Tying Hessian colours down to exact historical matches is a difficult propoposition as so few survived into posterity. Many believe the Hessian colours matched those of the Prussians in the Seven Years War whilst others submit that each regiment would carry several different colours. With the research and advice of renowned vexillologist, Dr Lesley Prince we provide a variety of colours for several of the more famous regiments fighting in America.

Flags researched by and courtesy of Dr Lesley Prince.

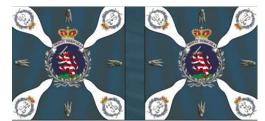
















Regiment von Mirbach



Grenadier Regiment von Rall



Black Pouder™ American War of Independence 1775-1783

Hessian Infantry Regiment

Taking their name from the German state of Hesse from which most of them hailed, Hessians were German mercenaries in the employ of the British crown. Prior to the American War of Independence Hessians had fought for the British during the Jacobite rebellion of 1715 and had a military tradition as mercenaries for hire, as their local rulers funded their own governemnts with the proceeds.

Around a quarter of the troops Britain fielded during the War of Independence were Hessians. Although under the overall command of British officers, they had their own commanding officers, fought under their usual flags and in their traditional uniforms. The bulk of the Hessian forces were infantry – musketeer, fusilier, grenadier and jäger units being most common.

Hessian regiments performed well and fought in the majority of battles in the war in some respect although the British used them primarily for garrison duty as the war progressed. However, Hessians were a key part of the British forces fighting in the South under General Cornwallis.



Standard Bearers

Use parts marked J to assemble standard bearers.

Choose the head and headgear to match the unit you are building (musketeer, fusilier, or grenadier)



Musketeer Leib Regiment (Erbbrinz)









Arms with the same marking (A, for example) are 'paired' and should be used together - ideally with the body of the same code letter.

Note that arms with a '1' after their letter (i.e. A1) carry the short hunting rifle and are therefore for Jägers.

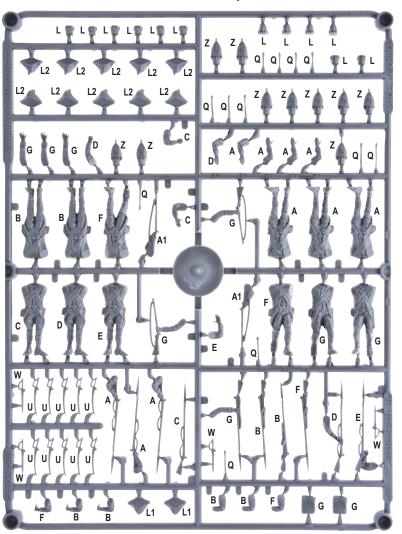


Fusiliers & Grenadiers

Other than their short mitre cap fusiliers were dressed as per their musketeer counterparts as seen above. The cap plate was the same colour as the regimental buttons.

The tallest and toughest soldiers would join the grenadier companies and be recognised by their tall mitre cap as shown to the right.

Hessian infantry frame



Heads

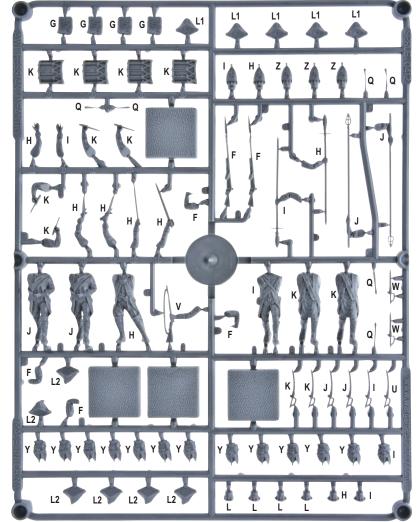
The type of headgear generally denotes the type

Heads in tall mitre caps are marked ${\bf Z}$ - these were predominantly worn by grenadiers.

The shorter mitre caps (Y) are for use as fusiliers.

Cocked hats (L and M) are typical of line infantry and Jägers. These are supplied as front and back components with matching codes (L and L1, for example). Hats L1 have a cockade to the front and are ideal for Jägers whilst L2 have pompoms are are for musketeers.

Hessian command frame



Jagers

Experienced hunters and foresters, Hessian Jägers carried the highly effective short, high calibre hunting rifle. Jägers were arguably the best of the Hessian troops and superb light infantrymen.

The Hirschfänger sword bayonet (W) was used for Jägers - the longer curved swords (U) being for the other troop types.

Jäger backpacks are, despite their name, hung on the hip as shown below.



Hair queues

Parts Q are 'queues' hair tied back and wrapped in black ribbon. These should be attached to the back of the hair as seen on this Jäger.

Extras

Parts marked X are optional extras that have been included to allow you to convert your models or to add more atmosphere to your battlefield.



Officers

There are a variety of options when building your officers - choose from parts H.

Drummers

Parts marked K can be used to create drummers as seen on the left.

Choose the head and headgear to match the unit you are building.



Use parts I for sergeants, such as this NCO with spontoon.

To make a Jäger sergeant you can use part V arm holding rifle at trail.

