



Painting Exotic Decorators

Lauren Hoeffler

Supplies

- A model horse – any scale! Your instructor recommends starting out small, though, and working your way up, if you're new to this.
- Reference photos for your chosen pattern – okapi, bongo, tapir, kudu, etc.
- Mask, N95 or other similar
- Primer paint – your instructor prefers Duplicolor Sandable primer in white, but also recommends Tamiya Primer if you're using a CollectA or other vinyl model as your base.
- A variety of small paint brushes, but you can also use tiny, inexpensive makeup brushes
- Testor's brand micro sponges, or other tiny, sponge-tip applicator
- Matte spray sealer – like Krylon, Plaid, or Rustoleum
- Testor's Dullcote spray topcoat
- Pastels in varying colors to match your reference animal – your instructor uses a combination of Stick Pastels, Pan Pastels, and Earth Pigments for this tutorial. Feel free to use whichever brands you like or are already familiar with. Suggested colors include:
 - Titanium white, Medium grey, Black, Natural Earth tones, and Red Iron oxide
- Acrylic Paints to match your reference animal. Suggested colors include:
 - Titanium white
 - Warm or Ivory white
 - Burnt Umber
 - Black
 - Interference blue
- Clear acrylic varnish
- Water and a small disposable cup
- Paper towels
- 3M or similar double-sided tape
- Small, lidded plastic containers for storing pastel dust
- Kneaded eraser
- Exacto knife
- Painter's tape

Some Tips and Notes!

- Always wear your mask, so you aren't inhaling pastel dust!
- Take your model outside to spray and seal it. Do NOT seal inside your house or studio!
- When spraying your model, hold it out, away from your body, and lightly spray the entire model while holding it at arm's length.
- DO NOT spray too heavily! This will only increase the amount of time you need to wait between layers (to allow for curing/drying), and it can potentially lead to problems later. Spray thin, light layers. They will build up as you add additional layers of pastels.
- Allow approximately 15-20 min cure/drying time between pastel layers. Set the model down, take a break and allow it to dry before adding the next layer of pastels.
- Don't forget to have fun!