



How To Paint
DAMASCUS EFFECT
AND LEARNING FREEHAND



Damascus Blade

Today we're going to go through the process of painting a dagger with a Damascus steel.

I chose to use it on a dagger, but you can adapt it to a larger blade like a longsword if you want.

This is easier than it looks, so don't worry too much about it. First, paint the entire dagger in AK 3rd German Grey.

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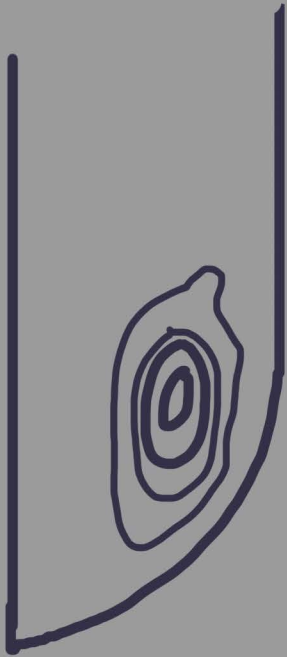
Freehand work is much easier when you have an accurate reference.

As you can see from the two photos on the left, Damascus pattern can vary from ring-like to wavy.

In other words, you can see that in Damascus, shape of the pattern it's not that matter, but rather the irregular position of lines. I liked the pattern in the bottom photo better, but since it was my first attempt, I decided to take it a little easier and draw a pattern that was more of a ring.



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Drawing the pattern itself isn't that difficult: you start by drawing a circle, and then continue to draw larger circles around it. The spacing between the circles doesn't really matter, it's more important that the lines themselves are thin. If possible, you want them to be slightly squashed rather than perfect circles.

Once you've drawn a circle, draw another circle away from it, and then repeat the process from there.

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I used AK 3rd Warm Grey to draw the basic pattern, you can use any other paint as long as it's a light gray.

As you can see, the pattern is jagged in intensity and thickness, but that doesn't really matter, the important thing is that the lines come out crisp.



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If you're finding it difficult to draw thin lines, try it on paper. Put a little paint on the tip of your brush, and try to draw a thin line on a piece of paper. You'll probably find that lines are much thinner and sharper than usual.

If you can do this on paper, you can do this on your model too. There is reasons you might not be able to draw thin lines on models.

1. you don't know the how much force to need on your brush. This can be fixed by continuing to draw thin lines on paper and getting used to how much force you need to apply to make them thin lines

2. because you're not confident that you can draw thin lines. Like I said before, if you can draw on paper, you can definitely draw on a model. It's just a little trickier because a model isn't a flat surface or it's not something that sits on the ground. Have confidence.





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If you're confident that you can draw thin lines when you're at your best, you can draw that on model too.

Have faith in yourself and go over the lines again with AK 3rd Warm Grey + AK 3rd Silver Grey (1:1).

Don't worry about highlighting again, you're just retracing the lines you've already drawn once - it's much easier than you think. At the same time, make sure to highlight the shape of the blade with the same colors.



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Now it's time to shine it up. Dilute Ammo Mig Shader Ash Black and apply several thin coats to the sides of the knife. Repeat until you get the color you want and let it dry.

At the same time, dilute AK 3rd Warm Grey + AK 3rd Silver Grey (1:1) to make the blade sparkle. This will erase the pattern a bit, but that's okay, I also painted Ash Black in the darker areas between the shine.

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Using the AK 3rd Silver Grey, draw the pattern on the shiny part again, highlighting the edge of the blade, and you should end up with something like what you see on the left.

Don't worry if you make a mistake with your brush during this process. You can use a mixture of Warm Grey + Silver Grey to make the necessary corrections. Since the pattern itself is so small, a slight miss won't be noticeable.





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I thinned out the AK 3rd Silver Grey to give it a little more shine, and applied 2 more coats of glossy areas, and again with pure Silver Grey to highlight the pattern on the glossy areas.

Finally, I highlighted the entire edge of the blade. Then I sprayed on a matte finish and it was done!

This is how the Damascus texture was created. Thank you as always!