

PAINTING YOUR SAMURAI

TIPS AND TRICKS FOR PAINTING YOUR
SENGOKU-ERA WARRIORS By Jason Buyaki 



PAINTING A TOKUGAWA ASHIGARU



1

Skin: Dwarf Flesh
Pants/shirt: Shadow Grey
Rice rations: Bleached Bone
Armor: Chaos Black



Helm cloth/belt: Fortress Grey
Spear Shaft: Bestial Brown
Scabbard: Scorched Brown



Skin: Wash w/Vermin Brown
Pants/shirt: Highlight Shadow Grey/Skull White (75/25)
Rice rations: Wash with Vermin Brown

2



Armor: Highlight Chaos Black/Shadow Grey (75/25)
Helm cloth/belt: Highlight FG/Skull White (50/50)
Scabbard: Highlight Scorched Brown/Bleached Bone (75/25)



3

Skin: Highlight Dwarf Flesh
Pants/shirt: Highlight Shadow Grey/Skull White (50/50)
Rice rations: Highlight Bleached Bone



Armor: Highlight with Chaos Black/Shadow Grey (50/50)
Helm cloth/belt: Highlight Skull White
Scabbard: Highlight Scorched Brown/Bleached Bone (50/50)



4

Skin: Highlight Dwarf Flesh/Skull White (75/25)
Rice rations: Highlight Skull White



Spear Shaft: Highlight Bestial Brown/Bleached Bone (75/25)
Sandals: Black line with thinned Chaos Black followed by a layer of Bestial Brown



5

Skin: Highlight Dwarf Flesh/Skull White (75/25)
Spear Shaft: Highlight Bestial Brown/Bleached Bone (50/50)
Spear Tip/Sword Tang: Boltgun Metal



Mustache: Chaos Black
Helmet Strap: Fortress Grey
Lacing on wrists/ankles/calves: Shadow Grey (Skull White would make a nice contrast color)



6

Spear Tip/Tang: Mithril Silver
Mustache: Highlight Codex Gray/Chaos Black (50/50)
Helmet Strap: Skull White



Lacing on wrists/ankles/calves: Highlight Shadow Grey/Skull White (50/50)
Eyes: Paint eye area with thinned Chaos Black, a horizontal strip of Skull White, and finally a vertical strip of Chaos Black



NOTE: Models in this article are from Perry Miniatures' Age of Wars range. All paints are from the Citadel Colour, Foundation, and Wash ranges. Basing material is from the GF9 range of Hobby Scenics.

PAINTING SAMURAI

For quite some time, I've been interested in building a small force of opposing Samurai models to play a series of skirmish wargames. After purchasing a number of models from Perry Miniatures, I began researching Samurai history, trying to absorb as much information as I could. Osprey Publishing has a great series of books with fantastic color plates. There are also a large number of great films that you can use to draw inspiration from such as the "classics" *Seven Samurai*, *Heaven and Earth*, *Zatoichi*, *Ran*, and even *The Last Samurai*, among countless others.



PAINTING CLOTH PATTERNS

I've found that painting on simple geometric shapes onto clothing yields the best results for the least amount of effort. Thinned paints are essential when detailing clothing. Simple dot patterns are fast and easy to apply, as on the Samurai in street clothing here.

I've applied a flower pattern to Tokugawa by first applying a central dot of Bubonic Brown, surrounded by 5 petals, the applying Golden Yellow to all the dots to create more contrast between the flower pattern and his red pants.

The Samurai on the far right was painted by Aarom Loomis. The simple striped pattern on the clothing of this warrior creates depth and is something a little different, adding a lot of character.



PAINTING SAMURAI ARMOR

Armor plates and lacing are the key components that will need to be painted on most Samurai models. The vast majority of Samurai armor is colored black, brown, and red and appears to be daunting to paint but it is best to momentarily ignore the lacing and highlight the plates with the chosen color. After highlighting I paint a thinned layer of black paint horizontally to clarify the segments of the armor plates and carefully line the edges of the lacing. Then I paint the lacing with my chosen color. The armor can become more ornate by painting one of the horizontal sections of lacing in a different color than most of the lacing on the model.



SAMURAI CAVALRY

The horse was basecoated with Scorched Brown and highlight with a mixture of Scorched Brown/Bestial Brown (75/25), followed by a highlight mix of 50/50, and finally a mix ratio of 25/75. The mane and tail were painted black and highlighted with a mix of Chaos Black and Fortress Grey. The saddle blanket was painted in Liche Purple, the trim in Sunburst Yellow, and the saddle painted with Bestial Brown with Bleached Bone mixed in for highlights.

The red armor, sashimono, and straps were painted with Blood Red and washed with a mix of Blood Red/Chaos Black (75/25). Once dry, successive layers of Blood Red were used to build the color back up. The pants were painted with Catachan Green with Camo Green mixed in for highlights. The *mon* on the *sashimono* was painted first with Bubonic Brown and then highlighted in successive layers of thinned Sunburst Yellow.

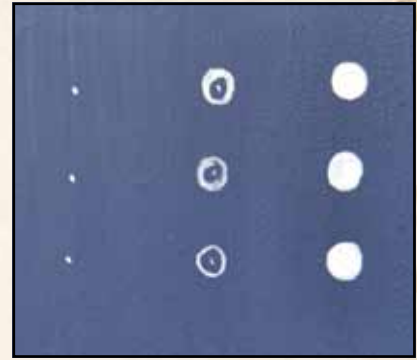
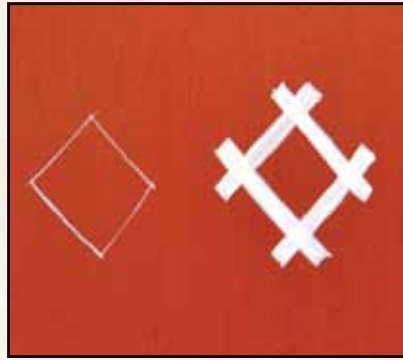


PAINTING HERALDRY

Samurai Heraldry is one of the most vivid elements of medieval Japan and there are thousands of catalogued examples. The *mon* are the heraldry emblems that identify an individual or family that are displayed on the *sashimono*, the tall, narrow flags that are most often attached to the back of a cuirass to identify an individual, unit, or army. Most of the *mon* (icons) are simple geometric designs.

When painting any kind of freehand designs, I always thin down my paints and build up the design with multiple layers. Any mistakes can be wiped away quickly before the paint has had a chance to dry. I've used thinned down Skull White and carefully traced out an outline of a square on the red *sashimono* and a series of evenly spaced dots on the blue-grey *sashimono* to be my guide. Then I widen the lines to form a square and extend the lines past the corners of the square, and broaden the dots into a circle.

The *sashimono* on the far right is a representation of Mount Fuji that was used by Aoki Shigekane, who served Tokugawa Ieyasu, on all of his flags



JASON'S GROWING SAMURAI FORCES



Left: To provide a strong contrast to his Tokugawa "loyalists", Jason's opposing force will take to the tabletop wearing a considerable amount of red.



Above: These Ashigaru, in their blue-grey uniforms, are the start of Jason's force of warriors loyal to Tokugawa Ieyasu. Jason plans to field a variety of weapon types.

Right: Jason has painted up the Tokugawa Ieyasu set from the Perry's, matching the color scheme for the distinctive armor and clothing to the Angus McBride artwork featured on the previous spread.

