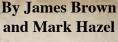
# PAINTING JAPANESE





**Brown Violet (887)** Helmet and Water Bottle

Medium Fleshtone (860) Exposed flesh

**Flat Red (957)** Infantry Collar Tab

> Yellow Green (881) Bread Bag

**Beige Brown (875)** Rifle wood, tool handles



Khaki Grey (880) Soft cap, Summer Tunics, Trousers and Puttees

HIGHLIGHT COLOURS

Flat Brown (984) Boots, Rifle Sling, Belts and Ammo pouches Khaki (988) Water Bottle straps

Gunmetal (863) Gun metal

White (951) & Flat Red (957) Banner

When I painted the Japanese miniatures you see in *Rising Sun* I used the above recommended colour and highlighted them as listed below. Some of these are mixes, but are simply just adding a lighter colour to the original base colour.

#### Item

Helmet and Water Bottle Soft cap, Summer Tunics, Trousers and Puttees Boots, Rifle Sling, Belts and Ammo pouches Bread Bag Rifle wood, tool handles Water Bottle straps Gun metal rifle barrel, fittings Basic Colour Brown Violet (887)

#### Khaki Grey (880)

Flat Brown (984) Yellow Green (881) Flat Earth (983) Khaki (988) 50/50 Black (950)/Gunmetal (863) Highlight Colour (some are mixes) Russian Uniform (924)

75/25 Khaki Grey (880)/Dark Sand (847)

Cavalry Brown (982) 75/25 Yellow Green (881)/Dark Sand (847) Beige Brown (875) Stone Grey (884) Gunmetal (863)

# **OTHER UNIFORM DETAILS**

Japanese tunics officially had coloured collar tabs to distinguish each branch of service (shown below), but they were usually removed when on campaign, leaving the collars blank. This leave you with the option to add them or not.



Infantry (Red): Flat Red (957)

- Cavalry (Green): Medium Olive (850)
- Artillery (Yellow): Deep Yellow (915)

Engineers (Crimson): Flat Red (957) + ¼ Dark Blue (930)

Armoured troops (Red): Flat Red (957)

### MANCHUKOU UNIFORM

During the 1930s the Manchukou Army adopted a uniform similar to that of the Imperial Japanese Army. The uniforms were cut from the same Khaki cloth as the Japanese uniform. Equipment and weapons were much the same. Head gear was also similar with a Japanese style forage cap and the Japanese model 1930 helmet. Manchukou troops also were issued with peaked caps and fur hats for winter. The Manchukou Army cavalry at Nomonhan wore green collar tabs.

## PAINTING BANNERS AND STANDARDS

The Japanese carried both simple banners featuring the red sun and their rising sun regimental standard into battle. Both present a great opportunity to really make you Japanese stand out on the battlefield.

A depicted in our painting guide figure on the previous page the banners were simple white fields with a large red sun in the centre. Often they were accompanied by Japanese characters running down the left and right of the red sun disc.

The banners are usually attached to the soldier's rifle.

Both the Banners and Standards are made of wavy material, so like uniforms, they benefit from some shading and highlighting.



Notes on the Japanese Regimental Standard

A Imperial Japanese Army regimental standard has the sun disc positioned in the centre of the rectangular standard (the Navy has it closer to the pole). It has 16 red rays, with 5 each spreading to the top and bottom of the standard and three each to the left and right.

- PAINTING THE BASIC WHITE OF THE BANNER.
  - 1. I started with a base coat of Sky Grey (989).



2. I then highlighted with a 50/50 mix of Sky Grey (989) and White (951) (or a light grey colour like Flat Aluminium (993)). You only need to leave the base coat show in the deepest recesses.



**3.** Finally I highlighted the flag with **White (951)** on the raised curves of the highest points.

PAINTING THE RED SUN.

Next I painted the red sun disc. With the banners with was simply a red circle I painted freehand. However, you may like to cut out a small circle in some masking tape and place this in position before painting the red. This has the advantage of keeping the circles consistent across all your banners. This works for the large circle on the Regimental Standard as well. 4. Paint a red circle with Cavalry Brown (982).



 Highlight the waves and folds in the circle with Flat Red (957). If you have access to some brighter colours like Red (947) or Scarlet (817) another highlight with one of these will really make the disc stand out.



6. Finally for the Regimental Standard we need to add the sun's rays. The best method is to mark the positions where the rays go to around the edge of the standard. Once again, you could paint these free hand or use masking tape to mark the edges before painting the red as above.



# **JAPANESE VEHICLES**

Before 1942 there was little standardisation in paint schemes for Imperial Japanese Army armour. Most vehicles were painted in a hard-edged camouflage scheme with distinctive yellow stripes. The exact colours and how they were applied remains a complicated and confusing subject. Descriptions and names of colours are not consistent between different sources.



The official instructions from the Imperial Japanese Army on how tanks were to be painted are quite well documented. But debate continues among the various researchers about how closely the instructions were actually followed.

Official instructions called for vehicles to be painted in a khaki color ('tsuchi kusa iro') **Green Brown (879)** or **SP06 German Armour (desert)**, known to US intelligence as 'Japanese Artillery Brown.' Roughly 30% of the vehicle was painted in disruptive patterns of a dark mahogany brown or earth color ('tsuchi iro') **Flat Brown (984)**.



Officially, it was recommended that green ('kusa iro') (**Reflective Green 890**) should replace the khaki ('tsuchi kusa iro') base colour in summer, or in southern areas. In practice, though, green was often instead added as an additional colour, in disruptive areas covering roughly 20% of the vehicle's surface. Areas of colour were sometimes separated by thin black lines.

#### TANK STAR

Army vehicles usually had a small five-pointed brass star plaque on the front superstructure, the traditional symbol of the Imperial Japanese Army as granted to them by the Emperor Meiji. If you want to go to this level of detail, you can carefully paint this with a small detail brush.



Yellow wavy lines **Flat Yellow (953)** were applied in a rough cross shape when viewed from above, centred on the top of the vehicle. There is some dispute about the actual colour of these lines. Some researchers have theorised that it was actually a sandy, 'dry grass' colour **Green Ochre (914)**, which was described as 'yellow' because that is how it looked in contrast with the darker camouflage colours. This is certainly a plausible hypothesis, because the low-contrast result is more in keeping with camouflage theory at the time.



For the Battlefront studio models pictured in Rising Sun, I hedged my bets, painting some in the low-contrast scheme with **Green Ochre** and some in the high-contrast pattern with the green included and bright yellow lines.





# PAINTING JAPANESE VEHICLES

Everyone has their own way of painting, so whatever techniques you prefer to use are just fine, as long as you are happy with the result. Here is one suggested method which doesn't take too long and gives a good-looking result.



Jowett, Philip. MAA 362 The Japanese Army 1931-45 (1), Osprey Publishing Ltd., 2002 Millman, Nick. Japanese Armour Colours, A Primer, 1937-1945, 2012 Zaloga, Steven J. NV 137 Japanese Tanks 1939-45, Osprey Publishing Ltd., 2007