

First Attempt at Painting Battle Lore® Figures with Sharpie® Markers

by Ron Hamilton

My Battle Lore® game came with two extra figures. I set them on my painting table and was planning to use them to test painting techniques for these miniatures. I had a left over silver metallic Sharpie® sitting on my painting table from another project, and I was struck with an idea. I wondered if I could use Sharpie® Markers on my Battle Lore® figures. The short answer is you can...



Photo showing my work in process and the Sharpie® Markers I am using to do it.

The Battle Lore® figures have small bendy plastic bits designed to flex and not break during play. I was afraid

the swords and such would never stand up to play if painted. I had these images of swords bending and paint flaking right off. My hope was that the Sharpie® would not rub off or flake off during normal use.

So I grabbed a test figure and the silver metallic Sharpie® Marker and went to work. It only took a second to color the sword and figures armor. I was totally amazed at not only how quickly the figure was completed, but at how well the Sharpie® seemed to sink into the soft plastic. I bent the sword back and forth; the newly colored sword didn't flake at all. I scraped and rubbed it and the marker did not rub off the figure. I was amazed that the Sharpie® had worked better than I could have imagined.

I then went down to the store to purchase some colored markers to try coloring the entire figure with Sharpie® Marker instead of paint. Here are some close ups of the different steps in painting, front and back.



Silver and brown, then adding red, lastly colored the base



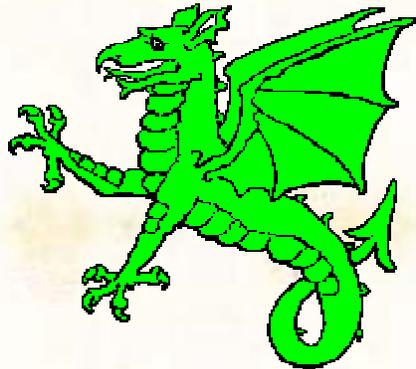
Same thing just from the back this time

*Here are my Sharpie® markers on Battle Lore®
Figures lessons learned:*

- 1. The markers are sort of opaque, that is they let the first color bleed through. Working from lighter shades to darker shades helps with this issue.*
- 2. I tried priming one figure in black Sharpie® (it is how I discovered the first lesson). I discovered the metallic Sharpie® markers are not opaque. So I was able to paint all of the metal bits with the Sharpie®, so that floppy little sword will get the benefit of being done with a marker, but this figure will have to be finished with paint.*
- 3. The second coat of Sharpie® will cause the previous coat of marker to bleed together. The solvent from the new marker reactivates the old color allowing them to blend together. I used this to my advantage to draw in brown shadows on my figures and then blend it in with the red color when I applied it. This allowed me to do the belts and boots a little sloppy and fix it up with the red which made it a deep red shadow when applied.*

I plan to try some ink washes and using acrylic paint to paint some heraldic symbols on shields and other items as needed. I also plan to experiment with different sealers and see how they will react with Sharpie® Marker. I will be posting more articles and photos as the painting of the armies proceed. I just wanted to share my early success so that others might consider using Sharpie® Markers to paint their Battle Lore® or other figures.

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