

This is by no means the only way to paint a dark baby but it is the method that works best for me.



When mixing my paints I make them very thin, same consistency as water.

If you mix the dark colours too thickly you end up with a "dirty" look to your babies. What we want to achieve is the transparent coats like we achieve with a Caucasian baby.

I like painting my aboriginal babies as they do not require as much mottling coats as the Caucasians do.



I always begin this method with a bi-racial kit as it is easier to achieve the right colouring without a lot of colour adjusting and washes to "turn" the colour. Most of the bi-racial kits are designed for dark babies so the nose is generally slightly stubbier anyway and works well to achieve an authentic look. Using a neutral vinyl requires a different technique to this and also gives a different tone to the finished look.

Now bear in mind also that in today's world an Aboriginal can be any range on the spectrum from "white" to almost brown/black. I belong to an Aboriginal Elders group and in that one group no 2 of us are the same skin tone shade. But generally speaking when people think of an Aboriginal colouring they think of the darker skin, hence the darker skinned babies.



You will notice that so far all 3 babies I have shown you are all from the same sculpt, "Brea" by Lorna Miller-Sands. this used to be my favourite sculpt but each one of them although similar are uniquely different. This is what our painting is about with our reborns. We are creating one of a kind (OOAK) babies. Open eyed babies look best with brown eyes, and darker hair is better than light hair. Keep your lighter hair for a lighter skinned baby or a custom baby.

Closed eye babies also work well. This is the "Kaya" sculpt by Eva Helland. Another good one is "Baylee" by Lorna Miller- Sands.



Ok now onto how to:

Depending on how dark you wish to go these steps could total 20 or more coats of paint. You can see why now that we need to keep our layers thin and watery. Unless otherwise stated each colour stated is the thin wash mix.

Layer 1: Flesh 07

Bake between each layer.

When cooled mark in veins and paint all the creases with eyelid purple. Also drop some purple into the back of the mouth.

From here always remember to wipe back soles of feet, palms of hands, nails and lips before adding other colour to these areas if stated. Otherwise they will end up too dark.

Layer 2: Flesh 07/Flesh 06

Layer 3: Flesh 06

Layer 4: Flesh 06/Flesh 05 and very, very thin coat lip colour on lips.

Layer 5: Flesh 05, lips and nails with thin eyelid purple

Layer 6: Flesh 05/Flesh 04

Layer 7: Flesh 04, lips and nails with lip/nail colour

Layer 8: Flesh 04 mixed slightly thicker. Not too thick or a dirty build up can occur.

Layer 9: Thin wash of eyelid purple in creases and lips again, also on soles of feet and palms of hands then Flesh 04/Flesh 03 (avoiding soles and palms and lips)

Layer 10: Flesh 03

Layer 11: Flesh 03/02 and browns into creases. Another very thin coat of lip colour. This should just about be enough colour on lips now, but should still remain "transparent". If it is looking like lippy then you have done them too thickly.

Layer 12: Flesh 02. Avoid blush areas. Set aside to allow thinners to evaporate. Come back with blush colour and do the blush areas. You only want a subtle hint of blushing not detailed as with Caucasians.

Layer 13: Repeat layer 12 if necessary.

Here is where you keep adding further coats to darken if necessary. Adding a tiny dab of black and/or yellow ochre can also help to darken further, but keep thin for transparency.

Lastly, finish off with creases again if necessary, nail tips (Flesh 08) and eyebrows.

