

Waterloo French Dragoons



In Wi408 Marc guided you through painting your British free frames. If you got the French, then this is the article for you!

To provide a counterpart to the British step-by-step I already wrote in the magazine, here is a guide to painting your French Dragoons. I started by painting the horse with an airbrush, but all the steps can be followed using a bristle brush instead.



1) Getting started: The start is very much the same as with the British; prime the figure black and apply a zenithal highlight using white. If you don't have an airbrush, you can drybrush the white from above to build up a similar effect. This zenithal highlighting will guide you in the rest of your painting.



2) Creating shadow on the horse: Approaching the horse slightly differently to the British one, apply shadow to the underside of the horse with an airbrush. Use Liquitex Muted Violet ink, thinned with water at a ratio of 1:3. Keep your airbrush blasts short and controlled and your pressure low and you'll manage to keep the spray controlled even on a figure as small as this one.



3) Toning the horse: Using the airbrush again, apply thinned Liquitex Burnt Umber ink, thinned with water at a ratio of 1:3. Cover the whole body of the horse, including the shadow areas. Apply a second coat to intensify the colour after waiting for the first coat to fully dry.



4) Texturing the horse's coat: Use slightly thinned Scalecolor Orange Leather to stipple on highlights. Focus on around the eyes, nose, tops of muscles, and so on to build interest and volume in the painting.

5) **Blocking in the colour:** This is the big step, where the basecoat colours are blocked in.

Use the following to match my scheme:

1 - Jacket, Saddle cloth, and Valise: Vallejo Model Color German C. Extra Dark Green, thinned with water at a ratio of 3:1.

2 - Metallic areas like the sword: Scalecolor Thrash Metal, thinned with water at a ratio of 3:1. Two coats will be required.

3 - Carbine and brown leather aspects, such as the reins: Vallejo Model Color Leather Brown, thinned with water at a ratio of 3:1.

4 - Skin: Scalecolor Harvester Flesh, thinned with water at a ratio of 1:1. This will cover very lightly, using the zenithal preshading to add depth and highlights.

5 - Helmet and rifle butt: Vallejo Model Color Brass, thinned with water at a ratio of 2:1.

6 - Trousers/Overalls, saddle cloth trim, and girdle: Vallejo Model Color Blue Grey Pale, thinned with water at a ratio of 2:1.

7 - Saddle: Vallejo Model Color German C, Beige WWII, thinned with water at a ratio of 2:1.

8 - Helmet plume, pouches, horse hooves, hair of the rider, and boots: Vallejo Model Color Black, thinned with water at a ratio of 2:1.

9 - Saddle trim and jacket cuffs: Vallejo Model Color Flat Red.



6) **Creating shadow and depth:** Vallejo Game Wash Black should be carefully applied over the sword, leather, the mane and tail of the horse, and deepest recesses of the miniature. Game Ink Skin Wash, thinned with water at a ratio of 3:1, shades the brass and skin areas.



7) **Highlighting the rider and mount:** To keep this simple I mixed one drop of AK Pastel Yellow with each of the non-metallic basecoat colours used. I use a wet palette when I paint so they were all still wet and ready to use. These mixes were stippled and edge highlighted on the raised aspects of the miniature.



8) **Adding further emphasis:** To make the raised areas pop even further, such as the top of the rider's shoulders and apex of the horse mane, I carefully applied a highlight using AK Pastel Yellow. This was applied in a limited fashion, as heavy use could make such a small miniature appear washed out.



9) **Painting white:** Vallejo Model Color Off White is used to paint the band around the saddle cloth, highlight the fingers of the gloves, and the rider's girdle, leaving the previous colour visible in the recesses. The white of the horse's eye was painted at this step.



11) **Intensifying the green:** Vallejo Game Ink Black Green, thinned with water at a ratio of 3:1, is applied evenly over the green aspects of the rider and saddle cloth. This ties the highlights together and ensures that the green has sufficient intensity.



12) **Highlighting metallics:** Scalecolor Thrash Metal is used to highlight the sword, with Scalecolor Citrine Alchemy carefully stippled onto the raised brass areas. Both paints should be used unthinned.