PAINTING GUIDE

Green Man mask

Seven simple layers, ordered so that none of them undoes an earlier one. Allow about three and a half hours including drying, then leave it overnight to cure.

START WITH
the assembled mask, nothing left to glue

TECHNIQUE
dry-brushing and one wash

APPLICATION
brushed, apart from the sealer and optional varnish

FINISH BY
the evening before you wear it



Finished and worn.

Paints and brushes

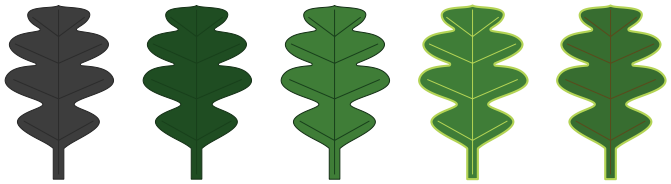
PAINT	AMOUNT	NOTES
Plasti Dip spray, black or grey	1 can	Sealer. Flexible, so it does not crack when leaves bend.
Dark green	most used	Phthalo, Hooker's or forest green. Base for all leaves, tendrils and foam.
Mid green		Sap green or similar. The main leaf colour.
Yellow-green	a little	Mid green plus yellow. Leaf highlights.
Dark brown (burnt umber)		Base for bark and acorns, and thinned for the wash.
Warm brown	a little	Burnt or raw sienna.
Tan or old gold	a little	Ridge tops and acorn caps.
Gloss varnish or clear nail polish	a few drops	Acorn nuts.
Matte spray varnish	optional	Protects the finish.

Brushes. A 12 mm flat for base coats, an old stiff 8 mm flat for all the dry-brushing, a 4 mm round for the wash and the gloss. Paper towels, a water cup, a damp rag, a drop of dish soap for the wash, painter's tape. Ordinary craft acrylics are fine.

Why this order

- **Sealer goes on first.** Paint soaks into bare foam and flakes off bare PLA.
- **Dark base coats come before anything light**, since dry-brushing only shows over a darker colour.
- **Highlights go on before the wash.** If a highlight came out too strong, the wash softens it.
- **The tall centre leaves get one more highlight after the wash**, because the wash flattens them most.
- **Gloss is the last thing on**, as either the wash or a matte varnish would dull it.

One medium leaf through five of the stages:

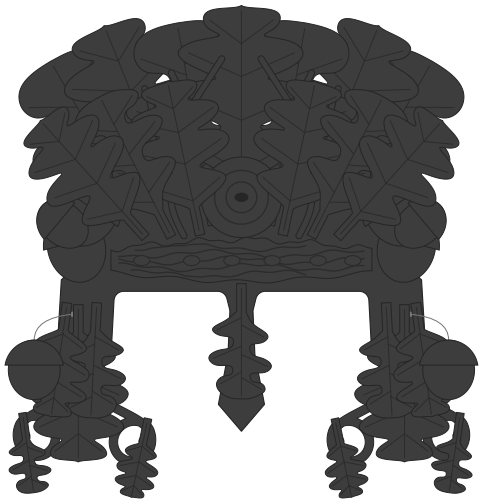


Every surface, every stage

Tick down each column as you finish a stage. If a row has an entry in the column, that surface gets paint in that stage.

SURFACE	1 SEAL	2 BASE	3 MID-TONE	4 HIGHLIGHT	5 BARK	6 WASH	7 AFTER
Crown, large leaves (7 large leaves)	✓	dark green	1 light pass			veins, notches	top lobes of the 3 centre leaves
Crown front row (6 medium leaves)	✓	dark green	2 to 3 passes	edges, veins		veins, notches, overlaps	
Cheek leaves (2 medium leaves, 4 small leaves) and nose leaf	✓	dark green	2 to 3 passes	edges, veins		veins, notches	
Tip leaves (4)	✓	dark green	2 to 3 passes	tips		light	
Tendrils (4)	✓	dark green	tops only	the curl		inside the curl	
Leaf backs that show from the side	✓	dark green	1 light pass			light	
Foam base: band edges, cheek tabs, nose strip	✓	dark green				all over; leave it dark	
Brow strip	✓	dark brown			warm brown, then gold on ridge tops	every groove; wipe ridges fast	
Bark knot	✓	dark brown			warm brown, then gold on rings	between rings	gloss dot in the eye
Twigs (2)	✓	dark brown			warm brown on top	light	
Acorn nuts (8)	✓	dark brown			warm brown	at the cap line	gloss
Acorn caps (8)	✓	dark brown			gold across the scales	between scales	stay matte
Elastic where it shows	✓	dark brown					

Stages



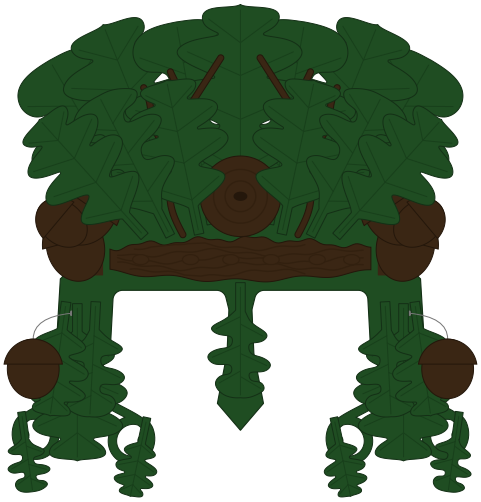
What this stage should look like, as a diagram.

1 Seal

60 min with waits · Plasti Dip spray, black or grey

1. Wrap the part of the strap that goes behind your head in painter’s tape; sealer stiffens elastic. Hang the mask by the strap. Flex apart any two leaves that touch face to face.
2. Three mist coats from about 30 cm. Each coat is five short passes: from below looking up into the crown, from above, from the left, from the right, and from behind for the backs of the large leaves. The straight-on front view covers first and matters least. The skin side of the base gets whatever lands on it and is not painted.
3. If a surface looks wet you are too close. Wet sealer runs into the overlaps and glues neighbouring leaves into a web.
4. Wait 10 to 15 minutes between coats, and each time run a finger between leaves that sit close together to break any bridge.
5. After the third coat wait 30 minutes. Bare foam still showing in the deepest pockets is fine: the wash will sit there.

Done when Foam, PLA and elastic are one even matte colour and every leaf still moves separately.



What this stage should look like, as a diagram.



The mask at the end of this stage.

2 Base coats

40 min · Dark green, dark brown; flat 12 mm brush

1. **Dark green** on every leaf, front and back, on the tendrils and tip leaves, and on all foam you can see: the edges of the band, the cheek tabs, the nose strip.
2. **Dark brown** on the brow strip, the knot, the twigs, every acorn (nut and cap), and the elastic where it shows at the temples.
3. Thin the paint a little so it flows, and push the brush under every leaf edge. Two thin coats beat one thick one.
4. It can be sloppy, since five more stages go over it.

Done when Nothing sealer-coloured shows from any angle you would be seen from. Everything will look flat and dull at this point.



What this stage should look like, as a diagram.



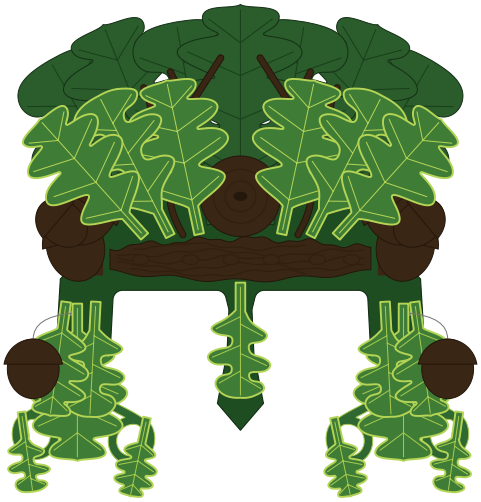
The mask at the end of this stage.

3 Leaves: mid-tone

30 min · Mid green; old stiff 8 mm flat brush, paper towel

1. **Dry-brush.** Load the brush, wipe nearly all the paint off on a paper towel, then drag it lightly across the surface so only the raised parts catch colour. Test on the towel: a stroke should leave almost nothing.
2. Brush from stem toward tip on the face of every leaf.
3. Large leaves: one light pass. Front row, cheek leaves, nose leaf and tip leaves: two or three passes. That difference gives the crown its depth.
4. One light pass along the top of each tendril, and on leaf backs wherever they show from the side.

Done when Leaves are clearly green with dark veins. The front row is visibly lighter than the large leaves behind it.



What this stage should look like, as a diagram.



The mask at the end of this stage.

4 Leaves: highlights

15 min · Yellow-green; the same brush, drier still

1. Forward leaves only: front row, cheek leaves, nose leaf, tip leaves, and the curl of each tendril.
2. Drag the nearly dry brush across the lobe tips and along the vein ridges. It should come out streaky, the way light catches a real leaf.
3. **Leave the large leaves alone for now.** They get their highlight after the wash.
4. Stop early. If a leaf looks striped there was too much paint on the brush.

Done when From across the room the front row stands out from the large leaves.



What this stage should look like, as a diagram.



The mask at the end of this stage.

5 Bark and acorns

20 min · Warm brown, tan or old gold; the dry-brushing brush, rinsed

1. **Warm brown** dry-brushed over the brow strip, the rings of the knot, the tops of the twigs and the acorn nuts.
2. **Tan or old gold**, drier, on the very tops of the strip's ridges and knobs, the knot's rings, and across the acorn caps so it catches each scale.
3. No other step changes the mask as much. The strip stops looking like painted plastic and starts to look carved.

Done when The strip and knot are the first thing your eye goes to.



What this stage should look like, as a diagram.



The mask at the end of this stage.

6 Dark wash

30 min · Burnt umber thinned 1:4 with water, a drop of dish soap; round 4 mm brush, damp rag

1. Flood the wash into every low place: leaf veins and the notches between lobes, under every overlap, the grooves of the strip, around the knot, between acorn scales, where stems meet the band.
2. Within a minute, wipe the raised surfaces with the damp rag so the brown stays only in the low places.
3. On the strip, wipe the ridge tops promptly to keep the gold. On the foam base and deep under the crown, leave it; those should go dark.
4. Do the whole mask in one session so it dries evenly. It looks too contrasty while wet, though it settles as it dries.

Done when Every vein and groove is dark, every raised surface still shows its colour.



What this stage should look like, as a diagram.



The mask at the end of this stage.

7 After the wash

15 min, then overnight · Yellow-green, gloss varnish or clear nail polish

1. **Re-highlight the tall leaves.** The wash dulls the large leaves more than the rest. Once it is dry, dry-brush yellow-green down the midrib and across the top lobes of the three centre large leaves. Top halves only.
2. Optional, and it must come before the gloss: one light coat of matte spray varnish over the whole mask, to protect the dry-brushing from a hood or scarf. Let it dry.
3. **Gloss**, brushed on last, on the acorn nuts and a dot in the eye of the knot. Caps stay matte.
4. Hang by the strap overnight somewhere warm with moving air. Do not lay it down, because leaves set in whatever shape they rest in.

Done when Next morning a finger pressed on a hidden spot lifts no paint.

If something is off

PROBLEM	FIX
Leaves stuck together after sealing	Slide a blade between them now. After paint it tears.
Dry-brush went on solid	Too much paint. Let it dry, dry-brush the base colour back over it, try again with a drier brush.
Wash dried on a raised surface	Scrub with a damp brush within the hour, or dry-brush that surface's colour back over it.
The whole thing looks flat	More contrast between rows: another pass of highlight on the front row only.
Paint still tacky in the morning	Thick sealer underneath. An hour in front of a fan before wearing.