

SNAPSHOT

HOW TO PAINT REALISTIC BRUNETTE HAIR

THERE ARE MANY WAYS to paint hair. One of my favorite techniques consists of four easy steps: Base coat, shadows, highlights, and blending. And the best part, you don't need an airbrush to do it!

By Anya Shetina



1

As you can see, this model has intricate curls, so instead of airbrushing the hair, I painted it by hand. To get here isn't complicated, but it'll take a little practice.



2

First, apply a base color. I like Garage Kits.US (GKU) Rich Brown (No. GK-0-200). Paint in thin layers and build the color to its final opacity. This base color will be the middle ground for the brunette color scheme.



3

Make a wash from Golden Acrylic Glazing Liquid (No. 3721-5) with an equal amount of water and a couple of drops of GKU Transparent Burnt Sienna (No. GK-T-461). Apply the wash to the hair and let it naturally flow into the recesses, creating realistic shadows.



4

Next, time to put in some highlights. This is going to be your brightest color, and I recommend a golden yellow like DecoArt Americana Saffron Yellow (No. DA273). Dry-brushed it over the curls, letting the paint only hit the highest ridges. Don't worry, we'll fix how stark it looks next.



5

To smooth and blend the transitions, mix Golden Acrylic Glazing Liquid with GKU Gold Tone (No. GK-0-207), in a 7:3 ratio for a brownish-yellow transparent color. Less a wash and more a tint or filter, brush it on to the hair and allow the color to tone down the highlights and shadows.



6

It would be fine to stop here, but I like to give the hair a boost by deepening some shadows with PanPastel black, dark brown, and dark blue with a small brush. After sealing your work with a clear coat, the pastels will blend in with the rest of your work. **FSM**