

TIMAAA'S WORKSHOP AUGUST 2008: THE FINE ART OF BUILDINGS

Greetings Gamers and Builders. I hope your past month has been good to you and you haven't had to spend too much on gas to travel to game somewhere. (My irritated point of view on the current events.) I thought I would show you my perspective on building a house for your gaming table. I use the molds from Hirstarts.com and some items from your craft store. Let me say that Hirst Arts has the most spectacular line of molds that can suit your every need. They work like rubberized ice cube trays, just pour in the material, let it set, and pop the pieces out. I have using them since 1992 and have enjoyed it. This session will use 3 of Hirst Art molds. The Wooden Plank Mold, the Wooden Shingle Roof Mold, and the Fieldstone Wall mold. You need to go to www.hirstarts.com to check out this fantastic stuff. You won't be disappointed. Let's get to it.

First off, you need a base for the house. I just happen to have a piece of floral foam laying in the crevasses of my basement. I like it just because it is light weight and it will sand easily. Just be careful, too much pressure and it will sand completely off. And it is in exact measurements of size so you can build around it with very little effort.



Next you need to have plenty of pieces from the Castlemolds line to complete this.



I won't go into the pouring and casting of pieces here, you can go to www.hirstarts.com and see the whole process.

First off, let's put some walls up;

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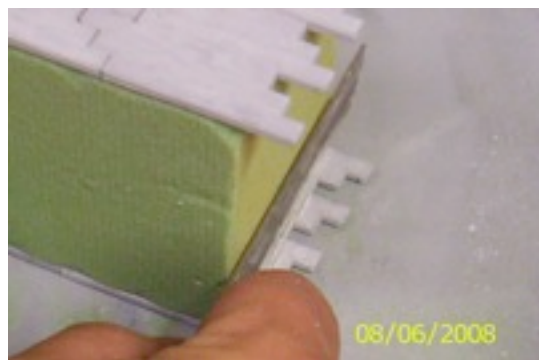
As you can see, the pattern of the wood grain and the gaps between the individual pieces is visible. Don't worry after you paint this piece, you won't see this. Start by gluing each individual piece on one side. Let this dry overnight, It will help with keeping all the walls straight and looking good.



Continue the opposite wall of the block of foam. Making sure the left ends are square.



Now comes a tedious part. You have to cut each end piece to fit the opposite edge.



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Now glue the smaller walls into place.



Now glue end caps on each corner. This will dress the corners nicely.



Now for the chimney. Assemble all the blocks for the lower portion and glue them together. These blocks come from the Fieldstone wall mold. You can make your chimney as large or as small as you see fit. Just be realistic in the size compared to your building.

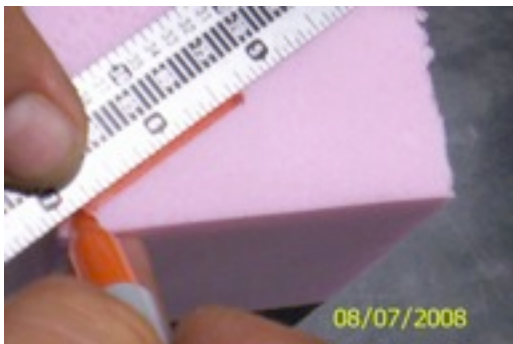


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Now for the roof. Take a piece of foam and place it inside the walls. This will give you a reference point to mark you angles.



Mark each side of the roof to cut the entire length.



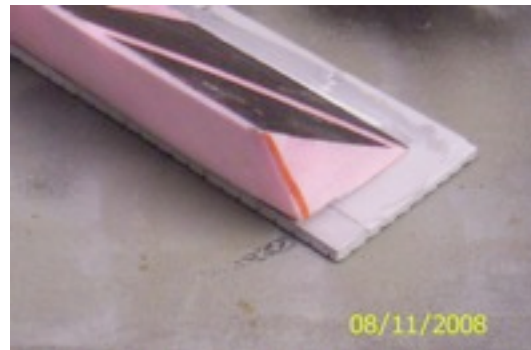
This is a homemade foam cutter that I use for all my foam cutting needs.

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If you don't have a foam cutter, a fine tooth hacksaw blade will work fine.

Cut your piece of foam lengthwise to create a support for your roof pieces. You don't have to be too precise in you cutting; the glue will fill in any low spots.



Glue each piece of the roof mold onto the foam and line the top edge with the point of the foam. Let this dry overnight!!! Repeat for the other side as well. After the roof has dried completely, glue the ridge caps pieces on the roof to hide the seam. Remember to leave a space for the chimney to extend.
After the chimney has dried, paint it flat black.

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Add some shutters and the front door. The shutters come from the Wizard's Tower Mold.
The front door is glued level with the bottom of the house.



Now add the frame around the front door. These pieces are glued back to back to add the depth you see. Cut the frame even with the bottom of the house



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Now for the painting. I used Red primer for the base coat on the house itself. Remember to use spray paint outdoors, or you might get some grief from others in the house, not to mention the spray dust on everything else. After the paint dries, use a black ink wash to completely cover the house. You may have to apply 2 or 3 washes to achieve the desired effects.



For the second coat on the chimney I used a color called Georgia Clay.

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The last dry brush coat was called Goosefeather.



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Use the same color Goosefeather to lightly drybrush the house and Presto, you have a house you can call home



Till next time, keep you plaster dry and your dust swept.
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