



NOLZUR'S MARVELOUS PIGMENTS
OFFICIAL PAINTING SERIES



HOW TO PAINT THE OWLBEAR
- SNOW VARIANT

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS®



THE
ARMY
PAINTER

INTRODUCTION

For many gamers the Owlbear from Gale Force 9 is the highlight of Nolzur's Marvelous Pigments Monster Paint Set – towering over the helpless adventurers the bulk Owlbear is a menace to all that dares cross its path.



WORK AREA SET-UP



FOR THIS TUTORIAL: YOU WILL NEED:

- BRUSHES
- WATER
- MIXING PALETTE
- PAINTS
- NAPKINS

PRODUCTS USED IN TUTORIAL

D&D WARPAINTS



OTHER PRODUCTS USED IN THIS TUTORIAL

D&D BRUSHES



Check out our online video tutorials here:



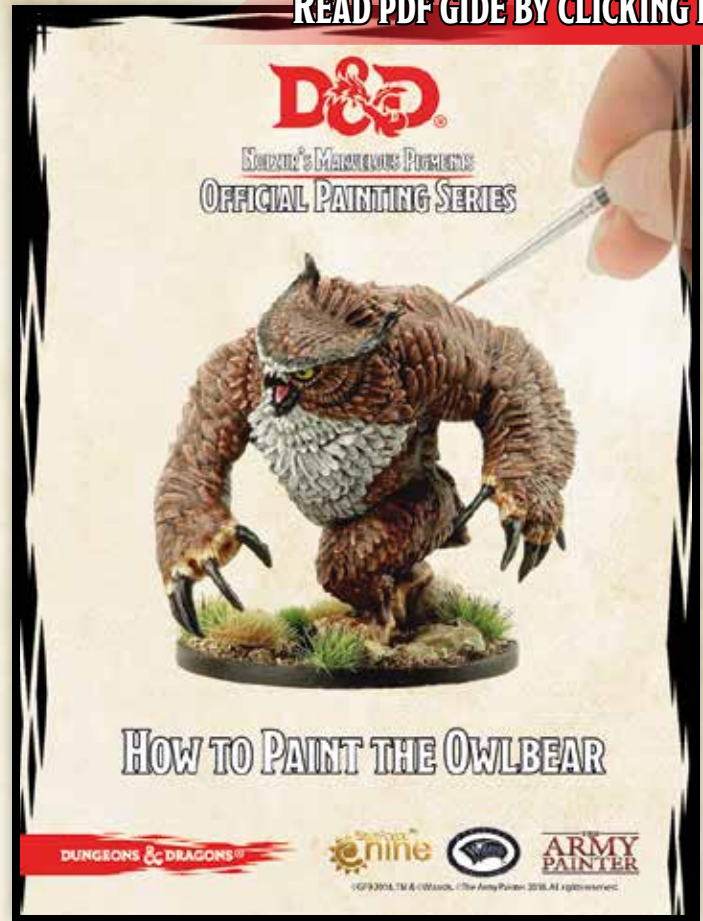
GETTING STARTED...

We have already talked you through the process of painting the monster in our official Owlbear Paint Guide [link to pdf] or shown you how in our video [link]. Here we followed the classic brown/white/black colour scheme imitating the standard Owlbear interpretation. But the D&D universe is vast and the Owlbears of the many worlds vary and differ depending on the region and local environment.

For a miniature painter that means giving your imagination free reins.

In this article we will look at painting a different colour scheme. We will not delve deeply in to the painting techniques like highlighting and drybrushing, referring to the basic Owlbear painting guides for a more in-depth explanation of the methods Instead.

[READ PDF GUIDE BY CLICKING HERE](#)



[WATCH THE VIDEO BY CLICKING HERE](#)



Snow Owl / Polar Bear

For this very simple colour scheme we were inspired by the polar bear from our world – all white with a black nose and claws. This is super straight forward – but painting “white” can be a little tricky... here’s our take on it using only the Nolzur’s Marvelous Pigments D&D Warpaints found in the Adventurer’s and Monster Paint Sets.

STEP 0: PRIMING

After the model was washed in some hot soapy water and left to dry, we started off by priming the whole of the model with Grey Primer. Use a big brush to get this over with as fast as possible so we can start the painting in earnest.

For this Snow-Owlbear we will not be using the D&D Warpaints Washes (the special shading paints with the red lids). Instead we will build up the shading by starting off with a dark basecolour and highlight with a lighter colour. The trick with painting "white" is not to shade it too heavily. It might sound obvious, but the **more white** you use the better the end result.

If you add a wash – like Shadow Wash – the overall feel of the model can end up dark grey.



STEP 1: BASECOATING FEATHERS

After the model was washed in some hot soapy water and left to dry, we started off by priming the whole of the model with Grey Primer. Use a big brush to get this over with as fast as possible so we can start the painting in earnest.

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STEP 2: HIGHLIGHTING FEATHERS

With the basecoat fully dry, we went straight to the first and final highlight of the feathers with Lawful White straight from the pot.

We painted each feather with a layer of Lawful White using the D&D Basecoat Brush taking care to leave from the of the light grey paint in the recesses. For a faster result, you can opt to use the drybrushing technique, but for the sake of neatness we chose to paint each feather, one at a time.



FAIR
SKIN



STEP 3: FEET AND HANDS

The hands and feet “highlighted” with Fair Skin to add a little colour to the white Owlbear model. We took care to leave some of the grey in the recesses and painted the skin to the most raised areas in a combination of a highlight and basecoat in one. Very fast and efficient.



STEP 4: CLAWS AND BEAK.

The claws and talons were painted Abyssal Black, this time using the D&D Detail Brush for more control. We also painted the eyes black and although they will end up being bright yellow, the black basecoat at this stage will end up leaving a thin black outline around the eyes.



D&D

LAWFUL
White

STEP 5: WHITE EYES

The next stage of the eyes is to paint the eyes white (again) leaving a thin black line. This requires a steady hand and a fine detail brush. The D&D Detail Brush is nice and small, but we have even smaller variants in The Army Painter line of brushes, like the Insane Detail Brush or the super fine "The Psycho" Brush.



STEP 6: YELLOW EYES

Next, we painted the eye with the vibrant Firenewt Orange – again using the D&D Detail Brush.



STEP 7: BLACK DOT

... and we painted a small black dot in the center of each eye.



STEP 8: TONGUE

The tongue was basecoated with Cambion Crimson and highlighted with Pixiedust Pink. The red tongue and the yellow eyes really stand out in the otherwise white/black colour scheme.



D&D

D&D

CAMBION
CRIMSON

PIXIEDUST
PINK



STEP 9: FINAL DETAILS

The Talons, beak and claws were highlighted with a thin line of Orc Skin, while the black dot in each eye was given a tinier dot of Lawful White to create the effect of the light reflecting in the evil eyes of the monster.

And that is the Snow-Owlbear all painted.



D&D

D&D

ORC
SKIN

LAWFUL
WHITE

STEP 0A: THE BASE

We wanted to theme the base accordingly to the cold settings of a Snow-Owlbear. We decided to do a winter base.



STEP 1A: PAINT THE BASE

First, we painted the base Bugbear Brown using the large D&D Basecoat Brush and taking care not to get paint on to the feet of the Owlbear. And the rim of the base with Abyssal Black.



STEP 1B: BROWN BATTLEGROUND

Paint some PVA Battlefields Basing glue onto the base and while wet, dip the model into the Brown Battleground. The Brown Battleground is basically a mix of pre-coloured gravel and just one of a part of basing material from The Army Painter Battlefields series.



STEP 1C: DRYBRUSH BASE

Make sure the PVA is fully dry – this takes around 1 hour. Then lightly shake of loose gravel and drybrush the base with Skeleton Bone using the D&D Drybrush.

This leaves us a nice earthy looking base – a canvass for newly fallen snow.



STEP 1D: SNOW

First mix 50% Lawful White with 50% PVA Battlefields Glue. Normally PVA dries up see-through, but by mixing in a little white paint we created a white-glue base for our Snow Flock.

Paint the glue-white-mix on to the base, leaving some of the brown dirt showing. You decide how much or how little snow has just fallen.

While wet, dip the base into the container of Snow Flock, just like before.



STEP 1E: TUFTS

With the glue fully dry (another hour) we glued in some of the Battlefields Basing Tufts using a drop of Super Glue. For the cold winter base we avoided the green tufts and went for a mix of Winter Tuft, Wasteland Tuft and Frozen Tufts.



STEP 1F: SNOW ON TUFTS

As the final finishing touch, we drybrushed a little PVA Battlefields Basing Glue on top of a few of the tufts and dipped the base in the Snow Flock once more – simulating that a bit of snow has fallen on top of the tufts recently.



PROTECT YOUR MINIATURES.

And that is the Snow-Owlbear all painted and based. To protect our masterpiece from the wear and tear of tabletop gaming we gave the miniature a thin coat of the Aegis Suit Spray Varnish.



AND YOUR DONE!

The possibilities of colour schemes are endless and whether you get inspiration from real world animals or use your imagination - see [Fantasy Owl-Bear Tutorial](#) [link] - you will have fun painting the Gales Force 9 Owlbear using Nolzur's Marvelous Pigments Warpaints.

