

# Hints and Tips -

## Colour Guide - Soviet Army

By Michael Farnworth

March 2008

### Soviet Army



Artizan figures by Andrew Taylor of Ares Painting



Artizan figures painted by Mick Farnworth

Item	Colour	Vallejo Model Colour
Helmet	Dark Green	Russian Green 70.894
Greatcoat	Khaki	US Field Drab 70.973, English Uniform 70.921, Flat Earth 70.983
Uniform	Khaki Green	Russian Uniform 70.924
Uniform (variant)	Khaki	US Field Drab 70.973, English Uniform 70.921, Flat Earth 70.983
Uniform (variant)	Tan	US Tan Earth 70.874
Uniform (faded)	Beige	German Camo Beige 70.821, Dark Sand 70.847
Belt	Brown	Mahogany Brown 70.846, Flat Brown 70.984
Blanket	Grey Beige	Sky Grey 70.989, Light Grey 70.990
Webbing	Beige	German Camo Beige 70.821
Pistol Holster	Brown	Mahogany Brown 70.846, Flat Brown 70.984
Boots - Soldiers	Black	Black 70.950

### Notes

Uniforms were basic and colours variable. There is a common misconception that Russian uniforms were yellow brown. The standard colour was an olive shade of khaki, similar to the colour used by Canadian and British forces. In practice the colours varied extensively from olive green through to pale brown.

Winter uniforms were made of woollen cloth and coloured in an olive green khaki. Padded winter jackets (telogreika) and trousers were widely used. Shade differences between jackets and trousers were common.

Summer uniforms were made of cotton and faded to a cream colour.

Greatcoats were in theory a dark brown colour, but various shades from brown through khaki to mid grey were used. The classic image of a Russian soldier shows the greatcoat rolled into a bedroll and carried diagonally over the shoulders.

In the early war years, soldiers were equipped with black or brown ankle boots and khaki puttees. In later years, the standard boots were black jackboots. In winter, grey sealskin over-boots were issued to the lucky few.

Helmets were mostly green but the colour varied from a dark olive to a lighter yellowy green. Metal objects such as ammo boxes were usually olive green.

Pouches and belts were often brown leather or khaki canvas. The main belt was fastened with an aluminium buckle.

### Insignia

Soviets wore very little insignia on the winter uniforms. Fur and cloth hats had a red star on the centre front. Summer uniforms had insignia on shoulder boards.

## Soviet Scouts



Artizan figures by Andrew Taylor of Ares Painting



Artizan figures painted by Mick Farnworth

Item	Colour	Vallejo Model Colour
"Amoebas"	Dark Brown	German Camo Black Brown 70.882 (GW Scorched Earth)
"Background"	Khaki Green	Russian Uniform 70.924
"Background" autumn	Tan	US Tan Earth 70.874, (GW Snakebite Leather)

### Notes

Scouts (razvedchiki) wore camouflage over suits. The Amoeba pattern was commonly used. This was produced in green with dark brown disruptive print. Amoeba pattern was also made in other colours including tan with dark brown print. Another pattern was the Leaf pattern which was a three colour mimetic design of green and brown leaves on a beige or grey cloth.

## Further Reading

### Books

#### General

Andrew Mollo: **The Armed Forces of World War 2** (Little, Brown and Company)

This book is a very useful overview of uniforms and insignia. There are 250 colour drawings and 100 photographs which cover every nation involved in WW2. The original 1981 version is a large format book. There is an A5 reprint that does not include the Eastern front.

Chris McNab: **20th Century Military Uniforms: 300 Uniforms from Around the World** (Grange Books PLC)

This book is similar in style to Andrew Mollo's book and has many of the same illustrations.

**Osprey** books are also very good but there are several which touch the subject, so it is difficult to recommend one item.

#### Russia

Laszlo Bekesi, **Stalin's War: Soviet Uniforms and Militaria 1941-45**, (The Crowood Press Ltd)

A good book with colour photographs showing original uniforms and equipment. Unfortunately, many of the examples are of faded and battered uniforms and there are no camouflage items.

Steven Zolaga ; **Osprey Men at Arms 216 - The Red Army of the Great Patriotic War** (Osprey Publishing).

Osprey has many titles dealing with the Russian Army. This is probably the most relevant for miniatures collectors and painters.

### Websites

[www.rkka.ru](http://www.rkka.ru)

The rkka website shows original uniforms from the Soviet Army museum.

<http://www.tridentmilitary.com/Reproduction.uniforms.html>

Trader in reproduction Soviet WW2 Uniforms

TMP The Miniatures Page

<http://theminaturespage.com>

TMP is a news forum and discussion site for miniature wargaming of all types. It has a large and active membership and good trade support. It is probably the first site with industry news and new product releases. The forums (Message Boards) are superb and most questions will get useful answers within an hour or two. The Message Boards can also be searched so that you can look up previous threads on a subject.