

## Hints and Tips -

### Colour Guide - German Fallschirmjäger

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#### German Fallschirmjäger



Artizan figures painted by Mick Farnworth



Crusader figures painted by Mick Farnworth

Artizan and Crusader figures are fully compatible and can be mixed in the same unit. Crusader figures represent early war uniforms and Artizan represent later uniforms and weapons. Figures may be selected from both ranges can be used for the major campaigns. The main thing is to take care of the weapons. The FG42 was introduced in 1942 and the StGw 44 was introduced in 1944

#### Fallschirmjäger Uniform

Item	Colour	Vallejo Model Colour
Helmet	Dark Grey	German Dk Grey 70.995, (see note)
Peaked Cap	Field Grey	German Field Grey WW2 70.830
Smock Early	Grey Green	Russian Uniform 70.924
Smock After 1941	Camouflage	- see text
Luftwaffe Tunic	Blue Grey	Field Blue 70.964
Shirt	Light Blue	Pastel Blue 70.901
Trousers	Field Grey	German Field Grey WW2 70.830
Tropical Uniform	Tan	US Tan Earth 70.874
Tropical Uniform Faded	Sand	Iraqi Sand 70.819
Boots	Black	Black 70.950

#### Equipment

Item	Colour	Vallejo Model Colour
Helmet Cover, Bandolier	Camouflage	- see text
Webbing	Black	Black 70.950
Bread Bag, Shovel Cover	Khaki Green	Russian Uniform 70.924
Gasmask Tin, Canteen	Dark Green	German Dark Green 70.896
Canteen (late war)	Khaki Yellow	Desert Yellow 70.977
Water bottle Cover	Brown	German Camo Medium Brown 70.826
Water bottle Lid & strap	Black	Black 70.950

## Introduction

This guide will help you to quickly paint units of Fallschirmjäger to look good on a war games table. Uniform notes, paint references and painting tips are included.



## Uniform Notes

Fallschirmjäger wore a jump smock. This was nicknamed the bone bag (Knochensack). The lower part of the earliest version was sewn together to form legs. Later versions had studs so that they could be fastened or left loose. Early versions were usually Grey Green. Later versions were nearly always camouflage. The camouflage changed through the years.

Smocks, Bandoleers, Helmet Covers and Grenade Pouches were all made of the same cotton fabric. The colours and patterns changed through the war years. In Crete, plain grey green was the most common. In Italy, Splittermuster 41 was most common although newer items would have been Sumpfmuster. For Normandy, both Splittermuster and Sumpfmuster were used. This list shows the approximate dates of manufacture. However caution should be used as sometimes late war photographs show soldiers wearing early war smocks in grey green.

See the Artizan website for detailed notes in **Farnworth German ww2 patterns**

Made From	To	Colour or Pattern
1938	1941	Grey Green with no pattern
1941	1943	Splittermuster 41 (Luftwaffe Splinter)
1943	1945	Sumpfmuster 43 (Tan and Water)
1944	1945	Sumpfmuster 44 (Tan and Water)
1945	1945	Erbsenmuster 44 (Pea Dot) - (made but not used - see text)



Grey Green



Splittermuster 41



Sumpfmuster 43



Sumpfmuster 44

There were some additional but rare colours for smocks. Before the war, Luftwaffe Blue versions were made for training. Some smocks were apparently produced in Tan for the planned Malta invasion which was cancelled. Smocks in Pea Dot camouflage, Erbsenmuster, were produced for the SS but do not appear to have issued. Pictures of SS Fallschirmjäger in Yugoslavia show standard Splittermuster smocks.

Fallschirmjäger wore jump trousers (Springhosen). These were in theory, field grey (Feldgrau) but photographs suggest that this was lighter than army uniforms. Luftwaffe uniform tunics were Blue Grey rather than Field Grey. Luftwaffe troops wore light blue shirts with temperate uniform and tan shirts with tropical uniform. Troops in North Africa and Sicily, e.g. Brigade Ramke wore standard Luftwaffe tropical uniform, usually with Fallschirmjäger helmets rather than army helmets.

Metal items such as heavy weapons, ammunition boxes and mess tins were grey in the early period and ochre in the late period. However, even towards the end of the war, grey items were still common. Bread bags were produced in field grey but being cotton faded rapidly. Water bottles had a black painted aluminium cup which served as the lid and a brown wool cover. Some Luftwaffe troops had navy blue bread bags and canteen covers. Helmets were dark grey in the early war period. In North Africa, they were painted with sand. In the later war period, various camouflage patterns were made using dark yellow, dark green and red brown.

### Insignia

Rank symbols were worn on the collar of the field jacket. These are rarely visible under the smock. For Airforce (Luftwaffe) and Paratroopers (Fallschirmjäger), the background was yellow. Rank tabs were white metal wings. Corporals had two and Sergeants had three. Paint the collar tabs in white and then paint yellow on the top. This is much easier than trying to get yellow on a blue base.

On the right breast the eagle symbol was worn. This can be painted in white or light grey. The same was often on the front of cloth caps. In the early war period, the eagle was also painted on the side of the helmet.

### Painting Tips



Artizan figures painted by Mick Farnworth



Crusader figures painted by Mick Farnworth

To differentiate the Luftwaffe tunic from other German uniforms, I suggest you emphasise the blue. This can be done by mixing blue with Feldgrau or by using Vallejo Field Blue 70.964.

German soldiers often look best if the bread bag and gas mask tin colours are clearly different from the uniform.

## Painting Camouflage

Contrast is important so that the pattern will be visible from a distance.

Start with a dark background shade and over brush with lighter tones until you have a base with a pale ground and deep shadows.

Next, paint in the colours as stripes or blobs. To increase the contrast, highlight the coloured shapes with a brighter shade.

For sharp edged patterns, repaint the edges with the lightest background shade.

For diffused or faded patterns, lightly dry brush or stipple the coloured shapes with the background shade.

A dark wash of Army Painter Strong Tone or GW Devlan Mud will bring out the details.

### Splittermuster 41



Item	Colour	Vallejo Model Colour
Splinter Camo - Base	Grey	Light Grey 70.990 or Deck Tan 70.986
Splinter Camo - Camo	Dark Green	Luftwaffe Camo Green 70.823
Splinter Camo - Camo	Dark Brown	German Camo Black Brown 70.882



**Painting Tip** > Paint the garment in mid grey then over brush with a lighter tone so that you have a pale ground with darker shadows. Add green and brown blobs. Note to increase the contrast, mix the dark green with a brighter shade e.g. German Camo Bright Green 70.833. If you are careful, you will get angular shapes with sharp edges. If not, paint over the edges of the green and maroon sections with pale grey to make the angles sharper. Wash with a dark brown shade to bring out the details. On small scale figures ignore the rain overprint.

**Sumpfmuster 43**



Item	Colour	Vallejo Model Colour
Swamp 43 - base	Beige	German Camo Beige 70.821 with Iraqi Sand 70.819
Swamp 43 - camo	Dark Green	German Dark Green 70.896
Swamp 43 - camo	Maroon	Flat Brown 70.984



**Painting Tip** > Paint the garment in beige, then over brush with sand to get a bright ground colour with darker shadows. Add green stripes and maroon blobs. If you are careful, you will get angular shapes with sharp edges. If not, paint over the edges of the green and maroon sections with coffee to make the angles sharper. Wash with a dark brown shade to bring out the details. On small scale figures ignore the rain overprint.

**Sumpfmuster 44**



Item	Colour	Vallejo Model Colour
Swamp 44 - base	Tan	US Tan Earth 70.874 with Iraqi Sand 70.819
Swamp 44 - camo	Dark Green	German Dark Green 70.896
Swamp 44 - camo	Maroon	Flat Brown 70.984



**Painting Tip** > Paint the garment in tan, then over brush with sand to get a bright ground colour with darker shadows. Paint the garment in tan, and then use dilute flesh ink and PVA wash to create shadows. Add green stripes and maroon blobs. Wash with a dark brown shade to bring out the details. On small scale figures ignore the rain overprint.

## Further Reading

### Books

The principle sources for this guide were Lagarde and Peterson.

#### General Military

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.

#### Germany

Jean De Lagarde: **German Soldiers of World War Two** (Histoire & Collections)

A very useful book with colour photographs showing original uniforms and equipment.

Daniel Peterson; Europa Militaria No 17: **Wehrmacht Camouflage Uniforms and Post-War Derivatives** (The Crowood Press)

Daniel Peterson; Europa Militaria No 18: **Waffen SS Camouflage Uniforms and Post-War Derivatives** (The Crowood Press)

These books are aimed at military uniform collectors and contain details of real and fake garments.

