

# TimeCast: Historic Buildings in Miniature

## TimeCast BAOR British Infantry (early 1980's) – Painting Guide

A brief guide to painting our 10mm British Infantry. The colours refer to the Coat d'arms paints.

For field exercises and operations the British soldier of the early 1980's would have worn camouflaged DPM combat clothing, 58 Pattern webbing and a Mk III or IV steel helmet. The basic uniform comprised a jacket and trousers in DPM (Disruptive Pattern Material) which were camouflaged in four colours (sand, medium green, dark brown and black). the pattern is not too hard to paint (even in 10mm), but it is worth remembering that after a couple of weeks in the field (particularly after "digging in" a few times), that the clothing would have taken on a general dirt colour! The uniforms of that period also had a tendency to fade particularly after repeated cleaning, and an older item of clothing would often look quite faded compared to a newly issued item. It was quite usual to see soldiers in the same clothing, with wide variations in the colouring and fading.

The basic combat clothing can be painted quite easily in stages as follows:

1. First paint the whole uniform in the basic sand colour. Although this is not the predominant colour it is the lightest shade and easier to paint first rather than trying to use it to over paint the darker colours.
2. Add the green patches - this is the main colour but allow plenty of sand to show.
3. Add the brown patches, filling in the gaps between the green and sand areas.
4. Using a fine tipped brush add the black patches as a series of thin wavy lines between the other colours.

Of course, if painting camouflage uniforms in 10mm is not your idea of fun, we recommend painting the models in NBC (chemical warfare) suits. Although the NBC suits had hoods which are not sculpted on the figures, this is not really noticeable in this scale. The NBC suits (aka Noddy suits to the soldiers) were made in a dark green material (the camouflage version didn't come into service until the late 1980s).

<p>The basic DPM combat uniform. We recommend paint it in the following sequence:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Paint the whole uniform Dark Sand</li><li>2. Add the green patches</li><li>3. Add the brown patches</li><li>4. Add the black lines</li></ol>			
 <p>The helmet covered with scrim and with added dry grass to match the ground</p>	 <p>Two views of the helmet. On the right uncamouflaged, on the left scrimmed and with added material to break up the shape.</p>	 <p>Soldiers wearing the Mk 3 or 4 NBC suit. Earlier versions were of a distinctly lighter shade of olive green.</p>	 <p>The Mk 3 or 4 NBC suit. By the late 1980s the Mk 5 was available in a DPM colour scheme, but the old suits soldiered on until the 1990s.</p>

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For more detailed pictures of the DPM camouflage pattern and the Mk 3/4 NBC suits a quick Google search will provide plenty of reference material.

Helmets. The helmet was the old MkIII or IV pattern, almost unchanged from WW2 and probably the most useless helmet ever issued to the British soldier. It was hated by several generations of British soldiers. Painted a dark green it was usually covered with hessian scrim (light brown or green in colour) underneath a net and embellished with strips of scrim or camouflage netting material (in dark green and brown) to break up the outline and shape.

Rank badges. During the 1980s subdued rank badges became common, these being small black stripes etc on a plain green or camouflage material. However, up until the mid 80s, the old style of light coloured stripes worn on the right sleeve were often seen.

Uniform and Equipment	Description	Recommended Paint Shade (Coat d'arms Acrylic Paints)
DPM Pattern Clothing	Sand shade Green shade Brown shade Black shade	229 Dark Sand 226 Olive 219 Chestnut Brown 102 Black
Helmet	Scrim material  Attached Camouflage material	537 faded Khaki 513 Faded Olive 226 Olive and 219 Chestnut Brown
Boots	Black Puttees (if worn)	102 Black 225 Khaki
58 pattern Webbing (pouches, pack etc.	Varying shades of green and khaki. This material lasted a long time and although it was dark green when new it faded to a light olive or khaki colour.	226 Olive 513 Faded Olive 537 Faded Khaki
Mk 3 or 4 NBC Suit	NBC Suit NBC overboots	521 Army Green 102 Black
Small Arms	SLR: Generally all black, including butts and stock but some older rifles still had their original wooden butts and stock. GPMG: All black but older models could still have a wooden butt. SMG: All black	102 Black 218 Wood Brown (Butts and stocks)
Heavy weapons	Mortars, Milan and Blowpipe Missile systems are all dark green.	226 Olive

Coat d'arms paints are available to order from our website: <http://www.timecastmodels.co.uk/paints/paintsbrushes.html>