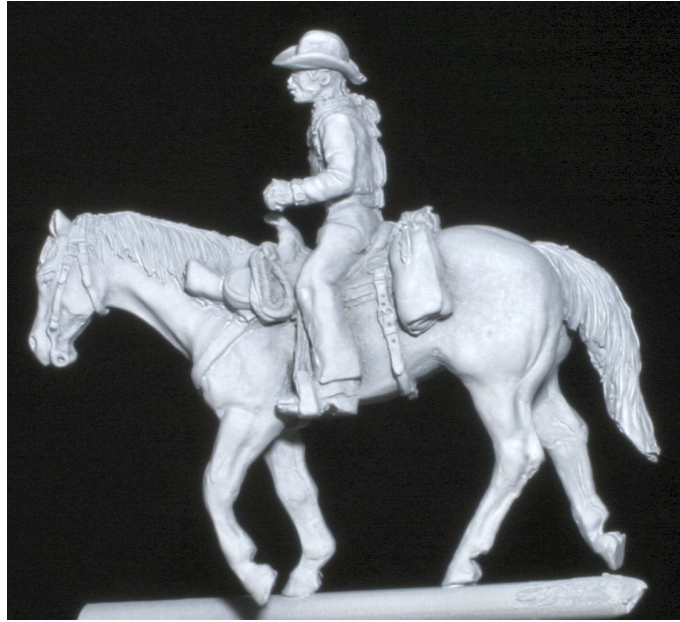


As always the first steps were to remove flash and remove the most visible seams either by scraping with an exacto knife or by sanding or both. The figures were then scrubbed with a tooth brush and some soapy water (dawn dish washing soap). After drying the figures were primed with Citadel (or Tamiya) white primer.

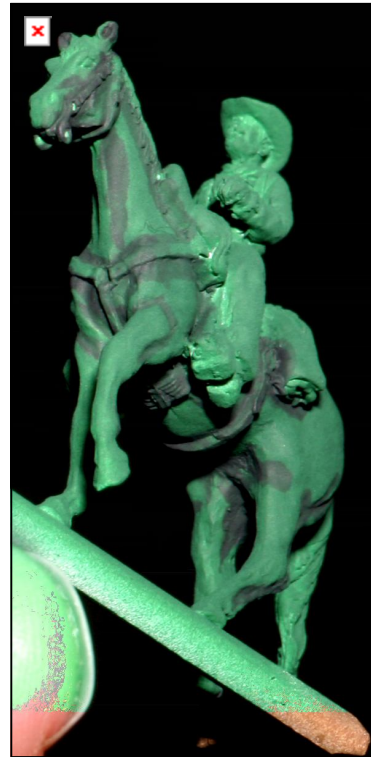


The horse was then sprayed painted with polly S brown that was darkened with Polly S Grimy Black.



You can see some white areas around the saddle and the blanket that the airbrush missed. I went back and brushed those areas to even out the color.

I then added some black to the base color and outlined the areas around the straps, saddle, blanket, mane, tail and those areas that should be in shadow (under the neck, in the depressions that define the muscles, etc.).



Next, I went back and washed over the entire horse with the base color to even out the color in the areas I just darkened. When you are doing this you want to brush the wash on an area let it set for about 10 seconds and then go back over the same area with a dry brush and soak up the excess. You especially don't want to let it sit in the crevices because those are the areas you most want to remain dark. Let it dry for 5 or 10 minutes and then repeat the process. Next I dry brushed around the "shadowed" areas with the base color. Let this dry for 10 minutes and then repeat the wash until you get a nice gradation between the darkened area and the base color.







I then added some white to the base color and dry brushed the horse to bring out the highlights.



Now we go back and wash the horse with the base color again to tone down the highlights. You may have to do this several times until you get the tonality you want.



Now all the other basic colors were added:

Shirt : Vallejo Ivory

Pants: Vallejo Medium Blue

Horse Blanket: Vallejo Red

Bed Roll: Vallejo Military Green

Tail, Mane & lower legs: Polly S Grimy Black
Leather: Reaper Miniatures Oiled Leather

It doesn't look like much at this point, but we've laid the foundation....



OK now we get to the fun part. Let's get dirty! The pants are given a wash with some black added to the base blue color. The shirt is given a wash with dark grey and the rest of the horse. The saddle is given a wash with dark brown and the blanket is washed with black added to the base green color.





We now have the base colors and the shadow color so now it's time for the highlights. The pants and blanket were dry brushed with their base colors lightened with white. I "painted" the shirt with a heavier wash of Vallejo Dark Sand. Trying for a buff color but still allowing the dark shadows to show through. The skin was painted a combination of Vallejo Sunny SkinTone, Basic SkinTone, Dark Sand, Ivory and Reaper Ruddy Flesh. I really don't have a set ratio. I just grab some paint and start mixing until I get something that looks reasonable. The eyes I just paint a brown dash. The moustache is also brown. Next I add a touch of white to some of the skin color (keep some of the base skin color in case you need to touch it up) and highlight the nose and cheeks. If you get too much contrast go back over the nose and cheeks with a wash of the base color. The bandanna was painted Vallejo Red and the suspenders Vallejo Black Grey.





Now I turn my attention to the rope, rifle stock, canteen, boots and hat. The canteen is painted Vallejo Neutral Grey, the rifle stock was painted a mixture of Vallejo Leather Brown and Vallejo Maroon. The hat was painted a mixture of Dark Sand and brown. It was giving the usual shading with base color mixed with Dark Brown and then highlighted with white added to the base color. The boots were painted Dark Sand and then washed with Dark Brown. The metal parts on the saddle and bridle were painted Vallejo Natural Steel.





Now the canteen and rope have been washed with a dark brown and then highlighted





Last but not least the legs were brushed with black pastels to blend the black to the brown. The tail was highlighted with dark Grey. The reins were made from Brown thread (which I still need to paint). Here then is the almost final product...





The main point to remember is that painting is basically three steps:

- 1) Base color
- 2) Shadow color
- 3) Highlight color

If you do that your figures will look much better than when just painted with the basic base colors.