

GENERAL WEAPON PAINTING INSTRUCTIONS

This document contains general weapon painting instructions.

Please refer to additional attachments for weapon specific painting instructions.

NOTE

Steps a.-d. are in sequential order. Step e. is separate. Before starting procedure ensure weapon has been deemed serviceable by field maintenance.

a. The first step in this procedure is to gather all materials needed to complete the application process. You will need the following:

1 pair chemical gloves	1 roll paper towels
1 roll masking tape	1 pair foam ear plugs
1 clean spray bottle	1 chemical apron
1 protective eyewear	1 newspaper
Several clean rags for clean up	
1 bottle dry cleaning solvent	

(Refer to the weapon specific Technical Manual for prescribed dry cleaning solvent)

Spray Paint - order spray paint through GSA using the below part numbers:

<https://www.gsaadvantage.gov/>

Part Number

1916830	Black
1917830	Khaki
1918830	Earth Brown
1919830	Deep Forest Green
1920830	Army Green

There are many distributors for the specific paints identified above when you search for the part number in GSA. Pay special attention to the quantity you must order from each vendor and shipping costs when applicable. All costs are at unit's expense.

b. Cleaning weapon for paint.

(1) Start preparation by cleaning your weapon thoroughly. Wipe clean all dirt and oil from your weapon. Even though you just removed the majority of the dirt and oil, there is still oil on the weapon that needs to be removed that is not visible. The next portion of this cleaning process will ensure that all the oil is removed.

NOTE

If all oil and dirt is not removed the paint will not adhere to your weapon as it should.

(2) Ensure you have a clean bucket or an existing solvent tank in your work area.

(3) Put on your protective goggles, chemical apron, and chemical gloves.

WARNING

Dry cleaning solvent is flammable and toxic and should be used in a well-ventilated area. Do not clean parts near an open flame or in a smoking area. Cleaning solvent evaporates quickly and has a drying effect on the skin. The use of protective gloves is necessary to protect the skin when cleaning weapon parts.

(4) Take the clean spray bottle and fill it with clean unused dry cleaning solvent (DCS). It is very important that the DCS be unused. If you reuse DCS from a solvent tank the DCS is contaminated with oil. To avoid using contaminated DCS always use new DCS out of the can whenever conducting this procedure. Now that you are set up and have on your protective gear on, you can begin the cleaning process.

(5) Separate the upper and lower receivers of your weapon by disengaging the front and rear takedown pins. Remove the bolt and bolt carrier assembly, charging handle and any other attached items from the weapon except for the BUIS.

(6) With the upper receiver or lower receiver in one hand and the spray bottle in the other, orientate yourself over the bucket or solvent tank.

(7) Start spraying the weapon piece/receiver from top to bottom allowing the DCS to run off the weapon into the bucket or solvent tank.

(8) Once you have sprayed the receiver thoroughly wipe it off using clean rags or paper towels. Follow local regulations when disposing of rags soiled with DCS and used DCS.

Repeat steps (6)-(8) twice so that the upper and lower receivers have been sprayed and wiped clean twice. In most cases this will be enough to remove all oil. If you believe oil may still be present repeat steps (6)-(8) until you are satisfied.

Allow weapon to dry for one hour after the cleaning process. If weapon is not dry of DCS allow more time. It is crucial that the weapon be dry before moving on to the masking process. If your weapon is not dry the solvent will prevent the masking tape from adhering to your weapon.

c. Masking weapon for paint.

This procedure is very important when camouflaging your weapon. If your weapon is not properly masked, you may affect functioning of the weapon and/or weapon controls, or not be able to read your weapon's identifying markings. When masking off your weapon start at the rear and move forward from top to bottom. It is important to use the same sequence every time. This will help ensure you do not miss any parts that need to be masked prior to painting.

NOTE

Ensure you mask off all the markings on the lower receiver. Tear a piece of tape just large enough to individually cover all markings on the lower receiver. This includes the IUID label, serial number, cage code, model designator, and selector switch position markings. Ensuring no paint gets on these markings is very important for accountability and safety reasons. Although this was long and detailed, every step is necessary to ensure the function or identification of the weapon is not compromised. If your weapon has a component, sight or accessory that was not covered in this procedure, use common sense to properly mask it. Camouflage your weapon with spray paint.

WARNING

Ensure you have proper ventilation before beginning this procedure. It is best to perform this procedure outside. If conducting this procedure outside is not an option, then ensure you have proper airflow within your work area. The air in your work area should be moving so that fresh air is continuously brought in from outside. This can be achieved by using a ventilation system specifically designed for removing fumes or by opening a door or window using fans to move the air. A ventilator may be used but should not be used in lieu of fresh air circulation.

NOTE

DO NOT apply paint to the barrel and front sight assembly of the weapon. Be sure to read the directions on the back of the spray paint can before beginning. Ensure the temperature of your work area is within the minimum and maximum temperature listed on the can.

Setting up paint area:

- (1) Place a few sheets of newspaper on a flat surface. The newspaper should cover a large enough area to allow for overspray of the paint.
- (2) Place the spray paint within arm's distance of where you will be painting the weapon. Ensure you have clean rags within arms' distance for immediate cleanup.
- (3) Envision a plan.

If you have not chosen how you are going to camouflage your weapon, decide at this time. Always start with a plan. Remember, most great camouflage is not pretty. The goal is to blend your weapon in with the environment in which you are operating. If you are operating in an environment that just has light tan sand, then just paint your weapon tan with limited black breakup. If you are operating in a jungle environment using brown and olive drab with limited black breakup may be appropriate for that environment. This procedure's purpose is not to impress. Its purpose is to provide safety and another tool in defeating the enemy.

NOTE

Allow paint to dry before applying another color. DO NOT spray the paint on heavy. Test the paint on cardboard or a paper towel before painting the weapon so you know how much pressure you need to apply to get a thin coat.

Tips: Good camouflage can be achieved many ways. Some may want to place netting or foliage such as grass or leaves on the weapon and paint around it to better blend into the environment.

Others may just want to use a blending technique. When using the blending technique coat the weapon with the lightest color you will be using. Next take a darker shade that blends with your environment and paint stripes about 4 inches apart at a 45 degree angle. You can do this with 1 to 2 colors. Next you need to blend it in. Take a dark color like green or brown and from about 6 to 8 inches away from the weapon lightly dust the gun. After that take a lighter color (khaki, or tan) and lightly dust the gun from 6 to 8 inches away. This will blend everything together and dull the finish. Colors will depend on operational environment.

(4) Allow weapon to dry completely before moving to next step.

e. Removing weapon camouflage

For best results, you should completely strip the weapon of paint if you decide to change the camouflage scheme. Two complete coatings are authorized before stripping is required for any subsequent coatings. Weapons that are being turned in or transferred MUST have all paint stripped.

(1) First step is to gather the following supplies:

1 pair chemical gloves 1 protective eyewear
1 chemical apron 1 clean spray bottle
1 bottle dry cleaning solvent (refer to TM 9-1005-319-1 for
prescribed DCS)
1 general purpose brush (M16/M4 double-ended toothbrush)
NSN 1005-00-494-6602

Cleaner, Lubricant, and Preservative (CLP)

1/2 oz btl	9150-01-102-1473
4 oz btl	9150-01-079-6124
1 pt btl	9150-01-054-6453
1 gal can	9150-01-053-6688

Protective covering for table/working surface

Several clean rags

Empty bucket for contaminated CLP Solvent tank or bucket for contaminated dry cleaning solvent

WARNING

Dispose of contaminated CLP and DCS IAW local regulation.

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(2) Prepping for Camouflage Removal

(a) Place protective covering for table/working surface in a well ventilated area. Put on protective goggles, chemical apron, and chemical gloves.

(b) Fill the clean spray bottle with dry cleaning solvent.

(3) Weapon will need to be field stripped.

(4) Camouflage Removal

(a) Thoroughly spray exterior surfaces of upper/lower receivers with CLP.

(b) Wait approximately 60 minutes to allow CLP to react with painted surfaces. It is acceptable to attempt to remove the paint prior to the complete 60 minute waiting period.

(c) Use the general purpose brush to clean all exterior painted surfaces where product has been applied.

(d) Use cleaning rags to wipe removed paint or excess material.

(e) Repeat steps a-d if paint remains on surface of weapon. CLP may be left on painted surface for longer than 60 min. if a longer period is needed.

(f) Once paint is fully removed, orientate yourself over the bucket or solvent tank and spray a small amount of dry cleaning solvent on all exterior surfaces of the weapon to ensure remaining oils/ solvents are removed. DCS used in this procedure should not be reused for any reason.

(g) Let dry and wipe weapon one last time with clean rags.

(h) Assemble Weapon.

(i) Lubricate weapon in accordance with weapon specific Technical Manuals.