

How to paint tin figures:

You may employ several technics which cause different costs:

1. Painting with oil paint.
2. Laquer paint
3. Water color

At 1.: This is the most precious way of painting tin figures, because the quality and the durability of oil paint allow an optimal result. On the other side, the costs of the basic equipment are rather high. Nevertheless do not be stingy! Be aware of a high density of pigments of the paint. It is worth while.

Before you begin to paint a figure with oil paint, you have to wash it and to prime it. (I could mail you an adress where you can buy the correct prime.)

After it you continue with nearly fluent oil paint. A too viscous paint would cover and hide the fine engravement of the flat figure.

At 2.: Laquer paint is also very durable and opaque, but the colours are more simple. So though nowerdays it is possible to mix all clours, you never get a quality like oil paints. On the other side you can start immediately, you do not need any prime. In order to have a colour more opaque it would be better not to shake the paint before use, but to take a little bit from the sediment of the tin and to dilute it as needed.

At 3.: It would not be good to take real (and expensive) water colours, they are not opaque enough. Better will be body colours of the colour box of your children. For water colours you do need a prime, in this case a paint based on curds and the figure must be washed in order to remove any grease. After the painting you have to varnish the figure. This technic is not at all expensive and not dangerous. So even children may try it.

In general: Good brushes are very important, only buy the best ones, even if they are expensive. Only for priming you may use cheeper ones. Tin figures have edges from casting which have to be removed with a sharp little knife and little files.