Das Reich up to near full strength. In addition, Das Reich had a full complement of Sturmgeschützen and both Panzergrenadier regiments were at full strength.



When the Allies landed in Normandy, Das Reich's Pz.Rgt. was commanded by Ostufaf. Tychsen, its 1st Abt. c/o Stufaf. Rudolf Enseling, its 2nd Abt. c/o Stufaf. Kesten. It travelled from Toulouse area in SW France, arriving SW of Caen in late June. Taken from reserve during the first week in July, its strength

was 26 Panthers in the 1st Abt. and 50 Pz.IV's in the 2nd Abt. The 5th and 7th Pz. Companies were attached to the 17th SS Pz-Grn. Div. along the Periers to Carentan road, the 6th Pz. company attached to I "Deutschland", the rest of the Pz.Rgt. positioned south of Sainteny.



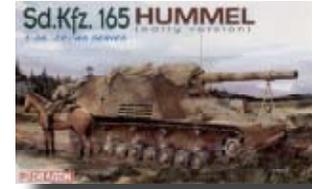
July 31, 1944, GIs inspect knocked-out German armored vehicles in the vicinity of St Denis-le-Gast (Normandy).

The vehicles: a Sdkfz 251 and Hummel of the 1 Abteilung of the SS-Panzer Artillery-Regt 2, of the 2 SS-Pz Div "Das Reich". The Hummel 15 cm Pz.Haubitze auf Gw. III/IV., registered 110 has been baptised "Clausewitz" by it's crew.

1



1. The **kit** used is the Sd.Kfz.165 Hummel (Early Version), from Dragon/DML Kit #6204. It was built stock out of the box. Mr Surfacer 500 was used to fill any open seams and add some texture to the armor in some spots.



2



2. The model is given a **primer coat** to cover and protect the photo etch parts and give the model a good base to start the paint process. I use a basic spray can primer that can be purchased at the local home store. This primer coat makes painting the steps much easier because you get a smooth coat of color to allow you to see all the areas that will be needed to be painted in the steps used to shade and high light the model.



Flat White

Available as:
→ Flat White FS37875 - 1/2 oz. Bottle
SKU# 1768 Price: USD\$ 3.29



Flat Black

Available as:
→ Flat Black FS37038 - 1/2 oz. Bottle
SKU# 1749 Price: USD\$ 3.29
→ Flat Black FS37038 - 3 oz. Spray Can
SKU# 1949 Price: USD\$ 5.49



Panzer Olivgrun '43

Available as:
→ Panzer Olivgrun 1943 (F) MM - 1/2 oz. Bottle
SKU# 2097 Price: USD\$ 3.29



Burnt Umber

Available as:
→ Burnt Umber (F) MM - 1/2 oz. Bottle
SKU# 2005 Price: USD\$ 3.29



Burnt Sienna

Available as:
→ Burnt Sienna (F) MM - 1/2 oz. Bottle
SKU# 2007 Price: USD\$ 3.29



Afrika Braun '42

Available as:
→ Afrika Braun '42 RAL8020 (F) MM - 1/2 oz. Bottle
SKU# 2102 Price: USD\$ 3.29

The **paint** that will be used to airbrush the model will be Testors Model Master enamel paint. http://www.testors.com/category/135232/Model_Master



3. The first step in the painting process is the **pre-shade** this is the darkest shadow color. Burnt Umber is used in this step. What you are trying to achieve in this is to make sure any areas that your light source cannot hit is painted. You are for the most part adding artificial shadows. All the recesses, corners, tracks, and under objects that stand off the tank. It is also best achieved in some areas by painting the areas from under the tank as to just paint under the objects.



4. Next step in the painting process is the **base coat** this is the main color. Afrika Braun is used in this step. This paint is used as I feel it is a better shade than Dunkelgelb because the later high-lighting and weathering processes will change its shade anyway. What you are trying to achieve in this step is to make sure you cover the areas that were not painted in the pre-shade painting. As you can see you don't have to worry about being perfect just make sure you can see the shadow for the most part and a blending effect is achieved.



5. Next step in the painting process is the **high-light**. This is the main color, Afrika Braun mixed with Flat White, mix 3/1 to lighten the base color. You want to add enough white to alter the base color and contrast is important in this step. What you are trying to achieve is to make sure any areas of your light source can hit is painted. This step will bring out your tank's details. Paint all the high spots, centers of any panels and the tops of objects that stand off the tank. Once again contrast is important!



6

6. Next step in the painting process is the **1st camo color**. After studying the reference and enlarging it in Photoshop I concluded that the camo looks to be a hard edge hand painted scheme. I first sketch out the pattern with a pencil. In most B/W photos red looks darkest so I am now hand painting this shade inside the green pattern. Using Burnt Sienna is a color I like for (Rotbraun). I use a #1 flat brush. In this step it is important that your base coat has dried for 24 hours minimum.



7

7. Next step in the painting process is the **2nd camo color**. Olivgrun is the green shade of the camo pattern. With the Burnt Sienna dry the Green camo is hand painted on using a #3/0 round brush.

Of note: the hand painting can be done using acrylic paint of the same colors. Acrylics brush on with a very smooth finish and for most are much easier to hand paint.



8

8. After the Camo has dried completely the next step in the painting process is the **fading**. Fading helps tie the colors together, tone down the colors and get the tank the look that it has been in the elements. Afrika Braun mixed down with Testors airbrush thinner 10/1 are used for this. Set your airbrush at a high pressure so it almost dries after contact, making passes over the entire model, tracks and all. The more passes you make the more it will fade the paint. This step really ties things together and smooths out the hand painting!

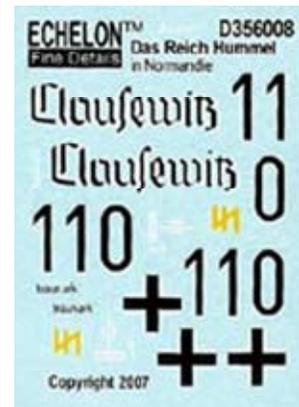
9



9. The model is now given a Testors clear gloss coat only in the areas that the **decals** will be applied. I am using Echelon™ Decal set No. D356008 “Das Reich Hummel in Normandy”

<http://pachome1.pacific.net.sg/~kriegsketten/>

Micro Sol is used to set the decals. When dry spray the entire tank with Testors clear flat. Let dry for a 24 hours or more.



10



10. Next step in the painting process is the **tools and equipment** I paint all tools and equipment on the tank before final weathering. In painting these items study the way metal and wood looks in real life and add the colors into your paint to really get a good contrasting look and make sure you use various colors and shade as you can in each item. Most important don't paint items just one color or shade. I use acrylic paint but any paint you are comfortable with will work. The metal items are painted in dark shades, they will be treated with a metallic finish later.



11



11. Next step is the **wash**. First I brush the model with clean turpentine. I put a dab of raw umber oil paint on a pallet, the oil paint is thinned with turpentine on the pallet and then applied to the model with a small brush. I do not want the wash to coat the entire model, it is controlled just where I want it. This is called a pin wash, apply to all of the surface details to create false shadows around each one, and any excess wash is blended into the surrounding surface once dry. I streak it down the sides like it would naturally, but care should be taken not to overdo this...be subtle.

Note the difference in the left side without the wash and right side with wash.



12



12. Once the body of the tank's wash has dried it is turned on its side and the road wheels are given a wash. It is put on its side so the wash stays around the bolts and details not allowing the wash to drain down to the bottom of the wheels only. This gives all the wheels a even effect all around.

13



13. Next step is the **effects**. I use heavily thinned white artist oil paint to give flat areas of the tank a look as though water that has mixed with dust and dried on the surface. I paint the area with clean turpentine as before. I put a dab of white oil paint on a pallet, the oil paint is thinned with turpentine on the pallet and then applied to the model with a small brush. Blend well and be very subtle. Other earth shade oil colors can be used in this step as well as blue and yellow to add other transparent glaze weathering effects. Note the paint has been blended in on the right.

14

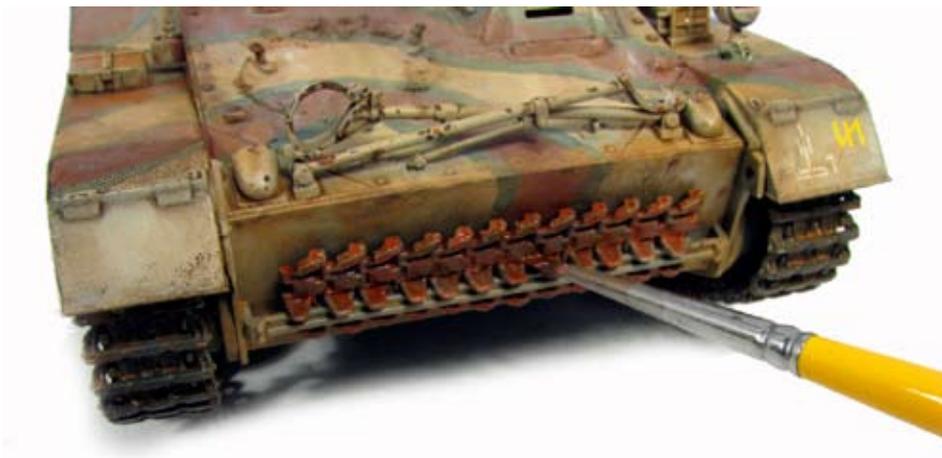


14. Next step in the weathering process are the **paint chips & scratches**. I add chipped paint with raw umber oil paint and a small no. 00 brush. The key to chips are make them small and without any pattern, keeping them on the most abused edges and damaged areas. On older damaged areas first paint the chip with burnt sienna, then add the raw umber inside the chip so the sienna borders the umber. Use common sense and remember that less is more with chipped/worn areas, and think very small!



15

15. Next step is **pastel pigment weathering**. I use pastels in the same way you use pigments, but I make my own powder. The pastels are \$1.00 a stick at the art store and come in a large variety of shades. I use a file to grind them into powder. I mix them with turpentine on a pallet and apply them with a brush. The tracks get a earth color thinned heavily with turpentine. **Make sure you thin the powder heavily because if not it will dry and cover to much of the tracks, a little goes a long way!** Apply some of this mixture to the road wheels as well. Add some touches to the lower areas of the tank and surfaces that may get dirt in the recesses.



The spare tracks and muffler get the same mixture of pastel powder.

The spare tracks get pastel washes using shades of rust, and olive green pastel powder. Apply the rust shade first and then add blotches of the brown or olive after. When the wash dries it is quite convincing giving a good representation of weathered iron.



16



16. Next step is **metal accents** I use a no. 2 graphite pencil to add the metal accents to the raised parts of the tracks. I also add this to the areas you can see on the drive sprocket teeth.



The pencil is also used on the **Gun**. Just highlight the edges and not the entire metal area.

17



17. Last the **road wheels** are given a wash of black oil paint thinned with turpentine. The wash works well because stark black rubber is not realistic. Notice the wheel on the left that has received the wash. This thin wash allows some of the weathering tone to show though. Touch what you can see of the inner road wheel.

Finished Model







Tamiya figure with a Alpine head.

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Vol. 6

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Step-by-Step Simple Figure Conversions

By Glenn Bartolotti



A complete step-by-step guide to painting and finishing WWII German Armor



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