MiniWarGaming Terrain Projects & Inspirations

Preface

Today is a fantastic day for terrain building! Do you want to know why? It's because both you and I are Warhammer fanatics. It's true! Why else would you have downloaded this e-book but to get some ideas, tips and tricks and general inspirations for your Warhammer terrain projects?

In this e-book we'll be covering some basics on terrain building such as materials to use for specific projects, best ways to use painting techniques and the do's and dont's of handling tools of the trade.

So since Warhammer is your life... eh hum... our lives, I'll get straight to the guns and ammo of this e-book. Enjoy and happy war gaming!

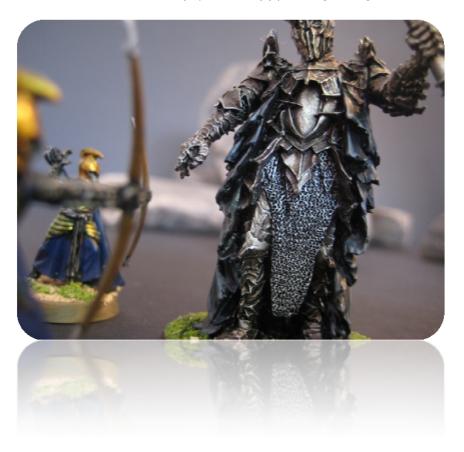


Table of Contents

- Chapter 1 A Must Have Materials List
- Chapter 2 How to Add Flock & Terrain to Your Miniature Bases
- Chapter 3 A Guide to Good Photo Taking
- Chapter 4 How to Apply Rust Effects to Your Terrain
- Chapter 5 How to Make Wooden Floors



You'll be surprised as to the things you can scrounge and use for terrain. Try to do it as inexpensively as possible. Try scrounging before buying. It's awesome how much more you'll appreciate your terrain projects after you've built everything yourself.



Chapter 1: A Must Have Materials List

You've bought, assembled and painted your first army. You're now ready to play, but wait... you want some cool Warhammer terrain to go with your newly acquired army. This article shows you the basic materials and workspace you'll use to make some awesome Warhammer terrain.





Basic Materials

- 1. Paint brushes
- 2. Utility knife
- 3. Hammer
- 4. Pliers
- 5. Sandpaper (or sanding block)
- 6. Pen or Pencil
- 7. Wire (electrical or all purpose)
- 8. Fine sand
- 9. Modeling flock
- 10. Scissors
- 11. Painting pallet
- 12. PVA glue (white glue)
- 13. Plastic straws
- 14. Popsicle sticks
- 15. Polystyrene (insulation foam)
- 16. Styrofoam
- 17. Metal bucket
- 18. Hacksaw
- 19. Chaos black spray paint
- 20. Hot wire cutter
- 21. Can
- 22. Tissues
- 23. Newspaper

For all your Warhammer terrain making materials and supplies it's best to keep everything together in a few large containers or a large cardboard box. If you have a table or desk dedicated to painting/terrain it's a plus as well but not a necessity.

We're going to simply list the materials again with a description of their possible uses.

1. Paint Brushes

Paint brushes are a must and staple if you're thinking of getting into terrain making or miniature painting. I like to have a set of fine detail brushes with another set of medium sized brushes for terrain. There are many techniques you can learn with brushes which we'll go over in another article.



2. Utility Knife

This is definitely another must have item for terrain making. This little guy will become your best friend as you'll most likely use it the most. Be sure not to use it carelessly for its blade can be quite sharp. And remember to cut things on top of a board or piece of wood so as to not damage the table underneath.



Take it from one who cuts a lot, always cut away from your body.



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3. Hammer

A hammer is useful if you want to add weathered rock effects to polystyrene (insulation foam).



4. Pliers

These little guys are essential for cleaning up the edges of your miniatures. They're also useful for holding small items that are drying.



5. Sandpaper

Using sandpaper to smoothen out rocks and ridges is a good technique. I prefer using the sanding blocks as opposed to sandpaper. You have more control over what you're doing. Sanding terrain pieces also ages them.



6. Pen or Pencil

Naturally a pen or pencil is useful for marking out things such as windows or doors in a building.



7. Wire (electrical or all purpose)

Wire can be used as rebar or barbed wire.



You'll a good pair of tin snips for these. Safety goggles are a good idea too, just in case



8. Fine sand

Fine sand is useful in so many ways. Adding sand to the bases of your miniatures or as a gaming board surface is just a couple of things you can do.



9. Modeling flock

Adding flock to rocks, trees, hills and miniatures adds to the realism of your game.





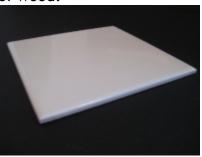
10. Scissors

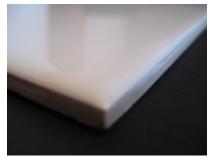
Make sure to pick up a pair of good quality scissors. Believe me; you're going to beat them up pretty good.



11. Painting pallet

Painting pallets are a must if you plan on painting a lot. Shown below is a ceramic tile. These are good because the cleanup is easy. They're also strong and durable. Other options for painting pallets are a Styrofoam plate or a piece of wood.





12. PVA glue (white glue)

Another staple when it comes to terrain building. This can be bought cheaply at a dollar store.



Cheap PVA glue may have a tendency to yellow over time. You may want to go with higher quality glue for more prestigious projects.

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13. Popsicle sticks

These are extremely useful for making all sorts of things. Wood floors, barricades and stairs just to name a few.



14. Polystyrene (insulation foam)

You can make rocks and hills out of these. Tyranid spires are also a good project made from these.



15. Plastic straws

Good for making pipes, railings or even barricades.



Painted rust effects on these are a great way to add realism to your straw pipes.

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16. Metal bucket

One of these is good to have and is handy for many projects. Mixing paint and keeping sand are good uses for these. A water bucket is also a good idea.



17. Hacksaw

A must if you plan on having wood or Masonite bases for your terrain. (Careful not to nick yourself)



18. Styrofoam

Similar to insulation foam, Styrofoam is also good for making rocks and hills. Regular styrofoam is easier to come by however.



Make a habit of saving Styrofoam pieces you get from various product packaging. E.g. New DVD players come packed with useable Styrofoam.



19. Chaos black spray paint

These are a wonder if you have a large army to base coat. You get into hard to reach places a lot easier with spray paint.



Spraying chaos black spray paint onto insulation foam will melt it. So keep this in mind if you plan on priming terrain made from insulation foam.



20. Hot wire cutter

These are used for shaping styrofoam. They run on batteries and are a Godsend for hobbyists. Make sure to be in a well ventilated area while cutting. The fumes may give you a headache. (WARNING: The hot wire cutter gets very hot and can burn you. Be careful not to touch the wire with your bare skin.)



21. Can

Useful for keeping small things in and for mixing paints, and also useful for cleaning brushes. If you're adventurous you might even build a fuel tank with it.



This is by no means a comprehensive list of the possible materials you can use for Warhammer terrain making. Refer to this as more of a guide if you're just starting out. You may find that other tools and things work better for you. These items are good however as a basic set of materials and tools to get most projects underway.

Chapter 2: How to Add Flock & Terrain to

Your Miniature Bases

Your Warhammer army is now freshly painted. Fantastic! But there's something not quite right. Your bases are black and without color. Many would ignore it and play on. But not us hardcore Warhammer fanatics! In this article you'll learn tips and tricks on how to make basic Warhammer bases.



Materials list

- -paints (A whole array of color choices are workable for bases)
- -brown ink
- -small paint brush
- -PVA glue (white glue)
- -GW sand (This can also be bought from a hardware store or picked up from a nearby beach.
- -modeling flock
- -newspaper (for setting your minis on while they dry)

Step 1 Priming

For this basing project we've chosen to use a rocky wasteland theme. Prime the base with scorched brown.



Step 2 Adding Sand

You may also water down the glue.

Next, brush PVA glue (white glue) onto the base.





Now sprinkle sand on it. Some choose to dip the base in a tub of sand and then tap off the excess. I prefer sprinkling.





Step 3 Add a layer of brown ink

By adding a layer of brown ink it locks in any loose sand particles. It also makes it easier to paint on your next layers.



It's a good idea to water down the ink while doing this. You may find it's easier to apply.

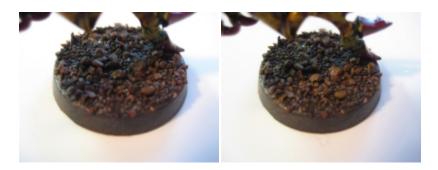


Step 4 Dry Brushing

Here's the fine detail part. Dry brush a layer of vermin brown and then terracotta.



Now add a dry brush of bestial brown and snakebite leather.



By adding these layers of dry brushes you'll refine the bases' ground terrain and add realism to it.

Step 5 Flock it!

Simply brush on PVA glue (white glue) to random parts of the base then

sprinkle on the flock. Again, this adds variety to the base.



Now sit back, take some photos, and admire your work.

You can also try blowing on the flock after you apply it. This enables it to dry standing up, giving an authentic look.



Chapter 3: A Guide to Good Photo Taking

Everyone enjoys taking photos of their cool terrain or freshly painted armies. So whether you're setting up a nice shot with a Demolisher or zooming in to a battle between Aragorn and the wraiths on Weathertop, you want to make it look good.

The terrain may look great in real life but a poor photo will diminish any cool factor and dilute the desire to take any more. On a more optimistic note, a well taken photo of even a simple and basic army or terrain may enhance what really is there.





Now don't get me wrong, I'm no professional photographer, but I'm sure you can clearly see the difference between the above photos. Although playing with the figures on the right was fun in real life, the photo on the left is more aesthetically pleasing to the viewer.

Background

Background in most cases is most crucial when it comes to good photos. Your best painted Gene stealer won't do a picture justice if the background is cluttered or messy. Below is a prime example of a photo with poor background.



In the photo above, can you tell what we're trying to focus on? Perhaps the crater with green ooze gave it away, seeing as that it's the most unique thing in the photo. Now, here's a photo of a crater with a solid white background.



It's a lot easier to tell what we're focusing on for obvious reasons. Here's the same crater with a jet black background.



Which do you like better? The white background serves for a better photo in that you can see the crater a little more clearly. Whereas the black background allows you to imagine a darker, more menacing feel to the terrain.

For photos such as these I use 22"x28" Bristol board. They are set up like so:



Using one solid piece of Bristol board with half the sheet pinned up against the wall and the other half stretching flat out on the floor is the best case scenario.

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Lighting

Good lighting is half the battle. Check to make sure your flash is off if you have sufficient lighting. Here's an example of a photo taken where flash was used but was not needed.



And the same photo without flash.



Notice how the second photo looks. There are more visible values and the light is evenly distributed. Natural light is the best if you can get it. It shows the true color of whatever you're taking. Incandescent light normally has a yellowish value adding more yellows to your photo.

There are always options

Sometimes we feel that there aren't too many options when taking photos. There isn't enough lighting, there's too much clutter, or everything doesn't fit in the picture. Here's an example of this very thing.



Notice how the top of the rocks is cut off in this photo. It doesn't exactly look right wouldn't you say? What about this photo:



Although all the rocks fit, the black Bristol board background doesn't cover all of the background. Let's see what happens when we move the rocks further back:



Aha! There we go. Much better. All the rocks fit into the photo and all the background is solid. Now let's see what happens when we get rid of our natural light:



Well...that's obviously no good. So now we know we definitely need lighting and just how important it is. Now let's try something different. Let's go in close from another angle:



It gives for a more interesting view doesn't it? Like going right into battle. Let's put a few Elven archers into the photo:



Hummmph...I suggest if you're going to take the time to make some photos, you're best off painting your figures first.



There's just no comparison when it comes to the difference. Let's make the photo more interesting shall we? Let's see what happens when Sauron is thrown into battle.



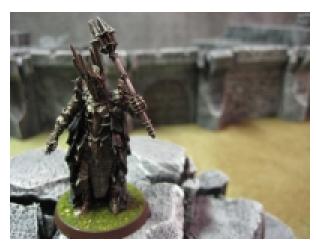
Pretty simple and strait forward. What happens when we take a shot facing up at Sauron?



Nice effect huh? It gives the illusion that he's taller.

Hope you've enjoyed this article. Here are some other cool pics. Enjoy!





Chapter 4: How to Apply Rust Effects to Your Terrain

Nothing gives a Warhammer 40k building more character than some rusted pipes running along the sides of it. Adding rusted pipes is easy once you know how to do it. After all, the cool factor in our terrain building escapades isn't how fast we do it; it's how lifelike it looks.



It's a strange thing when you stop to think about it, us humans and our fascination with real life things becoming miniature and "realistic" looking. A realistic mountain made with styrofoam is still only a mountain made from styrofoam. No matter how "realistic" it looks, it'll always be a fake mini mountain. That being said, let's cut with the mumbo jumbo and get building.

Materials:

- -paint brush
- -plastic straws

PAINTS

- -bolt metal gun (silver gray)
- -mithril silver
- -blood red
- -red gore
- -terracotta
- -scorched brown
- -And a nice cup of hot chocolate mmmmm...

Step 1 Cut plastic straws (yes the pipes are really straws. You didn't think they were steel did you?)



You can buy a pack of like a hundred of these at any grocery store for cheap. A dollar or so. If you search a little further you may even find some larger sized straws. This would make for even more interesting terrain because you'll then have different sizes of piping you could use. For now we'll stick with the regular straws.

You can extend your straw piping by sliding one end of a straw into another. Also, if you get bendy straws, you can curve your pipes to wherever you want.



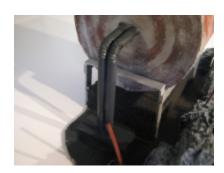
Step 2 Glue pipes to structure.

Simply cut them to size then glue them to the sides of your building with PVA glue (white glue). I'm a fan of putting two or more together. It's more durable and is more aesthetically pleasing. I'll use my fuel tank as an example.



Step 3 base coat the pipes

Next, base coat the pipes using acrylic black. Make sure the glue is dried first or you'll have a sticky mess.



You can also use chaos black spray paint. Just make sure you prime them before attaching them to your structure.



Step 4 paint the layers of rust

This is where the magic happens. First you'll want to begin by coating the pipes with a blood red or red gore. Next, dry brush a layer of terracotta or scorched brown over top. Finally, lightly dry brush a layer of bolt metal gun or mithril silver to give the steel look. You may notice in the photo below that there's an electrical meter at the bottom of the conduit piping. That's made with foam board.



Step 5 Paint rust onto building

Have you ever seen an old building with ancient piping running alongside it? Have you ever noticed that there's rust on the building itself as well? This step is the best part of adding rusted pipes.

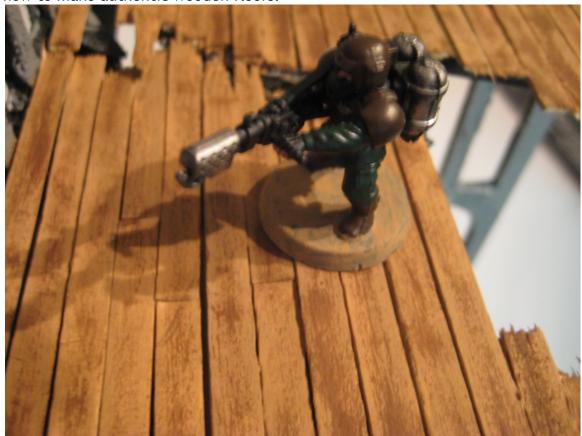
Simply paint below the pipes a blend of blood red and scorched brown like so:



And there you have it. Making rusted steel pipes for a Warhammer 40k building. Brilliant!

Chapter 5: How to Make Wooden Floors

Wooden floors are timeless. They existed in ancient times as well as in future times. Durable and beautiful, they are always an added feature when it comes to realistic Warhammer terrain. In this article you'll learn tips and tricks on how to make authentic wooden floors.



Materials list

- -package of popsicle sticks
- -PVA glue (white glue)
- -scissors
- -utility knife
- -22"x28" foam board/polystyrene (styrofoam)

PAINTS (These are suggested paints to use. Feel free to experiment with your own colors)

- -bubonic brown or snakebite leather
- -bestial brown or graveyard earth
- -brown ink

Step 1 Cut tips off

Begin by cutting the tips off a bunch of popsicle sticks. You can do this by using a pair of scissors. If the popsicle sticks are too hard to cut with only scissors, score them with your utility knife first. By doing this the wood weakens and becomes easier to cut.



Step 2 Staggering

Wood floors are staggered very similarly to bricks or sod. However with wood floors the staggering comes more randomly and natural. Take a look at any wood floor and you'll see what I mean. I'll use the wood floor used in the Warhammer 40k Bell Tower project for reference.



You'll notice that I broke the ends of the popsicle sticks for this project. I did so to resemble breakage due to explosions/earthquakes and so forth.

It's best to cut then place as opposed to cutting a bunch first then placing.



Step 3 Snapping

To make it look like something fell through the floors you'll want to snap the popsicle stick and glue some broken ones to the floors. Just reverse the popsicle sticks if you want to resemble something shooting up and through the floors. For this project we used the "fallen through" example.





Step 4 painting

Begin by painting the floors bubonic brown or snakebite leather.





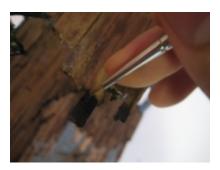
Next, dry brush bestial brown or graveyard earth. Bestial brown if you want a richer look. Graveyard earth if you want an older more weathered look. For this project we chose bestial brown.





Step 5 Scorching

Here's a neat option if you're going for the scorched/burnt look. You can even light matches and do it for real if you want. Just make sure you do that outside. You can also achieve the same results by simply painting chaos black onto the broken areas of the flooring.



This step is for accenting only. Paint the edges chaos black. You'll come up with something like this:



Notice how the dry brushing finished it off. It looks positively worn and weathered. It even looks realistic. The only reason you can tell it's a miniature wood floor is that a Cadian flamethrower is added for aspect ratio.



Pretty sweet huh? So there you have it. Wood floors made easy.