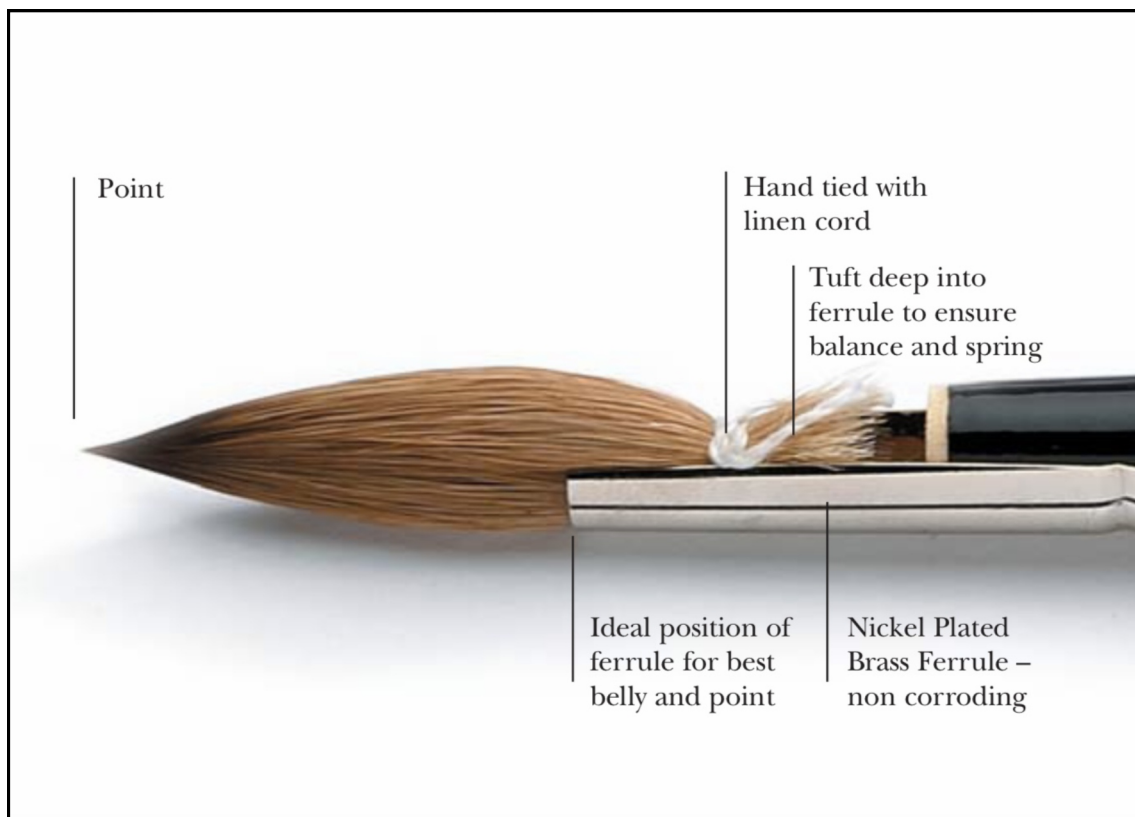


# INSTAR<sup>TM</sup>



## THE SOAP+ COLLECTION

# THE ANATOMY OF A PAINTBRUSH



The above image is taken from the anatomy of a Windsor and Newton Series 7 brush, while miniature painters have their own preferences as to what brush is "best", almost all of them, including synthetics will follow this same structure, you can see that the bristles penetrate deep into the ferrule and it's here where the most damage can occur to your brush over time as you paint so it's important to maintain a good cleaning regime for your brushes.

## THINNING PAINT = THE SLOW KILLER

Thinning paint is arguably a good practice when miniature painting with traditional based paints, but every time you dip your brush into a thinned paint you very slowly kill your brush and without a proper cleaning regime, becomes a cumulative effect that eventually destroys your brush beyond repair. It's part of the reason why the Alpha range was developed as a way to reduce this effect by creating a thin paint that has a higher surface tension than water leading to a reduced capillary effect, but with the same fluidity.

Because of this capillary action with traditional thinned paints, the thinned solution is drawn up into the brush, but it's not just the outside where you can see the level of the drawn up paint, deep inside the belly of the brush, the liquid is drawn up past where the ferrule starts up to where the cord holds the bristles together due to the greater concentration of paint stored in the belly.

When rinsing with just water, the paint that is collected there isn't totally removed and after a painting session will stay there and dry. Over time this will eventually cause the brush to lose its shape and lose its sharp point.

Thanks to the introduction of INSTAR Soap+, we can keep your expensive brushes like new extending their life. We going beyond traditional cleaning methods by utilising science and natural ingredients to keep your brush as good as the day you bought it.

# THE ULTIMATE BRUSH CLEANING PRODUCTS

## THINK YOUR BRUSHES ARE CLEAN? THINK AGAIN...

**CHECK OUT THE TUTORIAL VIDEO AT OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL**



Soap+ Deep Clean is there for when your brushes have been truly neglected and seemingly beyond repair.

By using a non-toxic formula, it works by softening dried paint even deep inside the ferrule without damaging the brush hairs. Depending on the severity of the damage you can soak the brush heads for up to 20 minutes in the solution. This is a maximum time, not a minimum.

Then by using a hard, flat surface or the palm of your hand, simply roll the brush back and forth at a rough 45 degree angle and watch the paint being softened and drawn out of the ferrule.

If there is still paint in the bristles/ferrule after one attempt, reapply the formula and work into the bristles until clean, then move onto the Soap+ Cleaner.



**Before**



**After**



**Before**



**After**

Images courtesy of Ceri Robson (@purplemonkey790)

# THE ULTIMATE BRUSH CLEANING PRODUCTS

## THINK YOUR BRUSHES ARE CLEAN? THINK AGAIN...



Soap+ Cleaner is the standard cleaning soap in the range.

Use after every painting session, the natural ingredients contained within will help loosen any stubborn paint in the belly and ferrule of the brush that hasn't dried fully yet and pull it into the soap solution like a magnet. Because it's a liquid soap too, you don't damage the brush hairs trying to get a lather going unlike hard brush soap solutions.

Just scoop a small amount from the container on to a hard, flat surface or the palm of your hand, simply roll the brush back and forth at a rough 45 degree angle until clean.



Before



After

Images courtesy of Ceri Robson (@purplemonkey790)



Soap+ Conditioner keeps your brush tips soft and supple for each and every use.

Used straight after using the Deep Clean to replace natural oils, the natural ingredients in Soap+ Conditioner work deep into the brush hairs to help protect and shape your brush to keep your brush tip super sharp.

Use generally to help maintain your brush head, just scoop a small amount out and use your fingers to work into the brush head, reshape the point and then leave for 24 hours to allow the natural ingredients to work their magic.



# **SIMPLE BRUSH CARE REFRESHER**

If you bought the best brushes to get the best out of your painting, you'll be fully aware of how much those brushes cost you so to keep them in tip top condition, use our Soap+ products and make a note of the following:

- **Don't leave paint too long on the brush especially if it has been thinned down, once it dries it'll start to affect performance**
- **Only use enough water in your cleaning container to clean your brush, ideally the water level should only be just below the ferrule where it meets the brush handle with an extra inch or so to allow for room to move the brush around, if water gets in through the top of the ferrule, it'll start to loosen the glue keeping it attached to the handle.**
- **When rinsing your brush, don't run it along the bottom of the cleaning pot, this is one of the fastest ways to destroy the brush head, even Soap+ won't be able to save a brush if it's irreparably damaged, instead roll the brush against the side of the container to remove wet paint from the brush head**
- **After rinsing your brush, don't leave it wet for too long, dry it as quickly as you can otherwise the natural oils in the brush hair will dilute and cause bristles to come loose, blot it on kitchen paper or other absorbent media (Don't drag it along as the paper is more abrasive than you think) to remove as much water as possible.**
- **After a painting session and cleaning the brush heads using the Soap+ products, store them upright with their brush protectors on to allow any water left in the brush to evaporate away from the brush rather than deeper into the ferrule**