

Quick 'n' Dirty Guides #3

German Uniforms Ostfront & Nord Afrika

German Feld Grau (Field Grey) is a pretty difficult colour to pin down in painting terms but one thing is for sure, it is not a flat shade of grey based on a colour mix of black and white. I have experimented with a variety of colour mixes which are explained in this Quick n' Dirty guide. To me, all are appealing in their own way and it could be argued that all, in some way are correct. Clothing colours are definitely not an exact science and you don't have to wait for a war to prove it. Go to Marks & Spencer and you will still be able to spot 'tonal variation' in what is purported to be the same colour. So, the uniforms...

BH's UNIFORM DESCRIPTION	PAINT BASE	FIRST COAT	MAIN COLOUR COAT	FIRST HIGHLIGHT	SECOND HIGHLIGHT
Ostfront Green	Vallejo English Uniform	3 parts EU & 1 part Black	EU from the pot	Vallejo Green Ochre	Vallejo Green ochre + white
Ostfront Grey	Vallejo German Field Grey	Vallejo German Grey	GFG from the pot	Vallejo German Camo Biege	GCB + White
Ostfront Grey(variant)	Vallejo Medium Flesh	3 parts MF & 1 part Black	6 parts MF & 1 part black	Previous + white	Previous plus more white
AfrikaKorps(green)	GW Catchachan Green	2 parts CG & 1 part black	Catchachan Green from pot	Vallejo Russian Uniform(green)	Russian uniform + white
AfrikaKorps (sand 1)	Vallejo Medium Flesh	Vallejo US Olive Drab	Vallejo Medium Flesh	MF + White	MF+ more White
AfrikaKorps (Sand 2)	Vallejo Desert Yellow	Vallejo English Uniform	Vallejo Desert Yellow	Vallejo Dark Sand(or Biege)	Dark Sand + white

Equipment

European and Western Front webbing can be painted black with a highlight of either Vallejo Dark Blue-Grey or Luftwaffe Blue Grey. Satchels can be done in a variation of AfrikaKorps Sand 1 or 2 (above). Poncho/ foul weather covers in shade such as AfrikaKorps Green (above) with camo pattern added if desired. Entrenching tool handle in base coat of Vallejo English Uniform with Medium Flesh over (leave some lines to mark wood grain). Buckles and buttons in Workshop Boltgun Metal. Metallic equipment in the same washed with a thin mix of GW Midnite Blue and Black. Rifle stocks in base of Vallejo Hull Red with Vallejo Red Leather over (leaving lines to mark wood grain). Shoulder flashes and collar patches in Workshop Bleached Bone (not White). Boots in Black and weathered as per QND Guide#1.

Equipment alternatives

Officers and NCOs can have their equipment in a brown/red leather as an option. Build up from a base of Vallejo Hull Red. Highlight in Vallejo Cavalry Brown or Red Leather. Risk a further highlight on high relief items: Vallejo Purpleheart Orange.

SMG magazine pouches can be done in colours such as AfrikaKorps Green or Ostfront Grey (1 or 2). These options could also be used for AfrikaKorps soldiers.

Helmets

Method 1: Paint in German Grey, Drybrush in Field Grey or Luftwaffe Blue Grey. Drybrush very lightly in Boltgun Metal or Silver. Wash in a paint or ink mix of 1 part Black, 2 parts Indian Yellow, 2 parts Burnt Umber, 5 parts water.

Method 2: Paint in German Grey. Highlight in lighter shade of the same or Field Grey or Luftwaffe Blue Grey leaving a darker ring below the skull section and some darker vertical lines at chosen points on the circumference of the helmet

Method 3: Use method 1 or two above but applying the AfrikaKorps paint combinations. This helmet colour could also be used with some of the Ostfront uniform variations in Summer or Winter particularly on the Central and Southern Army Group Fronts.

Finally, weather the helmets using the weathering techniques in QND Guide#1 or dot with Wood glue and sprinkle on very fine sand. When dry paint as mud and wet earth

Some references on this site

Gallery Sections:

Ostfront 28mm

Figures up Close :WW2 Germans: various



**'Ostfront'
Green.
Figures
by
Artizan &
Crusader**



**'Ostfront'
Grey 2.
Figures
by Black
Tree
Design**



**'Ostfront'
Grey 1.
Figures
by
Crusader**