

Paint Tubes

Miniatures West Club Project by Nikki Donahue • Photographed and edited by Monin Dreebin

TOOLS AND MATERIALS

- 3/32" x .014" round aluminum tubing
- Scissors - old for cutting the tubing or use a tubing cutter
- Pliers - flats are the best
- Metal from wine bottle collars
- Sandpaper
- Tiny black seed beads
- Tacky glue
- Labels



The following instructions show how to make paint tubes two different ways. One is made from aluminum tubing, available at train stores. The other is made from the metal found in the collars of wine bottles.

Aluminum Tubing

- At one end of the aluminum tubing, measure 1/2".
- To cut, hold the scissors tightly around the tube and twist back and forth, making a groove.
- Snap off the piece and sand the ends.
- Select the better end as the opening at the top.
- Crimp the bottom with pliers.
- If you need to shorten the tube, flatten more and then cut the excess with scissors. Sand if sharp.
- Glue a black bead to the top, as a cap.
- Glue on a label.



Metal from Wine Bottle Collar

- Cut a strip 1/2" wide.
- Shape it by rolling it around the aluminum tube, silver side out.
- Cut, allowing a slight overlap.
- Crimp as above.
- Glue on a label as above.

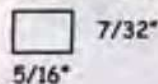


* Note: If you want to roll up the tube from the bottom to look used, the metal is easier to work with than the tubing.

Labels

- Trim the labels to fit the diagram, approximately 5/16" x 7/32".
- Leave a consistent band of color on all the labels.
- Test fit the label around the tube.
- Trim if necessary.
- Glue with tacky.

Label Diagram



Labels



Paint Brushes

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TOOLS AND MATERIALS

- Styrene dowel: .030", .035" and .040"
- Cosmetic brush or soft paint brush
- Metal from wine bottle collar
- Wax paper
- Sandpaper or emery board
- Sharpie pens
- Flat or chain nose pliers
- Glues: Tacky, Instant Grrrip, Zap-A-Gap
- Paint



Brush Handle

1. The three sizes of styrene dowel will make paint brush handles in small, medium and large sizes.
2. Sand one end to a point.
3. Color with paint or sharpie pen.
4. Cut to approximately 3/4" for a medium brush, longer or shorter for other sizes.

Brush Head

1. Draw a thin line of Tacky glue on wax paper. Snip a small amount of hair from the cosmetic brush. Place the cut end in the glue as straight as possible. Allow to dry completely.



Brush Heads

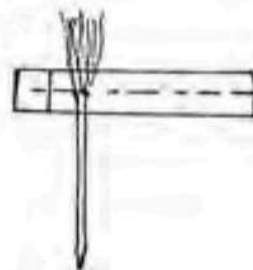
2. When dry, carefully remove the hairs from the wax paper. Determine how much hair you want in the brush and cut away that section from the rest. Roll or fold it on itself and glue with Tacky. Allow to dry completely.
3. Using Instant Grrrip and Zap-A-Gap, attach the hairs securely to the end of the brush handle.
4. Allow to dry completely! Do not continue until the brush head is firmly and securely attached to the handle.



Ferrule

The ferrule is the metal wrap on the brush which holds the two parts, head and handle, together.

1. Cut a strip of the metal approximately 3/16" wide. Curl this around a toothpick, silver side out. Uncurl it slightly and put glue inside the curl. Use Instant Grrrip and Zap together.
2. Wrap the metal around the brush as tightly as possible, positioning it equally over the hairs and the handle. (See diagram and photo) Trim the metal so there is a slight overlap. Roll it between your fingers to tighten.



Assembly

3. If you want a flat brush, crimp the very top of the ferrule with a flat nose or chain nose pliers. Cut the hairs straight across.
4. If you want a round brush, which is trickier, be sure the ferrule is very tight at the top. Trim the hairs at an angle all around, making a point.