HOW TO BUILD WARGAMES SCENERY THE EASY WAY

VOLUME 1

World War II NORMANDY VILLAGE

BY ALFONS LIBERT

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FONZIE's
SCRATCH-BUILDING SERVICE

http://www.fonzies-scratchbuilding-service.be/

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Introduction

Thank you for purchasing this first volume of "How to build wargames scenery the easy way".

This first volume is only available as a PDF download. I wanted to publish this series in print but the costs of a full colour publication of this size are simply too great. The sales price per copy would be way too high for wargamers to even consider buying one so a PDF file it is for now.

Functionality is the keyword that I kept in the back of my mind when I wrote this first volume.

For me functionality means that you can print my PDF on your home printer without having to buy new cartridges when the job is done.

With that in mind I did my best NOT to write another beautiful book full of eye candy, fancy backgrounds and full-page spreads. That is harder than you think, trust me! I had to fight the urge to put in flashy stuff every step of the way!

Black text on a white background and well-chosen medium sized pictures are the most economical to print so that is what you get!

Functionality also means that you must have the choice to build my models in the scale that you want. You can print out the templates in this book, transfer them to your building material of choice and get busy building without having to worry about scale etc.

That is why I have done all the hard work for you. I have provided conversion tables for the most popular wargames scales. Just punch in the right enlargement or reduction percentage in your printer and there you go!

I am sorry but I did not cater for the smallest scales because the techniques and materials that I use are not suitable for those. You can of course use my designs for your own buildings in those smaller scales.

Functionality also means that you can build my models without having to wonder, "What does he mean by that" every step of the way. To accomplish that I have included step-by-step clear and detailed instructions illustrated with good quality pictures of every one of these steps.

I do realise very well that not everyone who has the same skill level. That is why some of my models are easy to build while others are a bit harder. However, none are impossible to build when you put your mind to it.

And last but certainly not least I want to make sure that I give you the most value for your money that I can. That is why you will find a complete " **Village In A Box**" in every volume of this series instead of a few buildings from very different periods in history so that you must buy several volumes to get a complete village. Not on my watch!

If you hang in there and build all six models in this PDF you will be rewarded with a great looking tabletop set up that will make people's heads turn. It will cost you the cost of this PDF, the building materials of your choice and a bit of work, probably less than the cost of one large resin model!

And for those of us that see things big why stop with these six models? I am sure that when you have built them all you will have acquired the skills to design and build your own buildings if you did not already had those skills to begin with. Feel free to tweak my templates if you must!

I hope that I have accomplished what I have set out to do, but I will let you be the judge of that.

To conclude I would like to thank everyone who has given me their input and advice when I asked for it on TMP, Gentlemen's Wargames Parlour, The Guild and the Ambush Alley Forum. I will not and cannot name you all but you know who you are. Cheers guys!

Fonzie

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What you need to know before we start.

About my building style

Before we start to build this model of a Norman church there are a few things that you need to know.

First of all my models are wargames models and not scale models of existing buildings. They are for use in wargames, not dioramas. I will always try to represent the building style of the real buildings that they are based on but not necessarily all their details. If you compare the pictures of the model church with the real churches on page … you will see what I mean.

Secondly I want to be able to build my models as fast as possible. Life is too short as it is so why waste time putting every stone and every detail on a model wargames building?

That is why I use as much shortcuts as I can. When you look at the picture of the model church on page…. you will see that I, for instance, represent stonework with patches of stones glued on top of the walls. That is of course incorrect; those patches of stones should be recessed but hey, I do not care! It looks good in my opinion and it does what I want it to do; give an impression of stonework.

When I do commission work I of course do what the customer wants me to do; but on my own buildings I do it this way and that works for me!

You are of course not supposed to follow my lead like a trained monkey. I provide you with the templates to build these models but how you detail them is entirely up to you; if you want your exposed stonework to be recessed than by all means go ahead. I will explain later in this book how to do that.

If you like my building style and are happy with the way my models look then please, let me explain to you how to make them look this way.

About the materials that I use

My material of choice is Foam Board, which is Styrofoam, sandwiched between two layers of paper. I like it because it is lightweight yet durable, not unimportant if you need to ship the finished model to the other side of the world and it is very easy to work with.

It comes in several thicknesses; I usually use the 3mm, 5mm and 10mm variety. You can buy it at every Hobby and Crafts store in large or small sheets.

There are of course other materials that you can use such as MDF, cardboard, cork tiles, plastic card and even paper. That is entirely up to you as you can transfer my templates just as well to either one of those.

A second material that I use a lot is 1mm thick cardboard; something that is also easily available at Hobby and Crafts stores.

1.5mm, 2mm and 3mm Balsa wood is another of my materials of choice. I use it a lot when I want to represent wooden doors, hatches, wood planking and so on my models but I have been known to build models entirely out of balsa wood too. I love its wood grain, which looks excellent when stained or painted. There is nothing like the real deal to represent wood!

I also use a lot of 1mm, 1.5mm and 2mm plasticard. I mostly use it to base my models but I have recently discovered that it is not a good idea to base large models on it because it tends to warp when used in "large" surfaces. I will tell you more about basing models later in this book.

And then we come at what I call "my timesavers"; plastic roofing tiles, cobblestone and brick sheets and plastic windows. Those things are just brilliant!
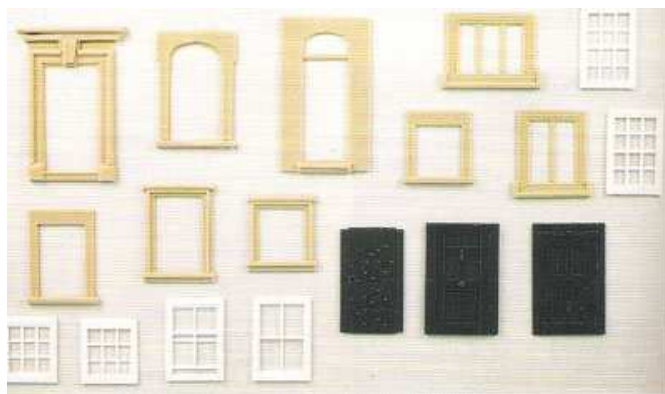
Ratio Windows and Doors

These are actually model railway hobby supplies but they are perfect for our needs. There are dozens of brands on the market but the ones that I use most are the sheets from Wills Kits, Volmer and Auhagen and the window packs from Ratio, Wills Kits and Bush.

There is actually A LOT of model railway stuff that you can use in scratch building. You just need to keep an eye on the correct scale when you buy model railway supplies for your models.

This table might help you:

Railway scale	Scale	Suitable for
HO	1:87	15 & 20mm
OO	1:76	20 & 25mm
S	1:64	28mm

My selection of tools

About the tools that I use

You do not need much to scratch build. Some hobby knifes, a pencil, a metal ruler, a pair of scissors and a cutting mat are just about all you need. I use the following tools.

Three hobby knifes; a very sharp one that I only use to cut Foam Board.. You want clean, straight cuts when you cut your Foam Board so keep this knife sharp. With the 2rd knife I cut everything else and with the 3rd knife, which is actually a scalpel I cut out the fine details.

Two metal rulers, 30cm and 60cm; the smaller one for measuring and the large one for cutting. A square (is this the correct word??) to cut straight edges. I only use metal rules because when you use plastic rulers to guide your knife while cutting small strips of plastic are cut from the ruler too every time you cut something and your ruler will no longer be straight after a while.

Several pencils and non-permanent magic markers.

A pair of heavy-duty scissors. I even cut sheets of plasticard with it.

An A3 sized cutting mat; an essential piece of equipment if you want to keep your workbench scratch free. I use the printed grid on this mat to glue my Foam Board pieces into straight edges.

Now when you use for instance MDF board, and hardwood or metal bits in your scratch building you will of course need to use other tools. I am not going to give you a complete list of what tools to use then as I am sure that you can figure that out for yourself!

About the glues that I use

The glue that I use most of all when working with Foam Board, balsa wood and cardboard is UHU hart glue. It is fast drying, clear glue that has excellent bonding qualities.

It is actually balsa wood cement so you can find it at any model shop where they sell wooden model airplanes and boats. If you do not have one of those near you try your local Hobby and Crafts store or the internet.

A second essential kind of glue is of course Superglue. No need to dwell on that, as I am sure that every self-respecting wargamer and scratch builder already has Superglue in his or her arsenal!

The third kind of glue that you will need is white PVA wood glue. I use it only to glue flock, sand and small pebbles on the bases of my models but you can glue cardboard and balsa wood too with it if you do not mind waiting while it dries.

The last kind of glue that I use is an industrial contact adhesive. I use SOUDAL FIX ALL but any brand of contact adhesive will do. I glue my models to their plasticard bases with it as it gives a strong, reliable bond.

About the paints that I use

When you paint your models with the techniques that I will teach you later, you will use A LOT of paint. It is therefore a very good idea to use cheap acrylic paint as I do.

Same thing for my brushes, I use cheap flat brushes from the DYI store for almost all of my painting. Dry brushing is hard on brushes so do not use your good, expensive ones for it.

I do use for instance Wargames Foundry paints or Vallejo paints for the finer detail work, but the bulk of my painting is done with cheap, acrylic wall paint from my local DIY store.

Most of these come in small 100ml sample containers that are ideal for our needs. I always keep a good supply of these at home because I hate running out of paint in the middle of a paint job!

I use a local brand of paint, Pastel Brico, but any brand of acrylic wall paint will do the job.

You do not need to buy many different colors. The colors in the picture on the next page are all you need to paint your buildings. You do NOT need to find these exact same colors! Any color that comes near them will do just fine.

I will teach you how to paint with these later on in this book.

About the plastering materials that I use

You do not want your models to look plain and even, stone, cement or concrete walls hardly ever are. Besides that, my painting technique is based on dry brushing so we need there to be some texture that can be dry brushed. So we are going to apply a coat of plastering material that will give us this texture.

I use two types of plastering material. First of all there is wall filler, you know, the stuff you use to fill holes in plastered walls at home. Mixed with a little water it can be applied very easily with a large brush. It dries fast and is resistant to a little wear and tear. I use the brand Polyfilla but again, any ol' brand will do.

It is important that you mix it with water or it will be too thick to apply but more on that later in this book.

You can also use Plaster of Paris instead of wall filler. However, Plaster of Paris is not very resistant to wear and tear and it will chip easily so do not use it on models that will get handled a lot.

When I want to represent concrete walls I usually use Green Scene GS402 Flexi-bark. It is a water

soluble rubberised plaster, containing a fine grit which gives a bark-like texture. It is actually intended to coat your homemade trees but I find it perfect to represent coarse, concrete walls too.
I will tell you more about its use later in this book.

I get my Flexi-bark at Antenociti's Workshop: http://www.barrule.com/ but you can probably find it closer to home too if you do not live in the UK.

You can of course mix coarse sand and white glue, or coarse sand and wall filler to achieve the same effect but I have tried those mixtures in the past and I find that they are not as good as the real thing.

Conclusion

So, now you know what I use to build my models. Please do not go out on a shopping spree for these materials and tools now! Use what you can find locally and what works for you. As long as the tools and materials that you use get the job done and help you achieve the desired effect EVERYTHING works.

Let's get cracking now, on to the first building but first, our color chart!

Base Green	Base Yellow	Bitter Chocolate	Etruscan Red
Base river or sea blue	Caramel	Mid Stone	Ivory Stone

Norman Church