

Charter Painting

The Basic Detailing Techniques

Please read the instructional page on the Basic Two Dimensional Technique for information on Charter paint, its preparation and the basic laying on of color.

ADDING DETAIL:

There are many styles of detailing and most are achieved using a very fine brush or a pen with a drawing nib, both loaded with thinned down gouache. The consistency of your paint should be similar to ink when using a pen and only a little thicker when using a brush.

The most well-known detailing style is "White Work". We know this as fine lines, swirls and dots placed on top of already fully dry paint work. White work is usually the last thing added to your painted areas. Note that placing white detailing on top of red and the redder shades of violet usually ends with the red bleeding through and turning the white to pink. To help eliminate this problem make sure that all your white detailing is done with a "permanent white".

There are other examples of period detailing that do not have common names and are not white, such as adding red, black or blue dots around the outlined edge of a painted area or diapering, which is painting a particular symbology over and over, usually in a grid format, to detail an area. Viewing period manuscripts will give you the best inspiration for creating your detail work.

Do Not use waterbased ink on top of paint for detailing. The ink has too much water in it and will blend and muddy work making it necessary to repaint the area.

Outlining is not really considered detailing but should be considered as the final technique to use on your work. Normally this is done with black ink or paint, with similar tools and mediums as used in white work. Your intent is to re-ink all of the lines of the design to create crisp and tidy edges. You will especially want to outline if you have inadvertently painted over your design lines. Miniatures may however not require any outlining.