



How to paint a Gilded Death Knight



The figurine came perfectly white, like this. If I were making a paladin or some sort of badass PC fighter I would probably go ahead and just start to paint it, however I want this guy to seem menacing, evil even! Muahaha!

By painting him black, it will allow the colours to take on a darker tone, and all the nooks and crannies will come out as pure black, making the piece seem much more weighted. There is also an added bonus as this layer will act as a primer, allowing the layers of paint to adhere properly to the figurine. For instance, if I tried to use a fluid wash of paint on the raw figurine the paint would bubble like the condensation on a coke can, and wouldn't lay flat. By priming the piece it will go on smoothly. The paint I used for blacking the piece up is an acrylic 'Black Gesso'. Gesso is a type of acrylic primer usually used for canvas, but it is incredibly matte and really primed the piece well. I will be using this paint for many of the other piece I will be doing in the future. If you don't have access to Gesso, a black or white spray paint works quite well also, just be sure whatever primer you use isn't so thick that it obliterates all detail even before you start painting!





The first step I made was to make a wash of silver paint and water, and to brush it over the entire piece. This lets the glimmer settle into the recessed areas of the piece, and it helps to boost the contrast. I also silvered up the sword because I knew for sure that I wanted that to be silver.

You CAN use the really expensive mini paints that they sell at places like games workshops but to be honest they are usually a rip off. go to your local art store and pick up some “fluid acrylics”. These acrylic paints have a nice flow that allows you to get nice detail, and amazing colour that will make your pieces pop, plus you are saving money!

My next step was to start really blocking in the colour of the piece, and make authoritative decisions about what I want and where. To get the silver while still keeping the black in the figure, I used a technique called ‘dry brushing’. put a tiny amount of paint on your brush, and wipe off most of that on your hand, by stroking it across your finger once or twice. This leave a tiny amount on your brush that will only transfer to the ridges of whatever you rub your brush on, so it will get the peaks of the piece silver, while keeping the valleys nice and dark. it is almost literally the opposite of a wash of watered down paint.

When you are doing a gold and silver piece it is really easy to go nuts on the gold, but I find that it usually makes the piece look worse than you had intended. The rule of thumb is gold accents, imagine that all the armour is steel and they just gold leafed some areas, not entire pieces of armour, especially shields, and breastplates.



At last I started to get down to some details.

Gold and silver was already pretty strong so I wanted to break it up with a few touches of other colours. I noticed that there was some fur modelling under the pauldrons so i chose to go for a stark white, like polar bear fur (he killed a polar bear. that’s how you



KNOW he is evil). And i followed it up by adding some red to the skirt-cape thing, and the shield. I was pretty rough in the application to the decoration on the shield because it looked a lot like an uthgar first and I wanted to conceal that, lest Remo Williams spends every encounter trying to convert him. I also added a touch of blood to the fuller of the sword for a menacing look.

I cleaned up a lot of the messiness, and added a few more details like the gemstone and the dagger on his hip and that's pretty much it! A nice simple introduction to dry brushing to create outstanding armour! if you really wanted to you could dry brush a touch or brown to add rust, or get crazy with it!

