



Painting Guide for Modern US Army Infantry figs

By Jim Elmore

Universal Camouflage Pattern. This is the familiar digital green/khaki camo introduced for the US Army in the middle of the last decade. Controversial, it is an easy pattern to paint, as almost all clothing, packs, belts and other gear also appear in this pattern.

Prime/base in Flat Black

Lightly drybrush entire figure in khaki. I use Cermcoat "Mudstone" #02488 or Vallejo "Mudstone" #118

Slowly build up the density of color until most of the visible areas are well covered. Be aware that the yellow pigment of the drybrush will visually interact with the black undercoat and produce a distinctly green appearance. Push on with the drybrushing until you have a khaki finish.



Using a worn brush with bristle poking in every direction, stipple (lightly poke) a light, uneven layer of greyish olive. I use Folkart "Green Umber" #471 or Vallejo Olive Grey #92. Go light and leave large areas of khaki showing through.

Apply another layer of olive/grey more boldly, but less densely. The UPC has two distinct shade of the olive grey, the darker covering a smaller area. Again, leave some of the khaki showing.

You should apply this pattern to the ENTIRE figure. All the clothing and kit are the same.

I usually blackline the edges of gear and pockets when painting weapons, which are simply black with a bit of grey drybrush.

Paint faces as you wish. All figures should show UPC gloves.

Boots are done in Reaper paints. First "Shield Brown" #09161, then heavy drybrush of "Chestnut Gold" #09073 and a final drybrush of "Buckskin Pale" #09075.

Operational Camouflage Pattern. Developed from MultiCam, a pattern was introduced for US Army troops in Afghanistan in 2010, OPC was chosen as the replacement for UPC in 2014. Differences between OPC, originally called Scorpion 2, and Multicam should not concern painters in this scale. At this time, much of the packs and kit used by troops may still have the UPC pattern.



Prime/Base in dark brown.

All colors below are Reaper paints

Drybrush to good coverage in "Terran Khaki" #09122

Lightly paint large blotches of "Shield Brown" #09161 and "Military Green" #09176

Add small squiggles and dots in "Muddy Brown" #09028 and "Terran Khaki" #09122

You may cover the entire figure as above with the UPC, or depict a mix of the two patterns among their kit. Boots are painted the same as above.

The specific paints are only a suggestion. Scale effect, lighting, color fading and artistic discretion should allow you to use any similar colors.