

Simon's Ship painting method

1:2400 scale using acrylic paints

Ships

1. Fix all sails and glue to the bases before painting. In glueing the ship to the base use epoxy so as to leave no gaps. Fill in any gaps between the ship and base with putty or plasticine
2. Undercoat with Matt White spray paint.
3. Give the entire model and base a very thin watery wash of Liquitex Transparent Raw Umber. This will bring out the details and make the follow-on painting much easier.
4. Pick out the highlights of the sails and rigging with a slightly off white matt paint.
5. Paint the masts and deck with a matt natural light wood colour
6. Paint the outside of the ship with a thinned down medium brown colour. It is important that this is painted on very thinly so as not to obscure detail.
7. Give the entire model another wash of very thin raw umber.
8. Then give the outside wood and ratlines a very thin black wash
9. Dry-brush the sails and rigging with white to pick up the detail
10. Paint the fighting tops to identify the ship type: red for 1st rate, green for second rate, white or grey for 3rd rate, yellow for 4th rate.
11. Fix flags and pennons by folding paper around the masts and gluing together with white glue (PVA). turn and curl around a tooth pick while the glue is setting.
12. Matt varnish the ship



A French 3rd rater identified by its grey fighting tops and white flags. Normally the flags would be blowing towards the bow on the assumption the wind is behind. I reversed this as at the start of the Battle of Sole Bay the French and English had to face into the wind.

Bases

Using the original bases that come with the model:

1. Paint the entire base with a mix of antique blue and antique green paint to come up with a deep but dull turquoise.
2. Raw umber wash at the same time as the ship.
3. Dry brush with a lighter blue green colour or mix
4. Dry brush again with a sky blue colour with an added touch of olive green
5. Dry brush again with the same as above but lightened with white or off-white
6. Final dry brush of off white.
7. Give the base a very thin black wash
8. Gloss varnish the base.