

# MIXING AND PAINTING COLORS

When applying paint (oil or acrylic) to a carved project, thin the paint to a watery consistency so that a little of the grain shows through. This technique is referred to as a wash, and it may require several applications to achieve the desired effect.

Using washes, instead of heavy coats of paint, prevents the project from taking on the appearance of a piece of plastic or glazed ceramic.

The carving is only as good as the way it is finished.

Use Gesso sealer before air brushing or applying paint. The paint adheres better and gives a professional finish.

## Mixing Colors

The following color combinations will help with the painting of a project.

### Yellow and Yellow Ochre

White added to yellow and orange will give a peach tone.

Orange added to yellow ochre with a small amount of green will give a mustard gold.

White added to yellow for lemon yellow.

White added to yellow ochre for beige.

### Red

Red can be used as good graying color when added to blues and greens.

Add white and yellow ochre to red for flesh tones.

Add white to red for tints of pink.

Blue is added to red to darken.

Yellow is added to red to lighten or make orange.

Add white to crimson for a bright pink.

Add a little white to blue and crimson for violet.

Black is added to red for rich rust tones.

## **Green**

Permanent green light is your best green because it is neutral and can be shaded either lighter or darker than other greens.

Add yellow ochre and a little red to green for olive green. White will lighten hue.

Burnt sienna is added to green for dark, rich green for leaves, trees, lawns, and shading.

Yellow ochre is added to the above mixture for highlights on trees and foliage.

Blue is added to green for turquoise; add white for aqua

## **Blue**

Ultramarine blue is used as a darkener and for intense hues.

Red is added to blue for purple. White is added to purple for violet.

Black is added to blue for a dark blue.

White is added for a variety of blue shades.

Green and a little white is added for Prussian blue.

Green is added with a little red and white for a cool gray.

## **Burnt Sienna**

Use as a rich rust color alone.

Yellow ochre is added to burnt sienna for a lighter beige rust.

Black is added to burnt sienna for a burnt umber.

Red, blue, and white will tint of black creates a violet gray.

## **Color Formulas**

Custom mixing colors makes it difficult to duplicate colors at a later time. Using color formulas enable a carver or painter to duplicate the mixture and to achieve bright and pleasing colors. Often muddy tones result when the wrong combinations of colors are mixed without good color formulas. The combinations listed below are used for flesh tones, hair, flowers, fruit, clothing, and backgrounds.

**Flesh:** 8 parts yellow ochre, 2 parts white.

**Lips and checks:** 6 parts white, 2 parts red, 2 parts yellow ochre.

**Light blonde hair:** 8 parts yellow ochre, 2 parts white.

**Dark blonde hair:** 5 parts yellow ochre, 5 parts burnt sienna.

**Light redhead:** 8 parts orange, 2 parts or white.

**Dark redhead:** 7 parts Grumbacher red, 3 parts orange.

**Light brown hair:** 5 parts burnt sienna, 5 parts yellow ochre.

**Dark brown hair:** 5 parts burnt sienna, 2 parts ultramarine blue.

**Dark green:** 7 parts permanent green light, 3 parts burnt sienna.

**Light green:** 5 parts permanent green light, 4 parts burnt sienna.

**Olive green:** 8 parts Hansa or cadmium yellow medium, 2 parts black.

**Light pink rose:** 6 parts thalo or alizarin crimson, 4 parts white.

**Dark rose:** 9 parts thalo or alizarin crimson, 1 part white.

**Warm light blue:** 7 parts ultramarine blue, 3 parts white.

**Cool light blue:** 7 parts manganese or cerulean blue, 3 parts white.

**Turquoise:** 4 parts manganese or cerulean blue, 4 parts permanent green light, 2 parts white.

**Dark blue:** 8 parts ultramarine blue, 2 parts burnt sienna.

**Prussian blue:** 6 parts ultramarine blue, 3 parts permanent green light, 1 part white.

**Lavender:** 4 parts ultramarine blue, 4 parts thalo or alizarin crimson, 2 parts white.

**Rust:** 8 parts Grumbacher red, 2 parts black.

**Antique red:** 7 parts thalo or alizarin crimson, 3 parts yellow ochre.

**Deep red:** 7 parts thalo or alizarin crimson, 3 parts burnt sienna.

**Cool gray:** 5 parts manganese blue, 2 parts Grumbacher red, 2 parts yellow ochre, 1 part white.

**Warm gray:** 5 parts ultramarine blue, 2 parts Grumbacher red, 2 parts yellow ochre, 1 part white.

**Gray green:** 5 parts permanent green light, 2 parts ultramarine blue, 2 parts yellow ochre, 1 part white.

