

PAINTING A FACE IN OILS



Ebook Guide to Painting a Face.

HOW TO PAINT A FACE IN OILS

Welcome to 2PaintMiniatures.com tutorial on Painting a Face in Oils. Please make sure you are connected to the Internet the entire time so that you can get directed to other websites.

You can navigate through this tutorial using the Page link to move from one page to the other. I recommend you to follow the steps accordingly because this represents the steps needed to start painting a face in oils.

The objective of this tutorial is to introduce beginners who are not familiar to painting miniature figures to the world of oil painting. Most tutorials assume that you already know the basics and many beginners end up confused and demoralised trying to search for basic explanations. This tutorial I present to you outlines the steps in a user-friendly way and in easy steps to follow.

So take your time reading through this entire tutorial on painting a face in oils and understand the step by step process. I hope this tutorial will demystify the technique of painting figures in oils and open new doors for you.

Since this book is in PDF format you'll find it very easy to distribute. Just 'save as' to your computer attach to your email or upload to your website. Or you can send your friends to www.2PaintMiniatures.com

Are you ready to start? [Click here.](#)

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Shopping for tools and paints can be a pain if you are not sure what type of brands are good for you. Below are some tips and recommended brands that you can look out for when you go shopping.

Remember, one of the keys to effective shopping for items is to plan your budget. This guide will help you choose what's best items to start with when you paint flesh tones in this tutorial. The colours mentioned below are the generic colours used for a caucasian skin tone.

OIL PAINTS

Titanium White, Burnt Sienna, Payne's Grey, Raw Umber, Cadmium Red Deep Hue and Indian Red.



RECOMMENDED BRANDS

Winsor and Newton

Daler Rowney Artist Oils

Daler Rowney Georgian(cheaper version)

ACRYLIC PAINT (BASECOAT)

Sand Brown by Vallejo Model Color

SPECIAL TIPS:

1)Purchase oils in the 225ml tubes only for colors such as Titanium White and Burnt Sienna because that is the most often used colours in figure painting. As for other colours I recommend you getting the smaller 22ml tubes. These oils would last you for years and years to come if you store them properly.

2)Look for oils which are opaque in color because some have transparent pigments. Do not get the transparent pigments.

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3)What is the acrylic for? I thought it is oil painting? The acrylic paint is used as a basecoat. That is the ‘average’ flesh colour in between your highlights(lightest areas)and shades(darkest areas). Some painters don’t use them but I greatly recommend this method.

4)Another brand of acrylics that I sometimes use to improvise the basecoat is Games Workshop skin tone colours. I mix up different colours to match the Sand Brown from Vallejo Model Colour. As compared to Vallejo colours, Games Workshop acrylics it is more expensive and have brighter hues.

Refer to my webpage on [Brushes, Paint and Supplies](#) for additional items you need for start this course.

ZENITHAL LIGHTING

Zenithal lighting is the concept of painting a miniature figure using a single light source from the top.



When you're starting painting a model keep it under a lamp and take a photo. This will give you an idea on how you should place highlights and shadows on your model and will make painting zenithal lighting much easier. The photo will be a good reference for later, as you can check it when you begin painting your miniature.

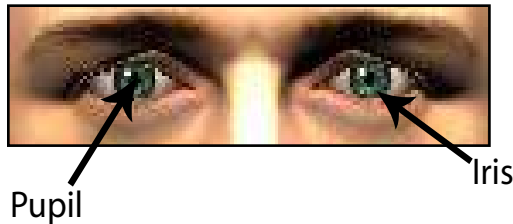
The black and white picture in high contrast above left illustrates the lighting from the top more clearer than the second coloured picture. Take note of the shades in the deep recesses of the face like above the eyes, below the nose, below the mouth and lips etc.

Also take note that the stronger the light, the more you need to highlight, the weaker the light the less highlighting is necessary.

When light is coming directly from above, the upper horizontal surfaces will be the most highlighted, with colors washed out, the bottom horizontal surface will be in shadow - muted dark colors, while the vertical surfaces will be in the base color, well saturated neither dark nor pale and the others will be 'in-between' or average colour.

PAINTING EYES

I cannot highlight enough the importance of painting the eyes properly. Once you are done with painting the face, the next obvious step is to paint the eyes of the figure. So how do you do that properly? To tell you the truth, there are a few ways of doing it.



EYE WHITES

You either use a very fine liner brush or use a sharpened toothpick. Start by painting the whites of the eyes. Normally you don't use white paint but the lightest flesh colour for the whites of the eyes.

IRIS

Once you are done with that, the next step is to paint the iris . Using the tip of the brush, make a dot to each eye represent the iris just before touching the top and bottom of the eyelids. You can use blue, brown, black or green for this. Most painters place both the iris to the extreme right or left and avoid placing them directly in the centre because a slightly misplaced iris can result in the miniature figure looking cross-eyed.

PUPIL

Next in the centre each of the iris place a black dot to represent the pupil. If you have a steady hand, place a smaller white dot on top right or top left of the pupil to represent the reflection in the eyes.

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Let's begin the course.

The first step you should do is to clean and prime the head. Please check out my article on [cleaning and priming](#) first before proceeding. The next step would be base coating the skin with Vallejo model acrylics sand brown colour. This base sand brown acrylic colour will be the skin tone of the miniature figure. I sometimes use Citadel paint Medium flesh as base. There are many different colours that you can use to as base. All it takes is some experiment.

There are 2 types of paint mediums that you will be using here-the acrylic basecoat and the oil paints flesh colours that will come after that.



Primed with Tamiya Primer.



Basecoated with Vallejo Sand Brown acrylic.

ACRYLIC BASECOAT

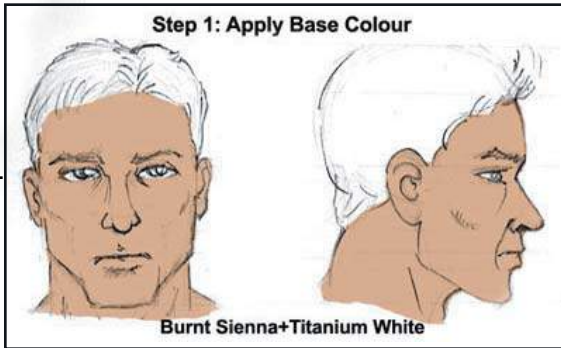
Apply 2-3 diluted coats of the acrylic basecoat color with a ratio of 1 part water and 1 part paint. Let dry.

MIXING OILS

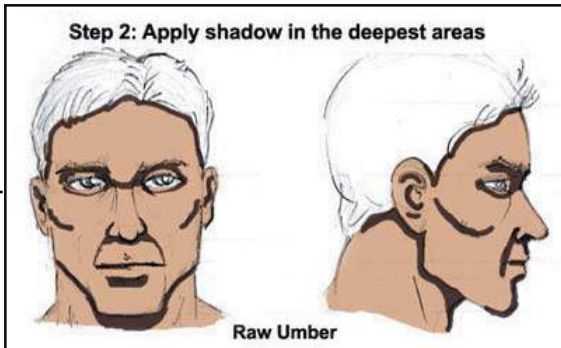
Next squeeze a very small amount of titanium white and burnt sienna oils onto your palette and begin mixing the two colours. Try to blend them as follows with your old brush to get the flesh colour. Make sure you mix it by use the [stippling](#) method to get a texture and transition that is smooth.

The flesh colour is called the 'in-between' or average colour. Later we will add highlights(more whites in the mix) and shades(more darker mix).

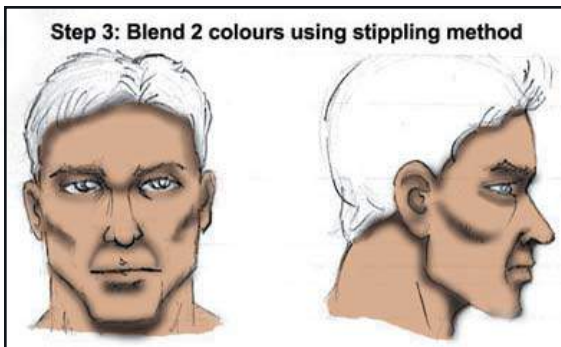
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A very thin layer of oil paint is applied to the whole face. The thinner the oil the shorter time it takes to dry.

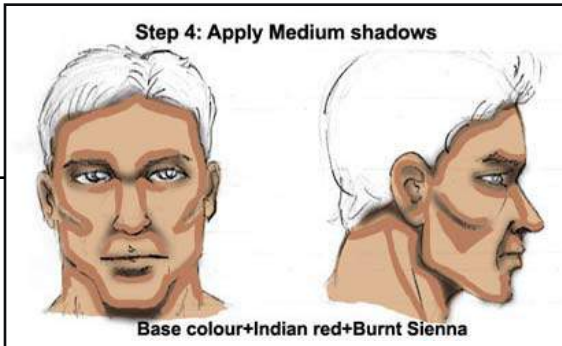


The deepest and darkest regions of the face is applied with Raw Umber. Use a fine brush for this.



Stippling technique is used to blend the Raw Umber and Base colour to create a smooth transition.

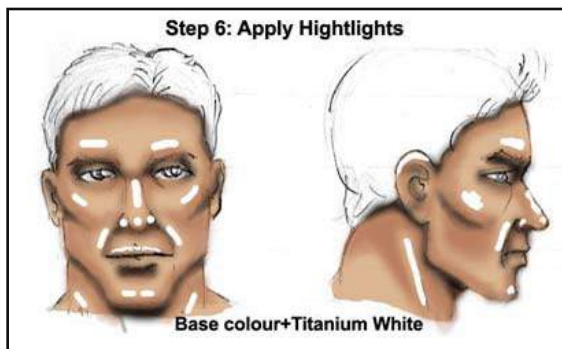
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Apply the midtones onto the areas between the high and low regions of the face.

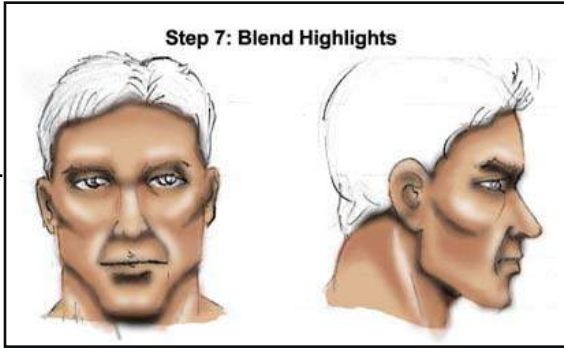


Blend the mid colour with the base colour.

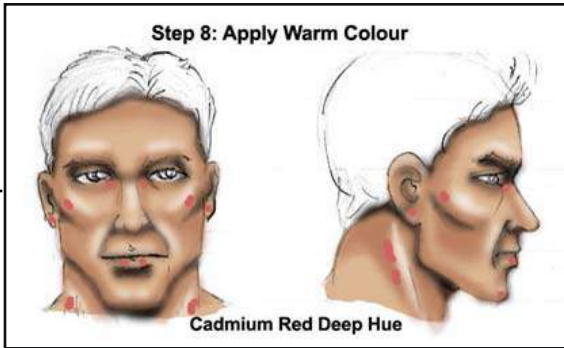


Titanium white is the extreme highlight colour. These are applied to the highest point of the face.

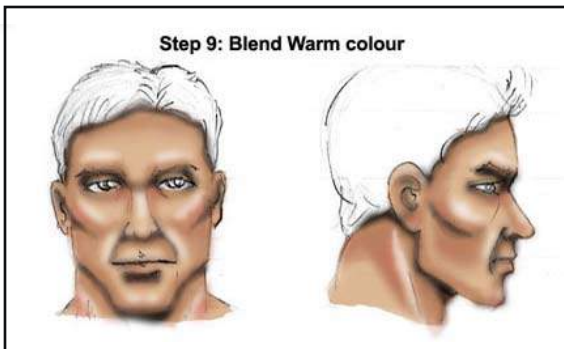
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Blend the highlight into the face.

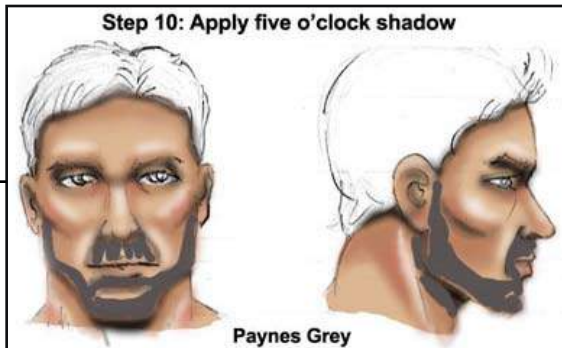


Apply tiny amount of Cadmium Red to create lip colour and rosy cheeks.

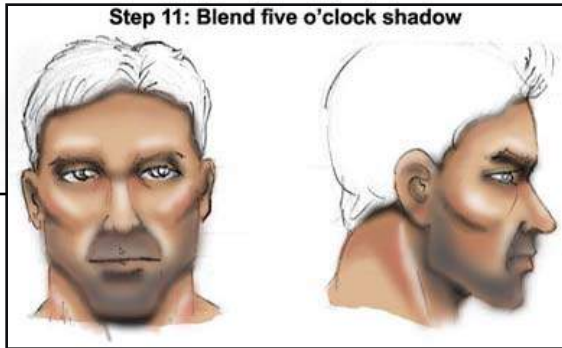


The red needs to be carefully blended since it may overwhelm the skintone if applied too much.

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Adding five o'clock shadow to the lower areas of the face where stubble and moustache commonly occur.



Final step is to blend the five o'clock shadow with the skin colour.

Note: The steps presented for painting a face in oils can be applied to acrylic painting as well. The only difference is the blending process which is explained at my webpage:

<http://www.2paintminiatures.com/blending.html>

STEP BY STEP PHOTOS



The key to be successful is to use a very thin coat of oil paint for each layer as well as unloading onto a paper towel/rag every few times you apply the [stippling](#) technique to blend the figure.

Hopefully this book have given you some insight into how to paint a face in oils.

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You can also send them to:

<http://www.2paintminiatures.com/support-files/paintingafaceinoils.pdf>

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