

# Painting Asterians

A paint guide by Kenn Mejer



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## Intro:

This is a guide to how I painted the box art, for the new hard plastic Asterian forces.

Personally I am an active Deadzone player and my primary force is the Asterians, so I was very happy when Mantic gave me the opportunity to reinvent them. This put some extra pressure on me, to make them as good as possible, they're my faction after all!

The main focus I had with this army, was to paint them with as few colors as possible and as simple as possible, but without making them look simple and easy.

I drew my Inspiration from Tron, and I really wanted that to show. As I painted back and forth, trying to find out how to handle them, I decided to settle on just 3 main colors on the models.

So, painting these models is just 3 main colors and then details.

These recipes are the same, almost no matter what Asterians you want to paint, be it vehicles, Marionettes or any other Asterian models (aside from Kalyshi and Matsudan).

The goal of this guide, is to explain every step, so that you can recreate them yourself and paint them just like I did.

I really hope you can find use of this guide and if there are any questions, please let me know, my contact info is in the back of the guide.

Have fun 😊

- Kenn

## Abbreviations:

These are the Abbreviations found throughout this guide, so if it says for example *AK11029 Black*, then it means that I have used AK Interactive 3<sup>rd</sup> Gen paint, numbered 11029 with the name Black.

## Method/Technique:

**AB:** Airbrush

**BR:** Brush

**DB:** Drybrush

**ZE:** Zenithal

## Producer:

**VMC:** Vallejo Model Color

**VGA:** Vallejo Game Air

**VGCW:** Vallejo Game Color Wash

**SC:** ScaleColor / Scale75

**GW:** Games Workshop

**AK:** AK Interactive 3rd gen

**AP:** Army Painter

## Preparing the models:

### Texture to the base:

#### Materials used:

- Sand
- PVA / Wood Glue
- Water

Glue the models to the base and apply sand:

I did the bases by putting PVA / Wood glue on the whole base around the feet and pouring a layer of sand over it.

For sand I use Chinchilla Sand, that can be bought at your local pet store and is very cheap, for the amount of bases you can make with it. The sand is very fine and perfect for bases, but any fine sand is good.

When the glue is dry, hold the base horizontally over the trashcan and knock on the bottom of the base, to remove the remaining loose sand.

Then I mix PVA glue with water, about 1 part glue and 3-4 parts water and brush the mix over the sand on the base to make sure the sand stays in place and are sturdy.

This will also provide extra support to the model, where it is attached to the base.

### Priming the models:

#### Paints used:

- Black Primer

Make sure the thinned glue is completely dry on the sand, before priming the model.

Any brand of primer will do, but I prefer Vallejo or AK Interactive Primer.

Then apply black primer by airbrush (0.4mm) or rattle-can to the entire model.

Use a few thin layers, do not overdo it or you will lose details.

#### **TIP:**

**IF YOU WANT TO SPEED UP THE DRYING PROCESS, YOU CAN USE A HAIRDRYER OR JUST THE AIR PRESSURE FROM AN AIRBRUSH.**

## The 3 main colors:

These are the 3 main colors: Dark Blue Grey, Grey & Black

This guide focuses on the Cypher model, other Asterian models are explained later.

### Dark Blue Grey.

This is the most dominant color on these models (except for the Black Talons), so this color is the most important one of them all to get right, as this sets the tone of the entire model.

Take your time to get it right, when you nail this one, the rest will be easy to do.

#### Colors used:

AP Quickshade Blue Tone  
AK11029 Black  
AK11165 Grey Blue  
AK11166 French Blue  
AK11167 Anthracite Grey  
AK11174 Snow Blue  
Flow Aid Medium  
VGA 72.751 BlackAP

### Light Grey.

An easy way to paint grey, this grey is a great accent to the Dark Blue Grey, the two colors go great together and complement each other.

#### Colors used:

AK11022 Dark Grey  
AK11018 Neutral Grey  
AK11013 Pale Grey  
AK11010 Medium Grey

### Black.

Black is usually a very difficult color to paint, but this recipe is a simple approach, that works very well.

#### Colors used:

Quickshade Blue Tone  
AK11029 Black  
VMC 70.943 Grey Blue

## Dark Blue Grey:



*The first 3 steps, Primer, Black & Anthracite Grey.*

### **AB Primer**

Start by applying an undercoat of black primer.

My preferred brands are Vallejo or AK Interactive, but any black primer will do.

### **AB VGA Black undercoat**

Black Primers are not all black, they're more a dark grey, so we need a thin coat of black for the base color.

### **AB ZE Anthracite Grey**

Thin down the Anthracite Grey to a thin milky substance and spray from upwards angle down to a 90 degrees angle.

This will place the shadows and initial highlights in an easy way.



**AB French Blue.**

Pick out the raised spots with an airbrush, be patient and control the spray.



**BR AK Black.**

Thin the black way down with Flow Aid to let it flow easily, paint in the crevasses. You can also paint the black areas while you are there, the paint is very thin, so it won't cover, no worries, we'll cover that later, now you got an idea of where the colors go.

Alternatively, you can use Black Ink or Black Oil Wash



**BR Grey Blue.**

Edge highlight everything. Use the side of the brush, where able, and a sharp pointy brush, to paint the edge highlights. Try to keep them as thin as possible.



**BR Snow Blue.**

Add dots and small highlights on the brightest edges, on top of the edge highlights.



### **BR Blue Tone Wash.**

Paint 2 thin layers of wash over everything, this will blend the layers and tone it down. It is very important to make sure that the first layer is completely dry, before applying the second layer, otherwise it will mess it up.

**TIP:**  
**IF YOU'D LIKE A STRONGER DARKER**  
**BLUE, PAINT 3 OR EVEN 4 LAYERS OF**  
**BLUE WASH**

## Light Grey:

This grey is a simple recipe in only 4 steps. Even though it is simple, it is an effective way to paint grey that will stand out. It is a fast color to paint, because you don't need to be precise with the edge highlight. If you make mistakes with the edge highlight it is very easy to fix when you are done.

### Colors used:

AK11022 Dark Grey  
AK11018 Neutral Grey  
AK11013 Pale Grey  
AK11010 Medium Grey



### BR Dark Grey.

Paint this on all the grey parts as the basecoat.



### BR Neutral Grey.

Paint all of the grey, except the crevasses, that way the Dark Grey you just painted will act as shadows.



### **BR Pale Grey.**

Edge highlight on all the grey, don't be afraid to miss here and there, it is easy to fix.



### **BR Medium Grey.**

Add dots and small highlights on the brightest edges, on top of the edge highlights. Just as you did previously with the Snow Blue.

**TIP:**

**WHEN YOU ARE DONE, IT IS EASY TO FIX ANY MISTAKES IN THE EDGE HIGHLIGHT, WITH NEUTRAL GREY**

## Black:

Black is usually a tough color to paint, luckily here, the black is not very dominant, so we can take it easy and do an easier than usual black, that will match the Dark Blue Grey



### Colors used:

AP Quickshade Blue Tone  
AK11029 Black  
VMC 70.943 Grey Blue



#### **BR Black.**

Paint all of the black areas with a good black color. That is the feet, joints, weapon and top of head.

#### **BR Grey Blue.**

Edge highlight the black with Grey Blue, There's no need to be super precise, as you can correct it afterwards with Black.

*Correct your highlights with black where needed.*

#### **BR Blue Tone Wash.**

Paint 2 thin layers of wash over everything, this will blend the layers and tone it down.

It is very important to make sure that the first layer is completely dry, before applying the second layer, otherwise it will mess it up.

## Red:

The same red recipe is used on two different areas, for 2 different effects.

Used on the rifles, it creates a glow effect and used on the pulse hands and torso lights/lenses, it will look like a light.

### Colors used:

AK11089 Blood Red  
AK11080 Deep Orange  
AK11076 Pastel Peach

## Grid-glow on Rifles, Energy Pulse Hand Weapons & Torso Lights:



### BR Blood Red.

Paint all of the lenses and the grid on the rifles, try to leave the black recesses black on the grid

#### TIP:

*IF YOU MISS ON THE GRID, DON'T WORRY, WE CAN FIX IT WITH BLACK, WHEN WE ARE DONE.*



### BR Deep Orange.

Paint the upper part of the lens and the top part of grid, about 50% of it, this will begin to create the effects.

You can easily fix any mistakes on the lens with Blood Red and the grid can be fixed with Black when you are done.



### BR Pastel Peach.

This last step is easy, place a dot as brightest highlight on the lens and on top of the grid, this will really make it look great and it's an easy technique.

Remember to fix the grid with black.

## Eyes:

The eyes are the last step, this is where your model comes to life.

### Colors used:

AK11097 Burnt Red  
AK11002 Off White  
GW Contrast Blood Angels Red



### BR Burnt Red.

Paint in the eye sockets with a small brush, you can thin the paint to make it flow more easily

### BR Off White.

Paint in the eyes, leaving Burnt Red in the recesses. This is precision work, so take your time, focus, and use a pointy small brush. Don't use pure white for this, but any off-white color will do.





**BR Blood Angels Red.**

Thin it with 3 parts water to one part Red.

Glaze the eyes and also just around the eyes as well.



**Cleanup.**

Cleanup around the eyes with the greys from the previous recipe



## The base:

Now the model is painted, the very last step is to paint the base.

Bases are important, as they can tell a story on their own.

These bases are painted brown colors with black pools, that break up all the brown and create a gritty look. That combined with dust pigments, make it look like these guys have seen some action.

### Colors used:

AK11029 Black  
VMC 70.984 Flat Brown  
VMC 70.884 Stone Grey  
VGCW Sephia  
VGCW Black  
Vallejo Pigments 73.110 Burnt Umber



### **BR Flat Brown.**

Start by painting all of the base with Flat Brown, this Red Brown color will be the base color.



**DB Stone Grey.**

Do a heavy drybrush all over the base, be careful not to paint on the model.



**BR Sephia Wash.**

Apply this wash on the entire base, to tone it down.



**BR Black Wash.**

While Sephia is still wet, splash in pool(s) of Black, this will wetblend it.



**Let dry.**

Let the washes dry completely, before moving to the next step.



**DB Stone Grey.**

When the washes are entirely dry, do a light drybrush of Stone Grey, just to bring the contrast back up a bit.



**BR Burnt Umber Pigments.**

Dirty up the models' lower legs and feet with these pigments, just dap it on.

This will make the feet dirty and more lifelike to the eye.

Also dap some on the base here and there, feel free to do as much as you feel like, but remember, usually less is more.



**BR AK Black.**

Paint the rim of the base black. A simple end to the paintjob, but an important one, as it will frame the model.

## Finish:

Finish the models by giving them a layer of matte varnish.

If you use the models a lot and want maximum protection, I recommend you first apply a gloss varnish by airbrush, followed by 2 layers of matte varnish. Be sure to let the layers dry completely in between. That will give them the best protection from usage.

And remember to have fun while painting 😊

- Kenn

If you like this guide, have a look at my social pages for more information.

<https://thenerdcave.dk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/mejersnerdcave>

<https://www.instagram.com/mejers.nerdcave/>



## Painting the other Asterian models:

Most the other models in the Asterian Range can be painted from the same recipes, even the Sky Razors, but except Kalyshi & Matsudan, they are not covered in this guide

### Marionettes.

The Marionettes are painted a lot like the Cyphers in this guide, the same recipes are used, even the red in their central eyes and their arm circuits are the same red we used before.

The Dark Blue Grey is more dominant, and the Grey is less on these.

This is to make them stand out a little less on the battlefield compared to the Cyphers.



### Sky Razors.

As they are vehicles, they have larger areas, but use the exact same recipes.

I did use the airbrush some more, as it is easier and faster on vehicles



### **Black Talons.**

The Black Talons are painted with the exact same recipes as the Cyphers.

As they're supposed to be darker, blacker (it's after all in the name), the simple, but effective approach is to switch the Dark Blue Grey with Black.

So, paint Black where the Cyphers are supposed to be Dark Blue Grey and the other way around.

That makes Black the dominant color and Dark Blue Grey complimentary.



### **Cypher Commander.**

Use the same recipes, that we already covered, I did splash in some gold, to signify their importance on the battlefield.

#### **Gold Recipe:**

BR AK11193 Rusty Gold, base color

BR AK11191 Gold, all except recesses

BR SC-94 Moonstone Alchemy, edge highlight.

BR AK11207 Aluminum, dots and very little edge highlights

Gallery:













As a special treat, just for you, here are images of the Kalyshi Deathstrike, that I also painted.

