

Tips for adding color to your "Celtic Knot Dice" from Dracawood Gaming

by Jeff Saxton

A question was raised during the Kickstarter campaign as to whether the Dice could be supplied with a different inset color instead of the green as shown. Dracawood replied that due to cost concerns, all production parts would be supplied with green inset color.

After talking to Shane at Dracawood regarding the composition of the Dice (acrylic), I then offered to write up this brief tutorial.

Fortunately, the way to change the inset color and personalize your Dice isn't too hard if you have a modicum of skill, so here's a quick primer:

First buy some paint. My personal preference would be to use either "Testors" (in the small square bottles) or "Model Masters" 'Acryl' hobbyist paints (as used for plastic model kits). A good hobby shop will have a wider selection of colors, but even someplace like Michaels craft stores will have some of them. If you aren't comfortable using these kinds of paints, there are other water based paints available in craft stores, two brands on my workbench are "Craft Smart" (distributed by Michaels) and "Americana" (made by DecoArt). The paints designed for plastic model kits will be more resilient under prolonged use of your Dice, but any of these brands should work; and touch-up will be easy in the future if you do notice any paint loss.

Once you have your paint you'll need a small paint brush, about 1/8" diameter; one that is fairly stiff bristled, as you'll use it to stipple the paint into all the crevices on the faces of the Dice. I'd take a brush and cut the bristles short, but it isn't necessary.

Set up a workspace to do the job (lay out some paper towels in your workspace to catch any paint splatters). Lay out the Dice and then begin by painting the inset surfaces of the Dice (both the numbers and artwork), and do *only* two or three faces of a Die at a time, then move to the next Die while the previous one dries a little. Eventually, you'll have painted all the faces, and if it's a bit messy, not a problem.

Using that same paper towel covered surface (which should be a FLAT surface), then begin with the first Die you painted, and rub it along the surface of the paper towels to remove the now drying paint from JUST the surface of the Dice. This will require a bit of practice as to how much pressure to apply -- too much and you'll be wiping into the insets and removing all the paint you applied, too little and you won't take off all the paint from the surface. Whatever you do, DON'T use anything like sandpaper or an abrasive to remove the paint from the surface, as you'll ruin the finish of the Dice surfaces!

Eventually you'll get the hang of how much pressure to use, and if you remove too much paint at first, just add some more paint and start the process over.

Since I haven't actually seen or handled any of the Dracawood "Celtic Knot Dice" in person yet, I cannot say for sure how polished they are, but from the images seen on the Kickstarter pages, they have a level of polish that should easily enable you to use this technique to personalize your Dice. Actually, you can use this technique to do any dice you may have!