

IN HER MAJESTY'S NAME

Steampunk Skirmish Wargaming

PAINTING THE SERVANTS OF RA part 1

"Dedicated to the restoration of the glory of Egypt under the Pharaohs, the Servants of Ra have reincarnated the spirit of the young pharaoh Akhenaton into a willing subject."



AKHENATON, KING OF KINGS

"Akhenaton dresses in a combination of ancient Egyptian and modern European styles. He wears no physical armour but is well protected by the Regalia of Ra, his Talents and his Mystical Powers"

UNDERCOATING

The model should need little cleaning up, but it is worth going over any model carefully just to make sure there is no flash or mould lines, clean any off with a sharp scalpel and a fine file. Undercoating is

essential as it provides a consistent surface on which to apply the next coats of paint, and it shows up the detail on a model much more clearly than shiny bare metal. For the undercoat I used Humbrol enamel matt black. I usually undercoat in oil based paint as I find they give better coverage on the bare metal.

THE PAINT

I used Army Painter War Paints to paint *Akhenaton*, mixing up colours to suit my style and preferences. The Mega Paint Set provides an adequate range of colours for almost all needs, but you will often need to mix colours to get the desired results, however I have tried to work out colour combinations to reduce mixing if possible.

PAINTING

The figure painting follows my well known method of working from dark to light shaded up from a black undercoat. This three or more colour painting method uses successive tones of colour (shade, middle and light) which are added to the model in layers, working up from dark to light. This creates a bold three-dimensional effect of shadows and highlights, the layers of colour giving greater depth and subtlety to the model. For the facial detail and for the eyes I used an Insane Detail brush. For the rest of the model I used a Warpaints Detail brush.



AKHENATON

Steve Saleh has sculpted another very fine model in *Akhenaton*, based on the superb Jesse McGibney artwork. I hadn't seen the picture when I started work on him, and was working from just the written description, which led to a several small mistakes on my part! But it was great to have the artwork to work from later on, as often I find with not-strictly historical models I am left wondering, just what colours do I use? Not that I'm saying *Akhenaton* wouldn't look great in a purple lounge suit, but I went with the official illustration in, *In Her Majesty's Name*.

EYES & FLESH

Akhenaton, has a wonderful face. With the great cheek bones and stern brow you would expect in any self-respecting crazed megalomaniac bent on world domination! I wanted the Egyptians to have a noticeably different tone their skin and planned my painting accordingly.

The eyes are nicely realised too, so it really just a matter of painting what detail there is, well almost (this was my initial mistake; I painted his eyes white with brown pupils!). His eyes are of course yellow with black irises. I used the mistake of painting them white first to my advantage and left the white as an undercoat for the yellow, which isn't the strongest of pigments and needs something to bolster it up a bit. I then dotted the irises in black over the brown mistakes, and no one will ever know...

Also he does have a lot of eye makeup, for which you there is no real answer but to paint it like the picture in the book, or now copy what I have done here. I didn't paint it on at this stage, because I was still debating whether to paint the eye make at all. I always find this kind of detail tricky, as it is more like proper artwork, and difficult to correct the final result if you make a mistake.

EYES



FLESH 1



FLESH 2



FLESH 3



FLESH 4



FLESH 5



EYES

1. His whites are AP-WP1102 - Matt White, then AP-WP1107 - Daemonic Yellow
2. The irises are AP-WP1101 - Matt Black

FLESH

1. AP-WP1124 - Oak Brown plus AP-WP1122 - Fur Brown
2. + AP-WP1122 - Fur Brown
3. pure AP-WP1122 - Fur Brown
4. pure AP-WP1127 - Tanned Flesh
5. AP-WP1127 - Tanned Flesh plus AP-WP1102 - Matt White

WHITE FIRST

Really a very small amount on this model, but it is still worth while doing these little bits first. Not only so that you can correct them, before going on the rest of the model, but also I find it helps not to loads of fiddly bits to do at the end of a paint job. Painted in with colours as below, and then tidied up with black AP-WP1101 - Matt Black.

WHITE

1. AP-WP1102 - Matt White mixed with AP-WP1117 - Ash Grey
2. + more AP-WP1102 - Matt White
3. + more AP-WP1102 - Matt White
4. pure AP-WP1102 - Matt White

THE WHITE



OR SHOULD THAT HAVE BEEN PURPLE?

As you may have spotted, I got that wrong. His shirt is in fact pale purple silk. Now that presented a couple of issues. Firstly I didn't want to paint it again as waste the effort I had made already, and secondly there is no pale purple in the range. So to solve these two problems in one hit I used a wash of AP-WP1128 - Alien Purple over the white, and voilà problems solved. It did take a while trying out the wash strength, and diluting a bit with more water to get the right degree of transparency. Also I think it worked OK here because it was a small area, I wouldn't recommend this technique for large areas, apart from when painting fur!

THE PURPLE



THE BLACK SUIT



JACKET & TROUSERS

The great thing about *Akhenaton* is that is he doesn't require too many colours to paint, and once the black is done, well that is him about done too. The down side of that is the black is the most important colour on him after the flesh, and needs to be done in some style. The folds and creases of *Akhenaton's* clothing are well defined so I followed the sculpting and if you do the same you won't go far wrong. One last bit of black was the hilt of his *Khopesh of Osiris* (big sword).

BLACK

1. AP-WP1101 - Matt Black mixed with AP-WP1125 - Skeleton Bone
2. + AP-WP1125 - Skeleton Bone
3. + more AP-WP1125 - Skeleton Bone
4. and lastly more AP-WP1125 - Skeleton Bone

FACE MAKEUP

At last I plucked up the courage to do the face makeup. I studied the picture of *Akhenaton* and did my best to reproduce that on the model. The makeup was done in AP-WP1101 - Matt Black, but thinned slightly more than I would normally use. Fortunately the strokes required for the design are very small, but you need your steadiest of hands working so close to the eyes. Try out the design first before you commit yourself to the doing it on the model. I also painted in his eyebrows, I don't normally paint on eyebrows, but they go well with the eye makeup, in fact I wasn't really sure whether they were meant to be his eyebrows or part of the eyeliner! The eye makeup is of course a version of the traditional Eye of Horus design.



SHOES

A DIFFERENT WHITE

Akhenaton's shoes are also white, although again I hadn't spotted this! Even so I wanted them to be a different white from that I had done before (even if that white didn't remain white in the end!). So for this white I started with Yellow. As it happened I painted the soles of his shoes white too, really they should have been black according to the artwork.

1. AP-WP1121 - Desert Yellow
2. AP-WP1121 - Desert Yellow plus AP-WP1102 - Matt White
3. plus more AP-WP1102 - Matt White
4. pure AP-WP1102 - Matt White

THE EYE OF HORUS



HANDS

At this point I painted his hands in the same colour as his face. Another error I'm afraid, I was expecting him to be wearing gloves, which I would have painted black.

THE KHOPESH OF OSIRIS

His big sword, in other words, and it is a mighty big one. Good job he is the reincarnated spirit of a god then to wield such a weapon. But it is nicely detailed with easy to pick out coloured metalwork all along the blade. It is a bit fiddly to do but really worth it in the end.

Red

1. AP-WP1124 - Oak Brown plus AP-WP1105 - Dragon Red
2. AP-WP1105 - Dragon Red
3. AP-WP1104 - Pure Red
4. AP-WP1104 - Pure Red plus AP-WP1106 - Lava Orange

Green

1. AP-WP1112 - Angel Green
2. AP-WP1112 - Angel Green plus AP-WP1109 - Goblin Green
3. + more AP-WP1109 - Goblin Green
4. pure AP-WP1109 - Goblin Green

Osiris (the god of the afterlife, the underworld and the dead) was commonly depicted with green skin (the ancient Egyptian colour of rebirth) and a red sash so it is nice to reflect these in his khopesh. Osiris was the posthumous father of Horus, whose eye Akhenaton wears in his makeup also Akhenaton's black clothes could allude to the fertility of the Nile floodplain. Sorry getting a bit carried away there...

THE METALWORK

There is some lovely detail on the hilt of the *khopesh* of the Egyptian goddess Ma'at, whose wings form the coloured detail on the blade. The *khopesh* I did entirely in gold, I assumed it was either solid gold or some form of gilt bronze. *Akhenaton* also wears a gold ankh and chain around his neck and earrings, which I painted in the same gold colours as the *khopesh*.

Gold

1. AP-WP1133 - Weapon Bronze
2. Foundry PP036C – Shiny
3. Foundry PP044C - Burning Gold

THE BASE

For all these IHMN models I decided to do a very minimal base, a fake stone paving *trompe l'oeil* effect. The key to the *trompe l'oeil* effect is to decide where the light is coming from and highlight accordingly. The final highlight goes on just the very edge of the fake stones on the paving.

1. AP-WP1101 - Matt Black
mixed with AP-WP1122 - Fur Brown
2. + AP-WP1102 - Matt White
3. + more AP-WP1102 - Matt White
4. + even more AP-WP1102 - Matt White

VARNISH

Make sure all the paint on the model is thoroughly dry before commencing varnishing.

Gloss

The models were then given a coat of Humbrol polyurethane gloss varnish and set aside for 24 hours to dry completely. Be careful not to let the varnish



pool, especially under the horse and on the feet. You don't need a very thick coat of varnish, in fact the thinner the better.

FINISHED AKHENATON KING OF KINGS



THE BASE



Matt

Then they were given two coats of AP-WP1103 - Anti-Shine Matt Varnish. Be even more careful when painting on the matt varnish. When applying the matt, brush it out well from any nooks and crannies where it is likely to collect and pool.

FINISHED AKHENATON KING OF KINGS



Below. Akhenaton in action around the world.





Akhenaton in action around the world.



Below. Akhenaton looks moody, at the temple of Sobek, the crocodile god, valley of the Nile, Egypt.

