

## An easy way to paint shields for the average person

1. Tools you will need: Xacto/razor blade knife, Masking tape (2' – 3"), pencil, computer printouts of each charge of your device and paint.
2. Paint the basic back ground of your device using masking tape for clean lines. This means your chevron, quarterly or any other basic design. Once this is dry cover the shield completely with masking tape. I use 2" – 3" wide tape myself.



3. Once the shield is completely covered by tape you may now draw your design on top. The tape allows you to draw and change things until they are just the way you want them. I use printouts of each piece of my charge as templates for drawing. This saves time and lets me do many shields in the same design. (Helps when making unit shields)
4. Now that you have drawn out the design it's time to cut away the first layer. Every piece of the design that is a single color gets cut out. For instance here I cut out all the spaces that should be white or yellow at once. When painting light colors or crossing the lines of a background field division I always prime it white first. Priming helps even out the tone and makes the colors brighter in hue. When I finish cutting out the design I rub the edges that were cut with the butt of the knife. This helps ensure a good seal of tape to the shield with little or no leakage during painting.



5. When the first layer is cut out then paint on the primer, two coats at least is what I recommend. After that add the next color. In this case it's the yellow (or Gold). When 2 coats of that have dried remove the tape from the shield. (For paint I use exterior latex, it holds longer and weather's the elements quite well.)



6. Next tape over the area of the shield which needs the next color applied to it. Here you see the yellow “waves” have been taped over and then I cut out the next area to be painted. I primed the area white again before using the blue, two coats of each.



7. After removing the tape I now had the basic device painted out in a nice clean and crisp fashion. The next and final step in painting your shield is the detail if desired. You can stop at this point if that’s what you wish to do but sometimes adding some detail adds that extra pop some of us crave. In this case the device called for stonework drawn out on the tower. Being an artist helps at this point but a ruler and sharpie are never to be underestimated.
8. This process can be lengthy or not depending on the complexity of your device. The latex paint I used was dry enough to paint the next layer after 20 minutes. This shield I did as a demonstration took about 3 hours beginning to end. I did chores and other things like reading while the paint dried and before I knew it the shield was done. The big advantage to this method is clean lines, accurate representation thanks to the templates and ability draw things exactly the way you want without all the erased lines on a finished shield.

I hope this encourages people who are afraid of their lack of skill to try things out. A pretty shield stands out on the battlefield and sparks many conversations so go try it!

In service to the Barony,

Thomas de Marr