

Prophets Painting Workshop

Issue 2

Gun Drones

Its time once again for my painting workshop. This issue I will be teaching you how to paint Tau Gun Drones. I'll be providing you with tips and instruction based on my personal experience with painting the drones.

At certain points in the article, I will reference techniques that are in my first issue. So, you may have to jump back to that issue to view them. Find it here:

http://s3.invisionfree.com/Kovash_Tauva/index.php?showtopic=2501



1) Step number one. The very first thing you need to do is assemble and prime your gun drones. I am planning an article on model preparation in the future, so I won't go into too much detail in this issue. Just assemble it, rid it of mold lines and then prime it. Use a black if your drones are going to be a dark color, or white if they're going to be a light hue.

2) The next step would be the base coating. On my model I used Delta Ceremcoat© Mallard Green for the armor and Delta Ceremcoat© Tompte Red for all the pink parts. Check out the first page, section 2 of issue one for a note on color selection.

Now the top of the drone (the big main green part on mine) is a tricky part to paint. Most people I've seen have difficulties when trying to keep their paintjobs smooth. There are two key points to remember when trying to get this area smooth. The first would be, the consistency of your paint. For such a large smooth surface anything without lots of water will leave brush strokes. So, how much water to add you ask? Well, I never actually measure, but I'd say aim to create about a 50/50 mix. This diluted mix will require a few extra coats than normal to keep the vividness of your color however.

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2 Cont.) The next key thing to keep in mind when trying to achieve a smooth finish on the top of your drone is the technique used when painting. I've already mentioned this in issue one, page one, section 3. Basically it comes down to not going over a spot when its half dry, instead letting it dry fully before going over it.

3) Now, because of the issue I'll present in section 4, we will not use the darkest base color for the top of the drone. Instead, paint it with a color that is closer to your final desired color. After the top of your drone is lookin' spiffy, its time to basecoat the other areas. Because the other areas are much smaller, it is possible to use a higher ratio of water to paint. About 30-40% water works great.

4) In issue one, I explained the layered blending technique (issue one page 3 section 6 cont.). This a great technique and should be attempted wherever possible. However, it would be quite the task to make it look good on the top of your gun drone. It is just far to big of a surface and would require many, many layers. So instead, we will give the top of our drones depth by edge highlighting.

I have already explained edge highlighting in detail (issue one page 5 section 12 cont.) but there are still a few ideas I'd like to share. When highlighting the edges of the top of your gun drone, it can be very hard to keep your hand steady and get a smooth line for the round outside edge. I find it helps if I use a very watered down paint of about 60% water. This allows me to cover most, if not all, the edge in one go. Thus, minimizing overlap errors. By that I mean, when you go to start again where you left off you almost never start in the exact right spot, so when doing it all in one go you have less of these little errors.



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5) For all the other areas that are colored (antennae, lights etc...), you may use the layered blending technique. I have given instructions for this technique in issue one page 2/3 section 6.

6) All that remains is for you to apply the grey highlights to the black areas (assuming you have some that is). On page 4 section 11 of the 1st issue, I gave color examples of the two greys that work the best for edge highlighting on black.

TIPS

The underside of the drone is a very detailed area and it would be very time consuming to highlight every edge. So what I would find to be best on this area would be to just drybrush it. For those who don't know what drybrushing is: it is when you take a really dry stiff brush and put minimal paint on it, you wipe most of it off, and then you brush it all over the area. Doing this, allows the brush to only hit the raised edges.

To highlight the round edges of the drone, use the outside edge technique I provided in issue one page 5 section 12 cont.



And that concludes this issue of my workshop,

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-Prophet