

COAT D'ARMS TANK COLOURS GUIDE.

GERMAN 1939 -1945

At the start of the war most vehicles were in overall Panzergrau (504) or Field grau (227). Vehicles out fitted for the Africa corps were painted in Mittelsand (506). Older vehicles shipped out latter were sent with cans of mittelsand to bring them upto desert type camouflage. This meant that certain Africa Corps vehicles were a mix of Panzergrau/Field gray/Mittelsand.

From 1942 German vehicles leaving the factory were all painted in Mittelsand. The crews were supplied with a spray gun, and cans of Rotbrun (520) and Olivgrun (226). The idea being that the crew could paint the vehicle to suit local conditions. Vehicles were also sometimes supplied with white paint to daub over their vehicles for winter camouflage.

In 1944 Panzergrau was re introduced, especially for Tiger and King tiger tanks.

Occasionally from 1942 on, especially on the Russian front, tanks and soft skins were painted with Dark Earth (234) with Olivgrun painted over it in large patches.

Official designation	Coat d'arms code	Coat d'arms name	Notes
Panzergrau	504	Panzer grey	Base colour 1939-42 and 1945
Sandgelb	517	Desert yellow	Africa base colour
Mittelsand	506	Desert sand	Base colour 1942 -1944
Rotbrun	520	Red Brown	Disruptive colour 1942 - 45
Olivgrun	226	Olive	Disruptive colour 1942 - 45
Weiss	101	White	Base and disruptive colour eastern front.

ITALIAN 1939 – 1945

Italian tanks based in Africa before the war were finished in a deep red brown (532). By 1940 this base colour was overpainted with a striped effect using dark green (503). By late 1940 vehicles coming of the production line were being painted a Grey-green colour (227). These vehicles were sometimes over painted with stripes and or patches of either red earth (532) and / or dark green (503)

In early 1941 Italian vehicles were finished in a desert sand colour (506).

Official designation	Coat d'arms code	Coat d'arms name	notes
Earth - Red	532	Italian red earth	Base colour Desert war 1939-40.
Grey - Green	227	Field Grey	Base colour 1940-41
Dark Green	503	Uniform green	Disruptive colour 1940-41
Desert Sand	506	Desert sand	Base colour 1941 onwards

US ARMY 1939 – 1945

Until late 1942 most US vehicles were painted overall Olive drab (527). In October 1942 the American war department issued a new set of regulations. Vehicles for temperate zones wre to be overall Olive drab (527) with field drab (502) painted in a disruptive patern. Black was sometimes added to the vehicle edges in a disruptive (wavy way) to break up the vehicles outline. Sand terrain vehicles were to have a base colour of Sand (524) or Earth yellow (510), with a disruptive pattern of either earth yellow (510) or Earth red (509) applied over this. Vehicles for Arctic combat were to be white with Olive drab

(527) and black applied over this.

The realities of war meant that this was never as widely followed as the war department would have liked. Throughout the war US military vehicles were mainly Olive drab (527), with some vehicles painted in Field drab (502). The Olive drab was supposed to be a consistent colour, but wartime experience showed a fair few variations.

Pacific vehicles were painted USMC Green (230) sometimes over painted with irregular patches of US light green (208). Other contrasting colours used were Earth yellow (510) and Desert sand (517). Late in the war USMC vehicles were transferred from the European theatre. These arrived painted on Olive drab. The practice then was to occasionally paint a disruptive using USMC green (230)

Official designation	Coat d'arms code	Coat d'arms name	notes
Light green No 1	208	Grass green	Disruptive colour
Dark Green No 2	512	Tank green	Disruptive colour
Sand No 3	524	Tan earth	Base colour
Field drab No 4	502	US field drab	Disruptive colour
Earth brown No 5	519	Chocolate brown	Disruptive colour
Earth yellow No 6	510	Mid stone	Base or disruptive colour
Loam No 7	510	British khaki	Disruptive colour
Earth red No 8	509	Brick red	Disruptive colour
Olive drab No 9	527	Tank drab	Base colour
Black No 10	102	Black	Disruptive colour
Forest Green No 11	226	Olive	
Desert Sand No 12	517	Desert yellow	Disruptive colour

BRITISH ARMY 1939 - 1945

European theatre.

Upto 1939 all British vehicles were painted a semi gloss dark green (535). On the outbreak of war the basic base colour was changed to khaki (502), with dark green (503) disruptive patterns. In early 1941 the dark green was replaced with matt black (102) for the disruptive patterns. In early 1944 the base colour was changed to Khaki-green (528). The black "Mickey Mouse" pattern being applied over this new base colour. Some vehicles produced by the Americans for the British army, it would appear, were supplied in US Olive drab (527).

On D Day, and just after, some vehicles (amphibious and beach control vehicles) were painted light admiralty grey (526).

Middle East 1940-45.

In 1940 British vehicles were painted an overall light stone (517). By mid 1940 this base colour was overpainted in part by sharply defined areas of sky blue (507) and Blue grey (511). Black was also sometimes used. This scheme seems to have lasted until late 1941. From here the base colour was retained, but irregular areas of black or Dark blue (518 darkened a bit) were added. Vehicles shipped to the Middle East from the European theatre often retained their original colouring.

Far Eastern theatre.

Vehicles at the start of the war were either the semi gloss dark green, or in India and Burma an overall light stone(517). Vehicles shipped over from Europe kept their original colour scheme.

Official designation	Coat d'arms code	Coat d'arms name	notes
Khaki	502	Field drab	Base colour 1939-43
Light stone	517	Desert yellow	Base colour Middle east
Sky blue	507	Sea grey	Disruptive colour Middle east '41
Blue-grey	511	Tank blue grey	Disruptive colour Middle east '41
Dark green	503	Uniform green	Disruptive colour '39-41
Khaki green	528	Russian brown	Base colour 1944
Middle stone	510	Mid stone	Disruptive colour
Night black	102	Black	Disruptive colour '41-44
Light admiralty grey	526	Tank light grey	Base colour '44 D day
Pre war army dark green	535	Jungle green	Base colour. Apply a semi gloss finish.

JAPANESE ARMY 1939-1945.

Unfortunately there are no surviving colour swatches for Japanese vehicles. A study of surviving vehicles and colour photos suggests that an overall Dark Brown colour was used as a base. Over this patches of light stone, earth brown, red brown, and dark green were applied. Soft skins seem to have been the base dark brown.

SCALE COLOUR EFFECT.

It is important to remember that the colours listed above are as close to the original as possible; not a model of the same. The original vehicle had a much larger surface area to reflect back the colour to the eye, than our small models. To create an illusion of looking right we have to cheat, and lighten the paint slightly to take into account of this smaller reflective surface. The scale model effect. Depending on the size of the model being painted, add between 5% - 25% white paint to the base colour. The more white for the smaller the model. When you do the dry brushing coat. Add about the same amount of white paint again to give you the contrast.

COAT D'ARMS UNIFORM COLOURS GUIDE.

BRITISH INFANTRY 1939-45

Uniform	Code	Coat d'arms name
Helmet	521	Army green
Blouse and trousers	501	British khaki
Webbing Anklets	517	Desert yellow
Boots	533	Slate grey
Ground sheet	508	Olive drab

BRITISH MEDITERRANEAN INFANTRY

Uniform	Code	Coat d'arms name
MK II Helmet	517	Desert yellow
Shirt and shorts	522	Pale sand
Webbing	517	Desert yellow
Boots	525	Uniform grey
Battle dress trousers	501	British khaki

GERMAN INFANTRY 1939-42

Uniform	Code	Coat d'arms name
Helmet	505	Green grey
Tunic	525	Uniform grey
Trousers	516	Iron grey
Gas mask cape	521	Army green
Ammo pouches webbing	533	Slate grey
Boots	102	Black
Gas mask cape	515	Black green
Water bottle	519	Chocolate brown

GERMAN INFANTRY LATE WAR

Uniform	Code	Coat d'arms name
Helmet	505	Green grey
Straps and pouches	533	Slate grey
Tunic and trousers	525	Uniform grey
Gas Sheet	521	Military green
Gas mask case	515	Black green
Zeltbahn (Base colour)	503	Military green
Zeltbahn (Stripes/geometric)	509	Brick red
Zeltbahn (Shapes)	514	Pale green

GERMAN FALLSCHIRMJAGER 1940

Uniform	Code	Coat d'arms name
Helmet and Flight Jacket	518	Field blue
Trousers	525	Uniform grey
Boots	533	Slate grey
Para smock	505	Green grey
Straps Webbing	533	Slate grey

AMERICAN PARATROOPERS 1943-44

Uniform	Code	Coat d'arms name
Trousers Tunic	524	Tan earth
Boots	529	Beige brown
Webbing	522	Pale sand
Helmet	515	Black green

OTHER UNIFORM COLOURS

Uniform	Code	Coat d'arms name
Russian infantry	528	Russian brown
Japanese infantry	531	Japanese uniform
US Marine Corps	535	Jungle green
Luftwaffe field divisions (smock)	503	Military green
(splinter pattern)	509	Brick red
(splinter pattern)	514	Pale green

If you have any other WWII uniforms you have painted with Coat D'arms paints, we would love to hear from you and possibly add to this guide.