

# REAPER DUNGEON DWELLERS™

Painting *Lanaerel Grayleaf*  
by Jennifer Greenwald

Welcome to our series of quick painting guidelines for anyone who would like to paint their Reaper **Dungeon Dwellers** miniatures just like the Reaper studio models. **Lanaerel Grayleaf** was sculpted by Bobby Jackson who designed the model to look like he was plucked straight out a classic fantasy adventure. This month, Jennifer Greenwald takes us through the steps she used on the Reaper studio model of **Lanaerel Grayleaf**.



Though most of the **Dungeon Dwellers** have been painted in dark colors, since Lanaerel is an elf and a ranger it seemed a brighter, more woodsy color scheme would be appropriate for him. A color palette of greens, browns, and gray was selected, along with a light skin tone and strawberry blond hair.

## Assembly and Priming

Lanaerel comes in two pieces – his bow arm is a separate piece from the rest of the figure. I decided to pin the arm in place rather than just gluing it; this makes for a stronger joint between the two pieces. After washing both pieces and cleaning away flash and mold lines, I used a pin vise to drill holes in both the shoulder where the arm will fit and the end of the arm piece. Then I cut a small length of thin brass rod which would be long enough to reach both holes, but short enough that it would not prevent the two pieces from sitting flush against each other.



Photo 1: Pinning the arm after clipping it from the sprue

I glued the rod into the shoulder first, then attached the arm by putting a little more glue on the exposed end of the brass rod and fitting the arm onto it. While I was at it, I drilled a hole in each of his feet. Eventually, I would use more brass rod there to attach his feet to his base.

Once I was certain the glue was dry, I primed the figure with **09108 White Primer**.

## Hair and Face

With the prep work done, I was ready to start putting color on the figure. I almost always start with the skin, face, and hair. For Lanaerel's strawberry blond hair, I decided to work from a reference photo as I don't have a lot of familiarity with that hair color. I went to the internet, searched for pictures of people with strawberry blond hair, and picked one that I liked. I printed out that image so that I could test potential color matches by painting them right on the image. What I found was that the hair was redder in the shadows and more blonde in the lighter areas, so that was what I was going to emulate.



Photo 2: Close up of the hair and face.

With hair, I like base coating with my shadow color and working up through the midtone to the highlight. I started with a somewhat desaturated reddish-orange that matched the darkest, reddish areas in my reference photo, and worked up from there with successively lighter and more blonde colors.

#### Skin

09045 Tanned Highlight, 09043 Tanned Shadow, 09023 Imperial Purple + 09164 Dark Elf Skin, 09047 Fair Skin, 09048 Fair Highlight

#### Hair

09201 Orange Brown, Orange Brown + 09257 Blonde Hair, 09258 Blonde Highlight, 09061 Linen White

#### Tunic, Sleeves, Leggings and Accessories

Once I was done with his hands, face, and hair, I moved on through his tunic, sleeves and leggings, and then the boots and bracers, pouches and wraps, saving the cloak for last.



Photo 3: Tunic

#### Tunic

09411 Wilderness Green, 09236 Green Shadow, 09022 Nightshade Purple, 09413 Naga Green, 09413 Naga Green + 09009 Lemon Yellow



Photo 4: Clothing and accessories

#### Sleeves/Leggings

09252 Dusky Skin Highlight, 09251 Dusky Skin, 09023 Imperial Purple+ 09164 Dark Elf Skin, 09275 Vampiric Skin, 09062 Leather White

#### Cloak

09036 Pale Olive, 09035 Olive Green, 09034 Muddy Olive, 09023 Imperial Purple+ 09164 Dark Elf Skin, 09150 Bloodless Skin, 09061 Linen White

#### Boots, Bracers, Belts, Bow

09137 Blackened Brown, 09136 Walnut Brown, 09138 Intense Brown, 09031 Tanned Leather, 09144 Creamy Ivory

#### Straps

09031 Tanned Leather, 09029 Earth Brown, 09144 Creamy Ivory, 09061 Linen White  
Gold: NMM Gold Triad, 09009 Lemon Yellow, 09039 Pure White

#### Gold

09801 NMM Gold Triad, 09009 Lemon Yellow, 09039 Pure White



Photo 5: Lanaerel with highlights

#### Painting the Cloak

I started the cloak by giving it a base coat of 09036 Pale Olive. I shaded that with 09034 Muddy Olive, and then added a final, deepest shadow of 09023 Imperial Purple mixed with a little 09164 Dark Elf Skin to make it a little less saturated. Using colors in the shadows, particularly colors that are complimentary to the main color, can increase the contrast. By doing that, not only are you adding light/dark contrast, you are adding contrast by introducing a different hue – you have two vectors of contrast instead of just the one you would get by shading with only darker greens.

I had also used this same desaturated purple color in the shadows in almost all the other areas of the figure – his skin, the dark green tunic, and the gray leggings, in particular. Using the same shadow and highlight color on different parts of the figure can give it a more cohesive look.

I decided that the cloak could use a little freehand to give it some additional interest. Looking at the figure, I thought replicating the leaf shape that makes up his brooch would also help with tying the different parts of the figure together.

Like with the hair color, I started by spending some time studying the leaf shape that I wanted to copy and breaking it down into smaller parts. I found that the leaf shape could be broken down into three small roughly eye-shaped parts at angles to each other. I wanted to make a border, so I practiced doing this on paper. I found – unsurprisingly for me – that I was having a hard time keeping the leaf shapes consistently sized and evenly lined up. To solve this, I decided to paint a border along the bottom of his cloak. Having a border would be like using lined paper when learning to write – it would give me guides to work against to help keep everything even.

I painted on the border in **09034 Muddy Olive** and then shaded and highlighted it. Then I added the leaf pattern using **09036 Pale Olive**. Freehand also needs to be shaded and highlighted to look correct, so I shaded it by glazing over it in the shadow areas with the same shadow color as I used for the border, and then went over the highlight areas with **09150 Bloodless Skin**.



Photo 6: Freehand on the cloak border

Once I was finished painting him, I sculpted a flagstone base and painted it using the same grays as I used on his sleeves and leggings. To add some variation to the stone and help tie it in with the rest of the figure, I glazed on some of the purple, brown, and green shadow colors I'd used on the figure. I covered everything with a coat of **09107 Brush-on Sealer**, and he was done!

*Jen Greenwald is an award-winning painter hailing from the hinterlands of upstate New York. When not painting fabulous miniature works of art, she can be found breaking in her new Bernese Mountain Dog puppy, Ripley.*

*You can see more of Jen's fantastic work at <https://minipainterjen.blogspot.com/>*