

CraftForge – Joke Book

A Spark & Anvil joke book. Groan-worthy puns, tricky riddles, silly nonsense, and real fun facts from the world of CraftForge – read them out loud and make someone laugh.

Why did the paintbrush get a promotion?

Because it had the right strokes for the job!

How to use this book

Read a joke, pause at the question, and try to guess the answer before you read on. Best of all: read them out loud to a friend, a grown-up, or your class. A good laugh makes the tricky stuff easier – that's real science.

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Puns

Why did the paintbrush get a promotion?

💡 Because it had the right strokes for the job!

Why was the primer always picked first?

💡 Because it laid the groundwork for everything else!

What did the red paint say to the green paint?

💡 "You complete me!"

Why did the acrylic paint refuse to hang out with the enamel?

💡 It said they just didn't mix well!

Why did the miniature get sent back to art school?

💡 It hadn't mastered its base coat!

Why was the drybrush so popular at the dance?

💡 Because it had all the right moves -- light and fast!

What did the glaze say to the basecoat?

💡 "I'm just here to add a little depth to your character!"

Why did the wash go to therapy?

💡 It had too many issues running down into the recesses!

Why did the highlight always feel left out?

💡 Because it was always on the edge!

What's a shadow's favorite spot to hang out?

💡 In the recesses, where it really fits in!

Why did the matte varnish and the gloss varnish stop being friends?

💡 They had totally different finishes!

Why did the artist break up with the masking tape?

💡 It kept holding things back!

What do you call a paint that won't stop bragging?

💡 An over-glossed know-it-all!

Why was the color wheel always so balanced?

💡 Because it knew how to handle every hue!

Why did the brush bristle at the question?

💡 Because it took everything personally!

What did the freehand artist say to the template?

💡 "Sorry, I don't need your outline -- I'm in-the-line!"

Why was the saturation so confident?

💡 Because it knew how to bring out the true colors in everyone!

What did the layer of paint say after it dried?

💡 "I'm finally on top of things!"

Why did the palette stop dating the brush?

💡 Things were getting too mixed up!

Why couldn't the water-based paint keep a secret?

💡 Because it always spilled!

Riddles

I'm the first coat of paint you apply, and without me, nothing sticks well to the miniature. What am I?

💡 Primer! Primer creates a surface that lets later paints grip properly.

I'm a color wheel partner that sits directly across from another color. Together we make each other pop. What am I?

💡 A complementary color! Red and green, blue and orange, yellow and purple are all complementary pairs.

I'm three colors that all other colors come from. What am I?

💡 The primary colors: red, yellow, and blue! Mixing them creates secondary and tertiary colors.

I use almost no paint and only the lightest touch, brushing across raised areas to catch the edges. What technique am I?

💡 Drybrushing! You wipe most paint off the brush and lightly drag it over high points.

I'm a thinned-down paint that flows into cracks and crevices, making them look darker and deeper. What am I?

💡 A wash! Washes settle into recesses to create instant shadows.

I'm a transparent layer of color that tints whatever is underneath without hiding it. What am I?

💡 A glaze! Glazes are great for shifting hue or adding subtle color transitions.

I'm the final coat that protects your finished miniature from chips and scratches. What am I?

💡 Varnish! Varnish seals the paint job and comes in matte, satin, or gloss finishes.

When you mix me with my opposite on the color wheel, I turn into a muddy brown or gray. What am I?

💡 Any color mixed with its complement! That's why complementary mixing is used to make natural-looking shadows.

I stand for Hue, Saturation, and Brightness -- three sliders that describe any color you can imagine. What am I?

💡 The HSB color model! Artists use it to mix or pick colors digitally.

I'm a sticky strip used to cover one area while you paint another. When you peel me off, you get a clean line. What am I?

💡 Masking tape! Or liquid masking fluid, which works the same way.

I'm the brightest, most reflective spot on a model, usually pure white or near-white. Where do I go?

💡 On the highest, most exposed edges -- the tops of helmets, cheekbones, and metal trim! That's called edge highlighting.

I'm a hard, glassy finish that makes paint look wet and shiny. What kind of varnish am I?

💡 Gloss varnish! It's great for eyes, blood effects, and wet-looking surfaces.

I'm a flat, non-shiny finish that hides brush marks and looks natural under photo lights. What kind of varnish am I?

💡 Matte varnish! Most miniature painters use matte for the main coat and gloss only on specific spots.

I dry by water evaporating out of me, which is why I'm easy to clean up with just soap and water. What kind of paint am I?

💡 Water-based acrylic! That's why miniature painters use it -- safe, low odor, easy cleanup.

I dry by chemical reaction with oxygen, take forever to cure, and need solvents to clean up. What kind of paint am I?

💡 Enamel paint! It's tougher than acrylic but smellier and slower-drying.

I'm a small group of carefully chosen colors that all work together. What am I?

💡 A color palette! Picking a limited palette keeps your model looking unified instead of chaotic.

To make a color lighter, I add white. To make it darker, I add black -- but it might look dull. What's a better way to darken a color?

💡 Add a small amount of its complement, or a very dark version of the same hue. Pure black can make colors look gray and lifeless.

I'm a fluffy, soft brush perfect for laying down smooth basecoats over large areas. What kind of brush am I?

💡 A basecoat brush! It holds lots of paint and covers ground fast.

I'm a stiff, flat brush with the bristles cut short. I'm used for one specific technique. What am I, and what technique?

💡 A drybrush! Stiff bristles let you scrub light paint across raised details.

You painted a miniature, but the paint keeps rubbing off when you handle it. What step did you probably skip?

💡 Priming! Without primer, paint can't grip the bare plastic or resin properly.

Silly Stuff

A new painter tried to skip priming because they were in a hurry. Three hours later, their thumbprint was permanently part of the paint job. The miniature now has fingerprints in its origin story.

Someone tried drybrushing with a fully loaded brush. The miniature now looks like it walked through a paint factory explosion. "Drybrush" had one job -- be DRY.

A kid asked, "What happens if I mix all the colors together?" The answer is always: brown. Always. Every time. It doesn't matter how rainbow it starts -- it ends in brown. Color theory is undefeated.

Imagine if real life had primer. Before painting your bedroom, you'd have to coat it in pink primer first. The walls would look like a flamingo exploded for a whole day before you got to the real color. We get off easy.

A painter forgot to clean their brush between colors. Now they only paint in "moody swamp." Every miniature looks like it just crawled out of a pond. Some say it's their style now.

The gloss varnish and the matte varnish got switched in the bottles. A whole army of knights now looks like they're sweating from a long battle. Technically that's lore-friendly.

A painter tried freehanding a tiny skull on a shield. It came out looking like a confused potato. After three more tries, it became a "stylized potato emblem." Now their whole faction has potato heraldry.

Washes are technically just colored water with extra steps. But somehow when you pour them on a miniature, the model gains 200% more character. Science doesn't fully understand it. Neither do most painters.

A new painter tried to varnish their miniature without letting the paint cure. The varnish dissolved the top layer and now there's a permanent smudge that everyone politely calls "weathering."

Someone bought 47 different brushes for "the perfect setup." They use exactly two of them. The other 45 are a brush graveyard in a mug. Every painter has a brush graveyard. It's tradition.

A painter spent six hours on one miniature's face. The face is 4 millimeters tall. From two feet away, it looks like every other face. From two inches away, it is a MASTERPIECE. The painter has accepted this.

"Just thin your paints," said every painting tutorial ever. The painter thinned their paint. It became invisible. They added more pigment. It became thick. This dance has been going on for centuries.

A kid was told "complementary colors make each other pop." So they painted a model entirely in red and green. It now looks exactly like Christmas. There are no other options. The model is forever Christmas.

Masking tape promises clean edges. Masking tape delivers clean edges 60% of the time. The other 40% it lifts up the paint underneath in a single tragic strip. This is the masker's curse.

A painter dropped a finished miniature on a carpet. The carpet now has a tiny shield, a tiny sword, and a tiny helmet plume permanently woven into it. The miniature itself is fine. Carpets are paint storage now.

Fun Facts

Did you know? The three primary colors for paint (red, yellow, blue) are different from the three primary colors for light (red, green, blue). That's why your phone screen uses RGB but your paint set uses RYB!

Did you know? Most miniature painters thin their paint with water until it has the consistency of milk. Too thick and the paint hides details; too thin and it pools where you don't want it!

Did you know? The word "acrylic" comes from "acrylic acid," the chemical that makes the paint flexible when it dries. That's why acrylic paint doesn't crack as easily as older paint types!

Did you know? Primer is usually gray, white, or black -- and that choice changes how every color looks on top of it! White primer makes colors look bright; black primer makes colors look moody and dramatic.

Did you know? Pro miniature painters often use brushes labeled "size 0" or "size 00" for detail work. The smaller the number, the smaller the brush -- some go all the way down to "size 5/0" with just a few hairs!

Did you know? Drybrushing was invented to mimic the way real light catches raised edges. By only painting the highest points, you trick the eye into thinking light is hitting the model from above!

Did you know? Some miniature paints contain tiny mica flakes that make metallics look shiny. That's why metallic paints separate in the bottle -- the heavy flakes sink to the bottom and need shaking!

Did you know? Varnish doesn't just protect paint -- it also evens out the shine across the whole model. Without varnish, some paints look glossy and some look matte even though they're all the same color!

Did you know? Color theory has a name for grays made by mixing complementary colors instead of just black and white -- they're called "chromatic grays" and they look more alive than regular gray!

Did you know? The HSB color model was designed in the 1970s to match how humans actually see color, not how printers mix ink. That's why it's easier to "find the color you want" with HSB than with RGB!

Did you know? Layering means painting many thin, slightly different shades on top of each other instead of one solid color. It takes longer, but it makes miniatures look like they have real depth -- like a painting, not a sticker!

Did you know? Water-based acrylic paint was invented in the 1940s, but it didn't get popular for miniatures until the 1980s. Before that, painters used smelly enamel paints and had to wait days between coats!

Did you know? Eyes are usually the hardest part to paint on a miniature -- and the smallest. Most painters cheat by painting "racing stripes" of white with a dot of color, then a tiny black pupil!

Did you know? "Zenithal priming" is a technique where you spray black primer over the whole model, then spray white from above only. The result looks like sunlight hitting the model -- and gives you instant shading to paint over!

Did you know? The brain has a hard time telling the difference between a really well-painted miniature and a really well-lit photo of one. That's why painters use ring lights and macro lenses -- good lighting can make a decent paint job look amazing!

Keep laughing

That's **70 jokes** from CraftForge. Made someone laugh? Try making up your own – the best jokes are the ones you tell.

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