



Modelling guru Nick Davis starts this new series by looking at the techniques he uses to make trees and woods.

Over the next few months Nick will be explaining how easy it can be to make a whole battlefield full of great looking terrain pieces.

SCENERY WORKSHOP

Basic Terrain part 1: Making your own trees and woods

WHAT YOU WILL NEED TO MAKE YOUR WOODS AND BASE THEM:

- Ready made trees – from Games Workshop or model railway stores
- Thick card or hardboard for the base
- A selection of stones – have a look around in your back garden
- Green flock and modelling gravel
- Citadel paints: Chaos Black, Goblin Green, Snakebite Leather, Bubonic Brown, Bleached Bone & Skull White
- PVA glue and superglue

WHAT YOU WILL NEED TO SCRATCH BUILD YOUR OWN TREES:

- Garden wire
- Steel wool or modelling lichen
- Masking tape
- Green flock
- Coarse textured paint
- Chaos Black spray paint
- Snakebite Leather & Bubonic Brown Citadel paint
- PVA glue and spray mount

FOR BOTH PROJECTS YOU WILL NEED THE FOLLOWING TOOLS:

Large drybrush, Undercoat brush, 1/2" paint brush, cutting mat, ruler, modelling knife, clippers & pen

Our first construction project in this series is the woods, haven for the Wood Elves, friend to skirmishers and a terrain feature that can block off an entire flank to an advancing army. Woods and hills (which we will cover soon) are the two most basic, but important terrain elements you can have on your battlefield.

Before you begin building anything you are going to need a large flat area to do your modelling on. If you are using the kitchen or dining room table make sure it's well protected before you start (for some reason mothers and wives tend to be a bit tetchy if you ruin their table... – Fat Bloke). A couple of layers of newspaper will protect against paint and glue spillage but you'll need a piece of wood or a cutting board (available from craft shops) to protect the table surface from any heavy cutting.

WHAT TO DO NEXT

This article is divided up into two parts. The first part is all about basing your woods if you went to the expense of purchasing ready made trees – such as the Citadel Wood pack available in most Games Workshop stores.

The second part is about making your own trees from scratch. Don't panic, making your own trees is a lot easier than it looks (indeed, the first ever pieces of terrain I built were the scratch-built palm trees for my Lizardman army) and although it is time consuming, it's the cheaper method of the two if you want lots of woods on your battlefield.

Before you start, have a read through the whole article. Remember, this is only a guide to the woods that I made – feel free to experiment and try your own ideas.

UNDERGROWTH

Here is a quick and easy way of making undergrowth for your woods. You'll need a Citadel medium tree, clippers and PVA glue.

1. Using the clippers, cut a clump of bristles off the bottom of the tree.



2. Add a blob of PVA where you want the undergrowth. Alongside features like rocks and tree roots are good places.



3. Place the bristles into place and hold for about 5 minutes. Don't worry, the PVA will dry transparent!



BASING TREES

1. Cut out a base from hardboard or thick card in an irregular shape – a 200mm by 150mm base makes a good medium-sized wood. Place your trees on the base – differing sizes of tree on the same base tend to look a lot better than having all the same size. Draw around the tree bases to mark where your trees will stand.



2. Using PVA glue, stick on a few of the stones you collected from the garden.



3. Using a 1/2" brush paint the base with Goblin Green, leaving the marked areas visible and the stones unpainted.



4. Glue the trees into place with PVA glue and add a few smaller stones onto the base as well. Your woods are ready for gaming!



5. To give your woods that final finishing touch, cover the base with watered down PVA and then add modelling flock to the base. Once dry, paint the stones and a small track through the woods with Chaos Black. Once the paint is dry you can drybrush the black areas with several layers of progressively lighter shades of brown; starting with Snakebite Leather, then Bubonic Brown, Bleached Bone and finishing with Skull White. Another nice touch is to add undergrowth (see box). Now proudly place your wood on the battlefield – you've finished your first terrain piece.



SCRATCH-BUILDING TREES

Making your own trees is fairly easy. It just takes a little time and patience. Here's how I make them...

1. Cut 5 lengths of garden wire, of between 50-100mm in length depending on the size of tree you want. Twist them together to form the trunk. Remember to leave enough wire for the branches.



2. Take a length of masking tape and cut it in half length ways. Wrap the tape around the wire armature to bulk the tree out.



3. Paint the tree with one of the variety of textured paints on the market (I prefer coarse texture).



4. Spray or paint the tree with Chaos Black. Then drybrush with Snakebite Leather and Bubonic Brown. Your tree is now ready to sprout leaves!



5. There are two ways of adding foliage to your trees. The easiest is gluing lichen on the branches with PVA glue.



5a. The other is to use wire wool. Spread the wool over the branches of your tree, then (outside) spray the wool with spray mount. Pour flock over the wool, shake off the excess and leave to dry.



Your trees are now ready for basing!



Empire Spearmen use a small copse to protect their flank.

Right: Scratch-built trees, based as described above, ready to be placed on the field of battle.

