

PROP PAINTERS — 2024/25 RATES

BAND 3/4 — FILM & TV

ROLE	DAY RATE (£) AVERAGE / HIGHEST RECORDED	WEEKLY RATE (£) AVERAGE / HIGHEST RECORDED	WEEKLY BOX RENTAL (£) AVERAGE / HIGHEST RECORDED
HOD/Head Prop Painter	400 / NEGOTIABLE	2,000 / NEGOTIABLE	75 / 100
Senior Prop Painter	348 / 400	1,738 / 2,000	50 / 100
Prop Painter	317 / 350	1,586 / 1,750	58 / 100
Mid Prop Painter	230* / 280*	1,150* / 1,400*	INSUFFICIENT DATA
Junior Prop Painter	190* / 230*	950* / 1,150*	INSUFFICIENT DATA

* Due to an insufficient number of responses to the Bectu Survey from Trainee, Junior and Mid Prop Painters, we do not have usable data on rates for these roles. The numbers you see here are from the data from **Junior Prop Modellers** and **Mid Prop Modellers**, and should therefore be used as guideline only and may not be representative of rates earned by **Junior/Mid Prop Painters** in the same field.

This ratecard is based on data collected from a 2024 survey of painters working in the prop department.

Bectu encourages painters to aim to achieve the highest rates.

bectu.org.uk/join



ROLE DESCRIPTIONS

HOD/HEAD PROP PAINTER

Other names: Lead Prop Painter

- Expert knowledge and skill of painting techniques and materials.
- Comfortable delegating tasks and explaining and/or demonstrating techniques.
- Sets up the paint shop and maintains levels of materials and consumables for the entire team.
- Responsible for both the hiring and management of other painters.
- Manages the running, workload and deadline for the entire department.
- Comfortable liaising with senior crew eg. art directors and propmasters.
- Represents the paintshop and is the first point of contact.
- Sets deadlines and is ultimately responsible for the department meeting external deadlines.
- May determine the hours and rates of pay of those working in the paintshop.
- Ensures the ongoing compliance of health and safety in the paintshop.

SENIOR PROP PAINTER

Other names: Chargehand, Supervisor

Where no Head Painter is hired, the Senior Painter's role will be similar to the Head Painter. A Senior Painter may be the sole painter in a department, however the Senior Painter:

- Should NOT be expected to run a department the size or scale of a Head Painter.
- May be responsible for managing a small team, but only if that team is NOT likely to consist of more than four painters at any point during the production.

If a Head Painter is hired, the Senior Painter(s) is responsible for assisting the Head Painter in:

- Delegating tasks.
- Explaining and/or demonstrating paint techniques to trainee or junior painters.

- Ordering and maintaining levels of stock.
- Upholding health and safety in the paintshop.
- If a Head Painter is hired but is absent, either through being on location, absence, etc, the Senior Painter(s) will be responsible for managing the paintshop in their absence.

PROP PAINTER

Other names: Hand Props Painter, Action Props Painter, Prop Modeller Painter, Prop Hand Artist

- Wide range of knowledge and skill of the majority of painting techniques and materials, including knowledge of specialist skills and equipment such as airbrushes or spray guns.
- Able to generate own paint techniques and processes.
- Works autonomously without supervision from Senior or Head Painters.
- Able to multitask and work to deadlines.
- May be expected to teach/demonstrate techniques to trainees or junior painters but should NOT be expected to manage a team.
- Should assist the Head and/or Senior Painter in day to day running of the paintshop.
- Should NOT be expected to manage the paint department or be the sole painter in a department.

MID PROP PAINTER

Other names: Assistant Prop Painter, Mid Prop Painter/Modeller, Intermediate Prop Painter

- Has a good level of experience with materials and techniques, but may still require guidance with more complex techniques.
- After being told of a process, they should be expected to complete the task without supervision.
- May be expected to develop and execute their own paint processes.
- Should not be expected to work with hazardous or specialist materials unsupervised.

ROLE DESCRIPTIONS

- May not be expected to own specialised equipment such as compressors, spray guns and air brushes.
- May be asked to teach Juniors and Trainees based on the individual's skills and knowledge.
- May be expected to help maintain a ordering stock.

JUNIOR PROP PAINTER

Other names: Improver

- Has a few years of experience in the industry or is starting in the industry after a relevant qualification and/or work experience, such as Propmaking degree.
- Has a basic knowledge of paints and processes, but may not be familiar with specialist materials and techniques.
- Can follow instructions and replicate some paint processes set by other painters, but will need guidance when attempting more complex paint work.
- Is not expected to work with hazardous or specialist materials unsupervised.
- Is expected to assist all other painters and to actively help maintain a tidy and organised paintshop.

Ratecard produced by the Bectu Prop Painters Sub Committee

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