

Pastel chalks and headsculpts

With this headsculpt I have tried another method with how I carry out the pastel washes, because after ruining the Hans Pifer head I found out that the tissue I was using to wipe the heads with may have been too harsh. Especially with the heads made by Dragon as I think that the paint used is of a thinner coating, and the rough treatment I gave them with the pastels and the tissue they may have helped to remove that paint. So for this DiD headsculpt as an experiment I have used my paintbrushes instead to see if I can get the same effect as before. And I have found that I can get a softer pastel coloured look to the headsculpts.

Step One

I painted all over the face and the neck with some Model Color Matt Medium No 540; this is to get an even flat finish to the headsculpt, which also helps to get the pastels to work better on the head. This can just be seen in the pictures below left, the first one is the un-painted head and the second after the paint has dried fully.

Step Two

I then apply a coating of water (which has a few drops of Matt Medium added to it) and the brown pastel chalk. To do this the pastel is wiped onto a sanding block to get the dust (third picture below) and then I add the water into it to get a kind of thin watery paste. This is then wiped over the head including the neck as shown below right.



Step Three

This is where I have changed my method of removing the excess water and chalk mix, because for this kitbash I have used a large soft fan brush to gently soak up any water. I also found that I had to use some tissue to clean the brush whilst I was doing this as in the picture below left. Then with a combination of letting this dry, then using some water over the top again, I can alter the darkness of the brown pastel chalk on the head. So that the beard detail can show up, and I can also get a different effect to the skin tone.



Step Four

It is difficult to explain just how exactly I get the effect as shown above, but with the water which has the Matt Medium added to it, I think helps immensely in helping the head to keep the flat look it has. Plus I think it also helps the pastels to bond to the head better. (**Note:** This does not seal the pastels onto the head completely, so I recommend careful handling of it) For this next step, I turn over my sanding block (as I have Brown dust on one side and Flesh colour on the other), and again I just rub a Flesh coloured pastel stick onto it to get a small amount of dust. Which I then drybrush (using no water) over the face to add the highlights.

Step Five

It then just use a dry fan brush again to brush lightly over the head to blend everything in. I also discovered that if I use a very small paintbrush and wipe the brown colour around the eyes, and then brush off gently with the fan brush, I can get the pastels to bring out the details better both above and under the eyes. And when I am finally happy with the overall effect I leave the figure aside to dry.

Step Six

In this final step I use a fine pointed paintbrush and some clean water, which I use to remove the pastel chalks from both the eyes and the lips. This is left to dry to make sure that the eyes in particular are clean, and then I use some clear gloss varnish to paint them and also in between the lips. Again the figure is left aside to dry.



In the picture above, i have also given three other DiD heads the same pastel treatment as described above. And it shows how the base colour of each of the heads still show through the pastel chalks, which helps to demonstrate how i am only just adding both lowlights and highlights with this method.

Note: For information purposes as pointed out by **Paul**, the pastel chalks I am using are from the Faber-Castell Soft Artists Pastels range. The brown is No 280 and the Flesh tone is No 132.