



ABOVE LEFT: The sash has been underpainted in acrylics, and the shoulder cord and aiguillette painted. ABOVE RIGHT: The sash painted in oils.



The decorations have been detailed and finishing touches applied to the bust.

painting was the sash as it offered a challenge in trying to capture the shimmer that the material gave off. This time around I wanted to see if I could improve on my last effort. I wanted to give it an undercoat of a darker shade of royal blue, so I added some Cantabric Blue to some Testa Blue to get the right tone. In preparing the palette for the blue I set out the following colours: Ultramarine Blue; Raw Sienna; Titanium White; Prussian Blue.

Normally I would soak out some of the oils on some paper to help matt it down, but as I wanted to retain the sheen, I left it as it was and began mixing the shades ready for application. First of all I created the highlight by adding some Titanium White, which gives you a very bright blue, so to dull it down a little I added a tiny amount of Raw Sienna. For the shadows I would use the Prussian Blue. A thinned coat of Ultramarine Blue was applied first and the excess oils removed, and then proceeded to start working in varying tints of the highlights to try and achieve the shimmer the cloth gave off. It took me a little while to do this but the effect was paying off, and I thought it was an improvement on my previous effort, which was rather pleasing. Once I was happy that I'd taken the highlights to the limit at this stage I turned to the Prussian Blue to add the shadows. I left this to dry for a couple of days, and thankfully it didn't lose any of its sheen, before adding some final touches.

Decorations

The bust shows Wellington wearing the Cross of the Order of the Bath and the Spanish Order of the Golden Fleece. Rather than go into great detail in the painting of these, these were painted in acrylics and metallic. The metallics used are from the DarkStar range as I find their finish very impressive.

The acrylics represented the areas that were enamelled and given a coat of varnish afterwards.