

REAPER DUNGEON DWELLERS™

Painting the *Cairn Wraith* by Michael Proctor

Welcome to our quick painting guidelines for anyone who would like to paint their **Reaper Dungeon Dwellers** miniatures just like the Reaper studio models. The **Cairn Wraith** was sculpted by Bob Ridolfi who was inspired by the classic **Dungeon Dwellers** miniatures line. We asked one of our favorite miniature painters, Michael Proctor of **Clever Crow Studios**, to give us his tips and color choices that he used on the Reaper studio model of the **Cairn Wraith**.



I was asked to paint the new **Cairn Wraith** for Reaper's **Dungeon Dwellers** line. My first thought was to paint it "straight", using greys and blacks, but then I thought about trying something different. I've done some glowing effects before, and I was wondering how that would look on the **Cairn Wraith**. After thinking about which colors I wanted to use, I went straight to work.

Prep Work and Basing – I prepped the **Cairn Wraith** by first removing the tiny mold lines with a small file. From there I attached the mini on the supplied round display base. After he was mounted, there was still some open space left between the lip of the base and the model. So, I filled in the space with a mixture of Milliput and broken pieces of air hardened clay. The **Cairn Wraith** has some rocks and debris near its feet, so I just used

used some rocks and hardened clay to match what Bob Ridolfi already sculpted. This just added a little more texture to the scene. After the Milliput dried I primed the **Cairn Wraith** in **09108 White Brush-On Primer**.

Painting the Cairn Wraith - For the **Cairn Wraith** I wanted to convey a ghostly, green glowing effect, almost as if he were rising straight from the rocks at his feet. This effect isn't a traditional OSL effect but rather more of an internal glowing effect so that the leading edges of the mini have the most intense brightness, getting darker near the center. In addition, I wanted to go for a total monochromatic effect and chose green to get the maximum spookiness from the model. When using a glow effect, contrast is key to making it look believable.



The Cairn Wraith based and cleaned.



Milliput and hardened clay attached to the base.

Shaded / Highlighted Base Coat – Once my white primer was dry, I blocked out the tonal zones of the model. To achieve this quickly I used my airbrush, although the same effect can be done using regular paintbrushes. I diluted the paints used in my airbrush, using a 2:1 ratio of thinner to paint. (The thinner is a mix of 10:1 water to alcohol.)

I started with the areas I wanted to be the brightest – the head, shoulders, arms, and upper torso – using **09415 Dungeon Slime**. Once those areas were blocked in, I blocked out the darker areas – the lower torso and base – with **09410 Dragon Green**. This gave me a highlight zone and shadow zone. From there, with the airbrush I added one additional highlight zone with **09287 Neon Yellow** and an additional shadow zone with **09226 Peacock Green**. These steps gave me a quick basecoat that had established highlight and shadow zones.



Tonal zones blocked out.

Adding details – After my zones were established, I used a paintbrush and started working on the dark shadow areas. Using **09306 Green Liner**, I lined the shadow areas under the folds of the cloak and inside of the cowl. Adding a strong shadow area is important to add the contrast to the lighter areas to help with the “glowing” effect.

For my highlights, I chose Neon Yellow again to refine the highlight areas, gradually increasing the brightness by mixing in **09439 Dragon White** with the Neon Yellow



Shadows and Highlights applied.

and eventually using **Dragon White** as the final highlight. Just like in the dark shadows I really tried to punch up the highlights to go for a strong contrast. In a few cases I made my highlight areas smaller by using **Dungeon Slime** and also using a 50/50 mix of **Dungeon Slime** and **Dragon Green**. There was a lot of back and forth getting smoother blends but towards the end I used a very diluted mix of **09096 Clear Green** to apply a very thin glaze over the midtone areas. This glaze helps to further clean up the blends.



Using a glaze can help clean up your blends.

Painting the Base - I painted the base using the **09729 Stone Triad (Shadowed Stone, Stone Grey, Weathered Stone)** along with **09066 Blue Liner** for the deep shadows. Once I had highlights and shadows with the Stone triad I added some glowing effect to the tops of the rocks using **Dungeon Slime** and **Neon Yellow**.

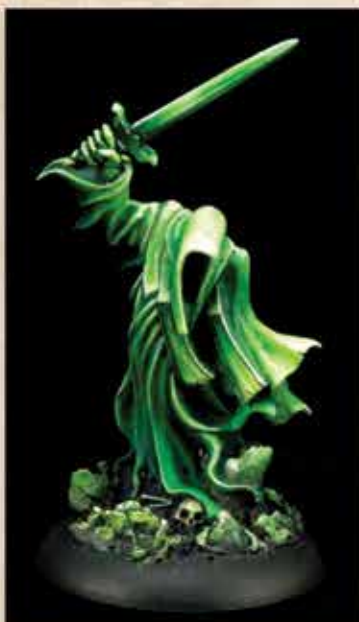
Once I was done, I think the glowing effect came off pretty well. Using sharp contrasts really helps when pulling off special painting techniques such as this one, and it's a lot of fun to experiment with.

I enjoyed painting this model so much, I decided to paint a second Cairn Wraith, this time using a blue glowing effect. The steps are the same as above, but I used the following colors:

Highlights - I used **09419 Tropical Blue** and highlighted that with **09420 Frost Blue**. For the brightest areas, I mixed **09439 Dragon White** with the Frost Blue, and then worked my way all the way up to straight Dragon White for the brightest areas.

Shadows - I used **09415 Oceanic Blue** and shaded that with **09115 Ritterlich Blue**. Once those were blocked in, I used **09066 Blue Liner** mixed with Ritterlich Blue to make the shadows a little deeper. Once all that was done, I used the Blue Liner by itself in the shadows. Once all of that was done, I used the Blue Liner as a glaze (1:1 Blue Liner to Water) and glazed the entire model to even out the midtones.

That's it! I hope you enjoy painting the Cairn Wraith as much as I did!



The Cairn Wraith completed



The Cairn Wraith in blue.



Michael Proctor & Clever Crow Studios

Michael is an award-winning painter from Evergreen, Colorado. He's one of Reaper's staff painters and has also painted studio models for Dark Sword Miniatures. In addition, he is the executive administrator of the MSP Open painting competition at ReaperCon. When not painting, he enjoys mountain biking, scuba diving and spending time with his wife Michelle. You can see more of Michael's impressive work at <https://www.facebook.com/CleverCrowMinis/>