

Conserving and Applying Pigment

by Kimberley Smith

Sample model horse was prepped with Krylon white primer and sanded smooth with 2000 grit sandpaper. Testors Dullcote was used over the prepped model horse before pigment was applied. This helps achieve a smooth even layer of color.

Mold or Resin Used: Breyer Traditional Scale Strapless



Pigment Tool Used:

Makeup brushes are very helpful in applying pigment but the one I prefer the most is from a brush set from Walmart. It's the "High Definition Deluxe Eye Duo Set". The bristles are soft, the brush is washable, and the brush can be dried with a hair dryer. There is also very little to no bristle hair loss when using the brush.

This article is meant to give some tips that I've learned along the way about conserving pigment, keeping the mess to a minimum, and a tip or two on applying pigment.



To help keep the mess to a minimum, do not apply the pigment to a model horse straight from your container. The picture on the left... that brush is loaded with too much pigment. If you have smooth table (not wood) tap the brush on the table until almost all of the pigment is off the brush. For easy cleaning place a piece of thin plexiglass on your table.

**If you are working with any custom mixed pigment color, I recommend that you tap the pigment with your brush on the table to make sure that the pigment is mixed well before applying it to your model horse.



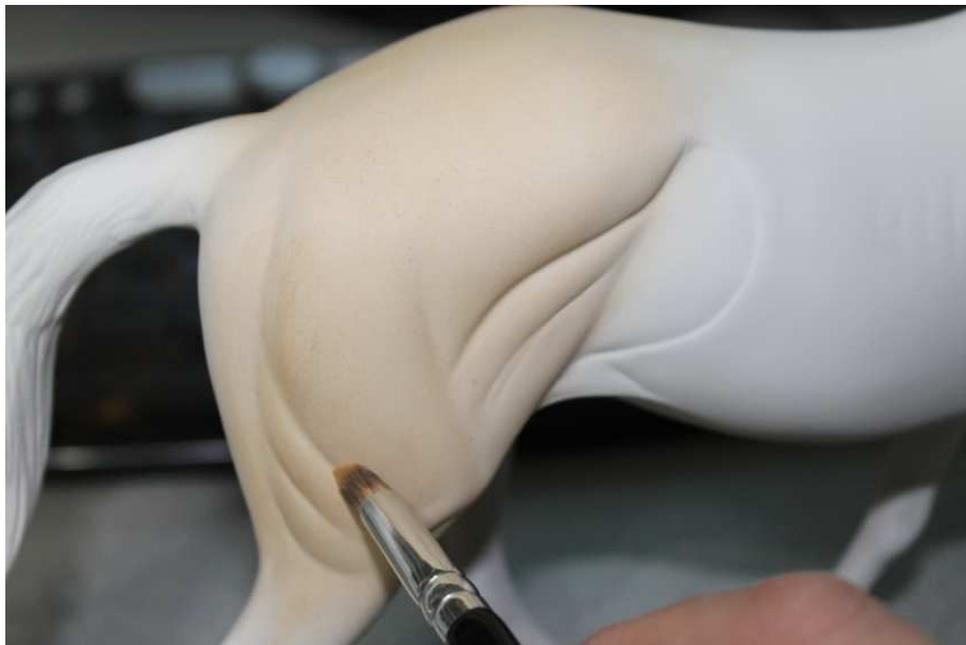
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Tips for applying pigment:

- Do not rub too hard. This can cause flaws.
- Do not touch the model horse where pigment needs to be applied. Hold the model horse by the tail or other part that does not need pigment.
- The FIRST layer of pigment: The first layer of color will tell you if you have a well prepped model horse. If a flaw appears, resist the urge to rub it off. The first layer of color will tell all. If this first layer goes on smoothly, you will most likely have a perfect colored model horse and the rest of the layers of color will also apply smoothly. Very tiny speck like flaws are okay and can be fixed after the layer of pigment is sealed but if the first layer of color goes on with a major flaw or too many flaws, my best advice is to wipe off the color with a baby wipe, sand the primer again, seal it with matte spray, and start over.
- For model horses with deeper muscle grooves. Small legs or hard to reach places, try a smaller brush to get the pigment color smooth and even in those places. Be sure not to rub hard.



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Conserving Pigment:

When applying pigment to a model horse, try to keep brushing the pigment over a small area. This will help make cleanup easier and conserve pigment. When your small pile of pigment gets thin, use your brush to gather it up again. Use the pigment on the table as much as you can without having to get more pigment out of the container.



When you are finished with the pigment, gather it up in one pile and carefully brush the pigment back into your container. I use the edge of my table to brush the pigment into the container.

After each color of pigment, use a baby wipe or wet napkin to wipe the work area clean so that the next layer of color is not changed by the previous layer of pigment.

