

# BANNER PAINTING

Heraldic displays are an important part of S.C.A life. These heraldic displays not only add to the colour and festive atmosphere of our events and tournaments, they also help to reduce the interference of the mundane world into these events.

Everyone is able to help improve and add to the look and feel of the Barony of River Haven and S.C.A events in general by the inclusion of their own heraldry in the form of a simple Banner. Imagine going to an event at which not only the groups banners but every individual present had their S.C.A banners flying in the breeze, this would be both an enjoyable as well as memorable sight.

The Barony of River Haven has adopted the 14<sup>th</sup> century square banner as their standard form of on field heraldic display and this is a reasonably easy form of banner to copy.

To make this style of banner you would need the following things:

**Material:** 110/120cm x 1.25mt Homespun or similar usually in white. Preferably use a cotton material as this seems to take the paint best.

**Transparency:** Black outline of your S.C.A heraldic arms for use with an overhead projector.

**Paint in your heraldic colours:** I use Tintex Aqueous Fabric Ink as this is water based, low odour and heat set. I have found it to be easy to use, very durable and colour fast.

**Brushes:** A selection of paint brushes, 25mm foam brushes and a pencil.

**Table:** I cover a work table with an old sheet then tape a plastic drop sheet over this.

**Drying area:** This needs to be a breeze free hanging area.

**As well as all the above requirements you will also need Patience.**

## METHODS:

1. Use the selvedge for attaching the lacing points as these are the strongest edges. I use 5 to 6 lacing points for attaching my banner as this allows me to use any size banner pole, you may wish to use more laces on your banner. If you wish to use a sleeve mount then this would require some extra material.
2. Hem the top and bottom raw edges of the fabric as this reduces the strain on them when the banner is being flown.
3. Use a fine pencil for copying your device to the banner, a thick coarse pencil may smudge or leave hard to remove marks. Lay your banner flat on the work table to fine tune the outlines.
4. Always paint your outlines first with a fine lining paint brush. This could be in black or the appropriate main colour of your banner, this will help stop bleeding when infilling the colours. Remember to take your time with this, rushing can be a disaster. Once you have done the first side allow it to dry completely then repeat the process on the reverse side. Once both sides are dry you are ready to start the actual filling in of colour.
5. When infilling only ever work on one colour at a time and using one coat per side is ideal, please remember you will be painting the other side and this could darken your colour. Start with the darker tones and always allow them to dry before starting another colour. I find it best to hang the banner to dry and then clean the work table before restarting. Small paint smudges left on the table could transfer to your banner when you start repainting and spoil it.
6. When doing larger areas I find it good to layer the paint on in a criss-cross motion and then use a foam brush to go over the whole area to smooth it over, this helps eliminate brush strokes.

7. Allow yourself enough time to finish any part you start, stopping part way through will cause a definite heavy paint line that will not be able to be hidden. Never allow your banner to dry on the table, this can cause a shiny affect to form on the reverse side and is hard to conceal.
8. Do all highlighting and toning required on your banner only after you have finish that side.

The most important thing to remember, **ALWAYS TAKE YOUR TIME.**

