

Giants in Miniature



PAINTING LEONIDAS

Ben Macintyre shows us what colours to put where on this Spartan King - the latest *Giants in Miniature* figure.

Start out by cleaning, removing any mould lines, and priming your miniature. Prepping your miniature is a very important step as it will help make the painting process much smoother and more enjoyable.

I like to paint a mounted miniature separately from its mount as it makes them easier to handle, so I fix them separately to either corks, old paint pots or use commercially available alternatives.

I've used Vallejo paints for this miniature, but you can use any brand of paint. Just make sure that you are thinning the paints properly before you apply them and that you use an appropriately sized brush. I generally work with a Size 1 brush for most things, however there are elements that will require a small brush such as size 00.

Leonidas is made up of three main strong colours, that when combined make a very striking colour scheme. The red cloak and helmet plume draw the eye so we will start by blocking those in.

For this I have used **Vallejo Model colour red**, applied in two coats to get a solid and smooth coverage over the area.

1

Next up is to start adding more depth and contrast to the different areas of Leonidas with a layer of highlighting. We want to pick out the areas and edges that catch the most light. Focus on applying these colours to the upper edges of cloth folds, the ends and edges of straps, and the sharpest edges of his helmet and chainmail.

Vallejo Gunmetal Grey
(Spearhead)

Vallejo English Uniform
(Spear)

Games Workshop Bugmans Glow
(Flesh)

Vallejo Chocolate Brown
(Leatherwork)

Vallejo Tinny Tin
(Armour)

Vallejo Tinny Tin
(Shield)

Vallejo Tinny Tin
(Armour)



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2

Now we have the red all blocked in, we can go back to the other details of the miniature and fill those in with the darkest shade of the appropriate colour.



3

Next up we will do another layer of highlights to continue to push the contrast of each colour and focus on bringing out all of the details of the sculpt.

Again, focusing on those uppermost folds of cloth, edges of armour plates and raised muscle groups. The brighter the colours get the smaller the area they should cover, so it's best to apply them with a smaller Size 0 or 00 brush.



4

Now we want to do one final layer of highlights for Leonidas, really pushing those colours in the areas that the light will catch the most. The highlights at this stage are pretty small so you might want to switch to a size 00 or even 000 brush for this bit.



5

The final stage for Leonidas is to go back and add some depth to the shadows and recessed areas of the miniature. Take a small brush (a size 0 or 00 will be fine) and apply the colours into the deepest recesses and areas where two colours meet. This technique helps increase the contrast of the miniature and helps all of the details to “pop”, especially at a distance when used in a game.



All that is left to do is to apply a protective coat of varnish to Leonidas (I like to use the Vallejo Satin range) and then base him to match the rest of your army.

