

## N.C. Wyeth's Last Mohican part 2 by Marion Ball

Okay, let's start with the second part and see what I have messed around.

As you can see from the pictures, the figures were interacting quite vividly with each other.

That's why I had to paint the Indians face and chest first before Alan could finally finish the figures.

Here on these pictures you can see that there are three different steps in painting. The arm is undercoated with the base colour then the face got all the highlights followed by the chest which is already finished with the shadows.

For the base colour I took Andrea **40 Earth** + Vallejo **818 Red Leather**. When I started to paint the first highlight I took a bit **V860 Medium Flesh** and added it to the base colour. Then the second layer followed with adding a bit more **V860**. For the third highlight I took some **V845 sunny Skin tone** and finished the highlight process. If you look at the face you can see the result. Keep always in mind that the different layers should look smooth and gentle avoid harsh edges.



Picture 1: Figures unpainted



Picture 2: Chest & face highlighted



Picture 3: Finished with Shadows

When I was doing the shading process it was very important to keep the colour very thin and opaque because I over painted the whole highlights more or less again. For doing the shadows I used the following colours V818 Red Leather+ A2 Uniform Ingles +A40 Earth+V846 Mahogany brown. I just mixed some of these colours with my base colour and started to paint it on. I began with a very light shade tone and painted from the very highlights till to the darkest spots. I always use the whole brush not only the top of it and put on the paint very widely. It is also very important not to add to much paint on it otherwise it could happen that it runs over the whole figure what could be very annoying. The whole process was repeated getting slowly darker and darker. The final finish had to wait till the figures were attached together. At that time I gave the figure back to Alan so that he could assemble and finish it.



Picture 4: Figures assembled and ready to paint

Here you can see that I finished all the highlights on the Indian and on the officers' face. The Skin tone for the officer was basically the same like for the Indian but instead of using Sunny Skin tone to highlight him up I took **V815 Basic Skin** tone which is a cooler tone.



Picture 5: Basic colour Indian



Picture 6: Highlights



Picture 7: More highlights

Here I started doing the shadows which looked very weak at that point but the more I repeated the whole process in adding all the shadow colours the contrast got a stronger and stronger. Then I switched to the dark side and used some oil colours. Yes, I still use oil paints in some occasions because I think they are very handy to handle and sometimes it makes the painting go easier. For the final touch on the whole skin I took some Indian red and put it to the shadow areas very carefully. Feathering the paint with a small flat brush and repeating the whole procedure with **transparent Oxide Red**. During painting you should always check your already finished parts because sometimes it happens that in the first go it looked good but then after a certain while you discover that it needs some more painting and correction. I always check and do some adjustments and corrections if needed. That is why I always make sure that I mix enough colour.



Picture 8: First Shadows



Picture 9: More shadows



Picture 10: Adding oils

In the end I took some **Naples yellow oils** and repainted the highlights again. That was necessary because they got a bit weak after all the shading.



Picture 11: Adding oils



Picture 12: More oils



Picture 13: Indian skin finished

#### Colour chart for the skin:

- Basis : A40 Earth+V818 Red Leather  
 1. HL. : Base+ V860 Medium Flesh  
 2. HL. : more V860  
 3. HL. :+V815 Sunny Skin tone

#### Shadow colours:

- V818 Red Leather  
 -A2 Uniform Ingles  
 -A40 Earth  
 -V846 Mahogany Brown

**Oil colours:** Indian Red, Oxide Red, Napels yellow

After I finished the Indian skin I also painted the hair and his feathers which I think don't need an explanation. The next important part was now the officer's coat. With the base coat, make sure that it is not too aqueous; it should have a creamy consistency, as should all of the basic colours you are using. Because you lighten the colour step by step it automatically becomes a little thinner, eventually it will become very thin and almost transparent.

Also make sure that you keep the colour mixes separate and not all together so you are always in control over the colours any time.

For that I started with a basis mix of **Andrea A33 Nap. Red + a bit of A38 Nap. Green + Vallejo 829 Purple heart Red**. I made sure that the base colour was not getting too dark otherwise it looks blackish. Now I began to paint the first highlight for that I added a bit **Maimeri 220 Brilliant Red** to the base colour. For the second and third highlight I added some **A32 French Orange** and for the final highlight some **V803 Brown Rose**.

To clarify, I normally use four or five different shades to highlight and shadow, so there is a noticeable difference with each application, each application is with a thin paint, just enough to make it stand out a little so that when it dries it becomes almost but not fully invisible against the previous one, if it doesn't do this, the paint is too thin and you should add some more colour.



Picture 14: Coat painted



Picture 15: 1

Here on that picture you can see the painting palette I use and the red colours for the coat. When mixing paint make always sure that you have enough. There is nothing more annoying than if you have to mix some more paint and don't get the right colour tone again.

Next was to finish the officer's face which I already painted with almost the same colours as the Indian. The only different was that I was using **V815 Basic Skin tone** for the highlights instead of **Sunny Skintone**. And for doing the shadows I choose **A11 Magenta+A33 Nap.Red+ A2 Unif.Ingles**. Here I also finished the blue collars and the epaulettes. For the epaulettes I painted them first a in an orange greenish tone. Which I started with a base mix of **A2 Unif.Ingles+V851 Orange**. Then for the first highlights I took some **V948 Gold Yellow +A8Yellow**. For the final highlights I added some **A39 Beige** and gave at the end the whole part a very thin wash of **Gold** and **Smoke and Black**. I had to be careful to keep the wash very thin and weak that it didn't cover my whole painting. As a final touch I pointed out some spots with printers ink .



Picture 16: Collars& epaulettes



Picture 17: Shirt



Picture 18: Finished shirt

The sash was painted in the same way just like the epaulettes without the final addition of the printer's ink.

Then the rest was painted as well, for doing the patterns on the knife bag and the tissue I used some oil colours which I just put on with a very thin sharp point .



Picture 19: Sash, knife & loin cloth



Picture 20: Sash, knife & loin cloth



Picture 21: Details finished

## **Colour chart:**

### **Officer`s uniform:**

- Basis : A33 Nap.Red+V829 Purpleheart Red+ A38 Nap.Green  
1. HL. : B+Maimeri Brilliant Red (you could also use Scarlet or any similar tone)  
2. HL. : +A32 French Orange  
3. HL. : +more A32  
4. HL. : +V803 Brown Rose  
Shadows : A33 + A26 Black ( carefully with the black) and mixes from above

### **Hair officer:**

- Basis : V950 Black+Maimeri 484 Van Dyck Brown  
1. HL. : B+Maimeri 248 Red Oxide  
2. HL. : +V915Deep Yellow  
3. HL. : more V915+V955 Sunny skintone  
Shadows : V950 Black+ V939 Smoke

### **Blue:**

- Basis : V899 Dark Prussian Blue+V950 Black  
1. HL. : B+ V966 Turquoise Blue+V899  
2. HL. : more V966  
3. HL. : more V966  
4. HL. : +V808Blue green  
Shadows : Basis+ and all colours above.

### **Gold:**

- Basis : A2 Unif.Ingles+V851Orange  
1. HL. : B+V948 Gold Yellow +A8 Yellow  
2. HL. : more A9  
3. HL. : +A39 Beige  
Shadows : Thin wash of Gold and V939 Smoke+Black

### **Leather:**

- Basis : V950 Black +V829 Purpleheart Red  
1. HL. : B+ V829+A9 Yellow  
2. HL. : +V955 Sunny Skintone  
3. HL. : more V955 Sunny skintone  
Shadows : washes with V939 Smoke +V950 Black

Now I started painting the Indian leggings. As you can see on these pictures I started with a base coat that I made of Andrea 40 Earth +Maimeri 484 Van Dyck Brown.



Picture 22: Basic leggings& trouser



Picture 23: Basic leggings& trouser

Then I went on with applying the highlights again I did about four different layers of it. When I mix a colour, I always keep each colour separate and do not mix everything together from the outset, but the palette is ideally suited for this, one can keep each colour separately ready for use. Each colour is given a separate section and more or less of each colour is added until the desired hue or tone is reached. Here perhaps some people will ask themselves, how many drops have I put out from the different colours and how much water to take to each colour, two or three? That is something I always rely on my feeling for, and do not have a standard pallet each time. My basic colour is in each case has only enough water added to it until it gets to the consistency of cream. It gets diluted more automatically with each coat as more water is added to make each coat of paint thinner than the last. I have a rule of thumb, which I apply to all basics mixtures, whether it is a face, an article of clothing or anything else I paint. I always begin with the middle tone and work up to the "brighter" or highlight, like the structure of a pyramid. Usually four or five stages are enough for me to get what I want, and get to the brightest highlights. I take a little of the last colour to be used and add that to blend away any obvious lines between the layers of colours... Later I follow the same procedure in the reverse sequence, and start with the brightest shade.



Picture 24: Highlights finished



Picture 25: Highlights finished

Here you can see how the leggings looked like after applying all the shadow colours. When I do the shades I make certain that the colour is kept extremely aqueous and very thin on the brush. If it is too thick it covers the underlying colour too much, and you might as well start again from the beginning. You can compare it with oil painting and the laying on of glazes, which are very transparent and carrying very little colour.

I also made four to five layers, until I arrived at the deepest shade. Afterwards I corrected the whole thing again, by lightening again a little the appropriate places since by shading highlights were automatically slightly darkened. As a final slight touch I added some **Transparent Oxide Red** inside the legs which I feathered out very carefully. That gave it a smooth brownish yellowish finish.



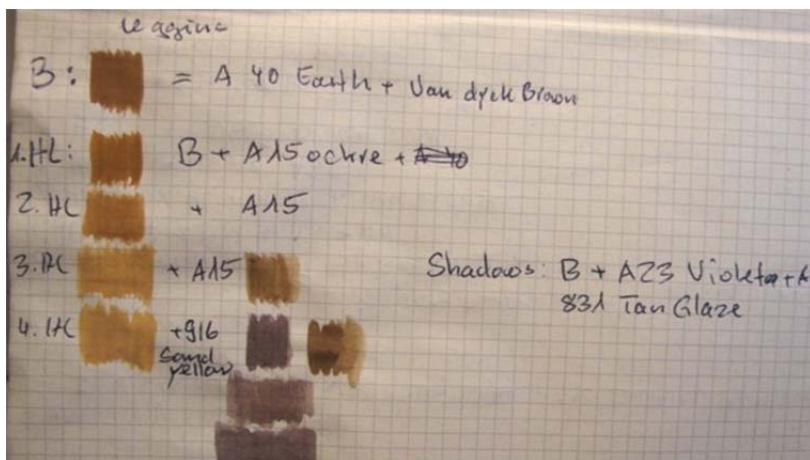
Picture 26: Shadows applied



Picture 27: Shadows applied



Picture 28: Oils applied



Picture 29: 2

## Colour chart:

### Brown Leggings:

- Base : A 40+Maimeri 484 Van Dyck Brown
- 1. HL : B+ A15 Ochre
- 2. HL : +more A15
- 3. HL : +more A15
- 4. HL : +V 916 sand Yellow

### Shadow colours:

- Base +A23 Violet - A41 Wood -V831 Tan Glaze

A= Andrea V= Vallejo

Now as next I painted the trousers. For therefore I made a mix of **V884 Stone Grey +V913 Yellow ochre**. By the way the shirt was painted in the same way I forgot to mention that earlier.

The highlights were done with adding **V916 Sand +V981 Ivory**.

The shadows were done very subtly because I didn't want to over-exaggerate them. I used the base colour + adding some **A 2 Unif.Ingles and V950 Black**. When painting white it is always difficult to get the lights and shadows just right and not to over paint them.

As a final finish I used some **V853 White glaze** which is an opaque white and put it on very carefully trying to avoid the colour going into the shadow creases. When I was finished with that I checked the figure all over, and had to slightly retouch some of the shadows again which was done very fast.



Picture 30: White trouser finished



Picture 31: White glaze applied

What then followed were the boots, moccasins, sword and the knife. With that the figures were finished and they were waiting to get placed onto the base.



Picture 32: Finished figures



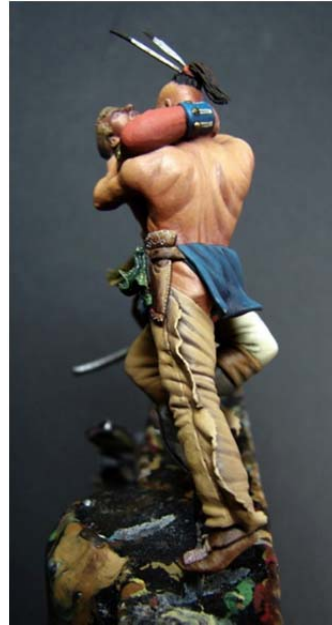
Picture 33: Finished figures



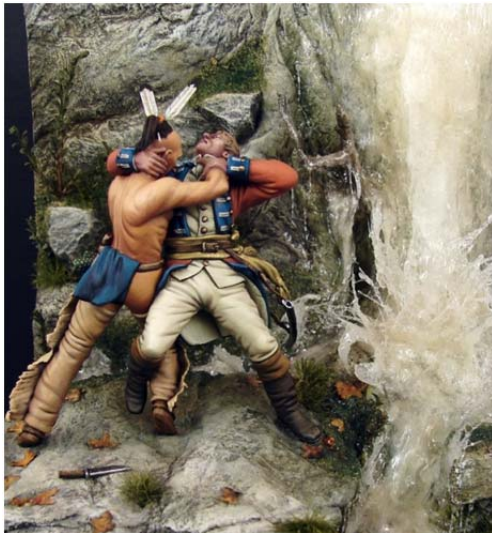
Picture 34: Finished figures



Picture 35: Ready to glue on



Picture 36: 3 Ready to glue on



## Colour chart:

### White:

Base : V884 Stone Grey + A2 Unif. Ingles+ V913 Yellow ochre  
1. HL : B+ V916 Sand  
2. HL : + more V916 +V918 Ivory  
3. HL : + more V918 Ivory  
4. HL : + V918 Ivory  
Shadow colours: Base +A2 Unif. Ingles + V950 Black  
Glaze :V853 White Glaze

### Black/Brown boots:

Base : V950 Black + M484 Van Dyck Brown  
1. HL : +A 15 Ochre + A2 Unif. Ingles  
2. HL : + more A15  
3. HL : + more A15  
Shadow colours: Base + A2+ V950 Black  
Glaze : Lamp Black oil colour to paint into the creases