September 2015 Care For Art Workshop

Make Your Own Art Gallery
A brief guide to model making ideas and techniques
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PALLANT
HOUSE
GALLERY

Dry Sponge Painting

Using a paintbrush spread a small amount of paint onto one half of a washing up sponge.

Drag the sponge on the edge of a piece of card, or dab sponge onto newspaper, so the paint on the sponge is nearly dry.

Holding the unpainted part of the sponge, gently dab it onto the surface you wish to paint. Once finished place sponge into a plastic bag to keep it wet. Leave to dry and repeat until you like the effect. For best results "dry sponge" lighter colours over darker colours.
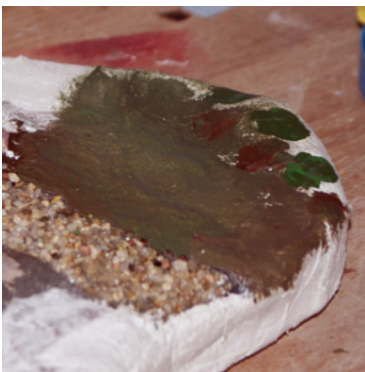
Leopard Spotting

Real landscapes are never one single colour and if you apply modellers grass scatter to unpainted Mod-Roc you can get white patches.

To avoid both, using a brush paint your landscape with random blobs of brown and green paint, literally like a Leopard's spots.

While the paint is still wet drag the blobs together. Don't be that accurate, and don't worry if it looks messy, it's meant to be that way. Once dry apply scatter.

Applying Grass Scatter & Flocks

Firstly, place the model on some clean newspaper, using a paintbrush, apply PVA to the surface to be grassed.

For rough looking grass sprinkle the scatter on by hand. For cleaner grass, or if you would like the 'blades'' of grass to stand up, use a Puffer Bottle.

Put scatter in bottle and replace both caps. To create static electricity "puff" the bottle. Remove the red cap (not the grey one) and shake bottle up/down about 8-10cm from the surface to be covered.

Don't touch the surface until dry, then shake off any excess scatter over the newspaper, saving any excess. Touch up any un-flocked areas with a small paintbrush, PVA and scatter. Use fresh newspaper for each colour of grass to avoid contaminating your clean scatter.

Roof Tiles

Cut some tiles from Air-Dry clay, once the clay is dry glue the tiles to rows of thin 'rafters' of wood. Once dry, paint the tiles all over with dark brown/nearly black paint.

Leave paint to dry, then "dry-sponge" on a suitable tile colour. If you want a highlight, once the tile colour is dry, "dry sponge" or dry-brush on a tiny amount of off-white or cream paint.

Round Trees

Drill a hole into a kids plastic golf ball or foam ball.

Glue ball to round lollypop stick, leave to dry.

Cover ball in PVA and dunk into leaf-scatter.

Let dry and over newspaper, as with grass, shake and save your un-used leaves.

Patch up any holes with PVA and leaf scatter. Paint tree trunk brown.

Rough Wall

Glue card or wood "bricks" to wall.

Cover wall in glue and pour Chinchilla sand over wall.

Leave to dry, and after shaking & saving any excess sand, paint your wall.

A nice effect can be gained by covering a few bricks with masking tape, then paint the whole wall.

Remove tape when wall is dry, then paint the individual bricks.

Old Flint Wall

Mix a mortar coloured paint into "No more nails" type of Impact Adhesive and thickly apply this to a wall on your model. Press (washed) Fish Tank gravel into paint/adhesive mixture in rows until it looks right.

When dry, rub the green side of a washing up sponge over your "flint". This will clean excess paint from stones and some sponge will embed into the adhesive aging the surface. Apply a mid-brown wash to mask and seal the green sponge.

Pictures

For the images on your model gallery wall, you could either draw your own pictures. Or at home photograph your own artwork and print it out very small on a computer printer.

Other good sources include old camera or model railway magazines and for landscapes travel agent's brochures.

To stick the image to the wall, use double sided tape or a Glue-Stick on the back of the picture, not the wall. To raise the picture away from the surface, use a double sided sticky pad. Then way you won't get glue on the wall of your model.

People, Vehicles & Animal Figures

Things made for model-makers tend to be very expensive, so if possible re-use old or found toys and items.

Such as things from children's magazines, 'Kinder' style eggs, party goodie bags, Xmas crackers, or non edible cake decorations

Online auction sites also sell packets of 100 roughly painted, almost surrealistic looking, people for around £2.

If you need higher quality or exact scale figures, *Noch & Gaugemaster* sell packs of 50-75 unpainted people models starting from £5. While generally railway related, these figures can be modified with modellers putty such as *Milliput.*

Unpainted models, and white metal figures, need to be washed and coated with modellers acrylic primer before painting with acrylic,enamels or oils. Don't use car primer on plastic models as sometimes this can dissolve the plastic.

Soft plastic figures, such as traditional Green Army Men, available cheaply from toy and party shops, can be covered with PVA, left to dry, then painted with acrylics.

Grass Mats

If you don't have the time to apply your own scatter, you can buy grass mats. Available in small sizes, 40 X 30cm for just under £2. To metre sized mats for covering very large areas.

These come in rolls and have a brown paper backing, which you apply PVA to, then just press the mat down onto the surface to be grassed.

Glass Windows

Cut out the desired shape from thin coloured A4 plastic document wallets and glue into place.

To avoid cutting yourself if using thicker coloured plastic folders rub the edges slightly with some sandpaper.

Sand-Paper Roads

Paint sandpaper with dark grey/nearly black paint. When dry rub the sandpaper very gently and it can give a weathered effect.

To add road markings, like double yellow lines, colour a sticky printer label with a felt-tip pen.

Cut out the lines carefully from the label and stick that to the sand paper.
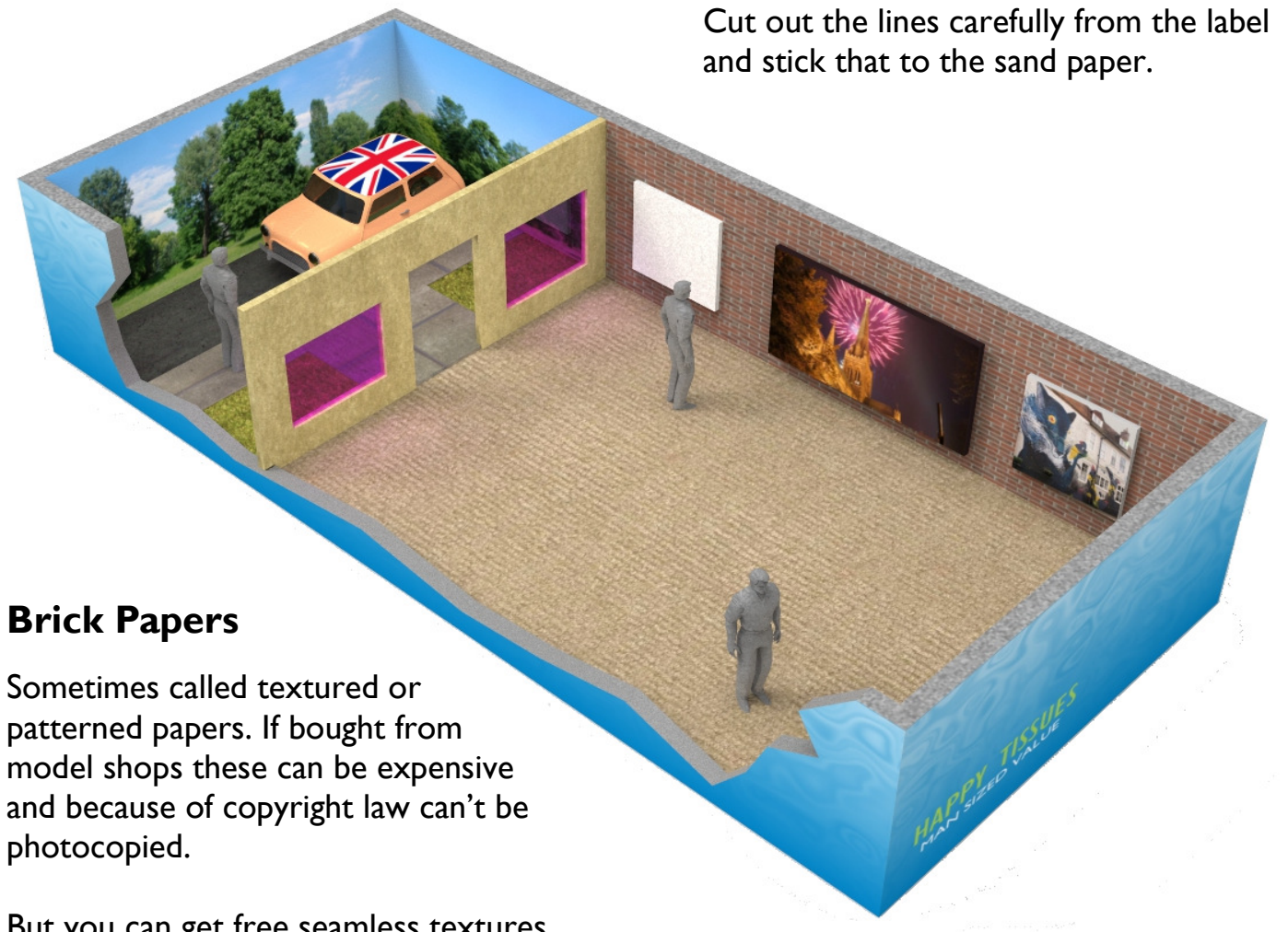
Brick Papers

Sometimes called textured or patterned papers. If bought from model shops these can be expensive and because of copyright law can't be photocopied.

But you can get free seamless textures from the Internet and and print-out them out.

Either way, if you cut out slightly more paper than a part needs, then wrap around the edges of your part, when you glue it, the paper will stick down better and look nicer.

You can also rub the paper – such as brown parcel paper in the picture- over a lightly raised surface to give it a texture.

Strengthening Your Model

If your basic model is made from thin card, strengthen it from old bits of mount-board or grey-board. Then apply brick papers, colour with paper or paint.

Image shown is a computer generated representation of a real model. - See page 8 for more information about 3D models.

Preparing & Applying Air-Dry Clay

Start by rolling out the clay between two things of the same height.

Using MDF off-cuts of between 2 to 3.5mm will give a suitable depth for embossing and ensure the walls will have the same thickness on the whole model.

Very lightly dab the surface of the clay with something like a wire brush, piece of stone or the green top of a washing up sponge. Just enough to add a very light texture to the clay.

Turn the clay over and gently score the un-textured back. Apply PVA to the surface of the model you wish to cover with clay. Leave the PVA to go tacky for a few minutes, then press the clay firmly onto the model, ensuring the texture is visible and the clay is fully stuck down.

After applying all the clay, gently re-texture the clay on the model with the same tool as above. You are now ready to apply an embossing technique.

Embossing Brickwork

The trick here is to use a tool that doesn't emboss brick shapes, but instead presses the 'mortar' into the clay making the bricks stand out.

If you need precisely scaled bricks, use a specialised model-makers impress mould. These are reasonably cheap though are very fiddly to use, especially at smaller scales like 1/48.

If you don't need an exact scale, you could scribe semi-dry clay with an old craft knife. Or use an impression mat or impression roller meant for cake making. Another option is to make a brick impression tool from Plasti-Card or mount-board, which is what was used on the model to the right.

After embossing, and when the clay is dry, paint the whole areas of bricks in a mortar coloured paint. Leave to dry, then paint the bricks in 6 or 7 random brick colours

Embossing Thatched Roofs

Scribe the thatch pattern into the clay reasonably deeply. Once clay is dry, use UHU or PVA and stick on a piece of string to near the top of the roof to give a decorative effect.

Now paint a dark brown wash over the whole thatched area, one dry sponge paint or dry-brush on your main thatch colour.

Natural Effects

For ivy, 'paint' the area you want ivy on with glue rather than paint. Now sprinkle on
 use colourised shredded latex scenic material or leaf scatter and leave to dry. Shake off any
excess material onto clean newspaper and save it.

To make bushes glue traditional model makers lichen to the model with PVA or UHU. If
the lichen is dry in the packet it won't stick that well, so give the lichen a quick spray with
water.

To add long grasses you can either apply 12mm long grass scatter (standard scatter is 3-
6mm long) using a puffer bottle. Or cut off a few bits of fish tank grass decorations and glue
into place.

Flowers

Cut off a few thick bristles from a natural broom head and paint them green. Once dry
dunk the tops of these bristles into coloured shredded latex and leave to dry. When dry
glue the flowers to the ground, hiding them in bunches of long grass or small bits of lichen.

Larger flowers can be made by cutting off the tips of a model tree. Roughly cover the
green leaf area in PVA, sprinkle on coloured shredded latex and let dry. Either glue to the
ground or place into a pre-drilled hole and glue into place.

3D Models

While the model in the picture to the right is a real model, it was originally designed on a computer.

It's a long complicated process to make computer models, and won't be covered in this workshop, but many of the basic principles used are similar to card and clay models.
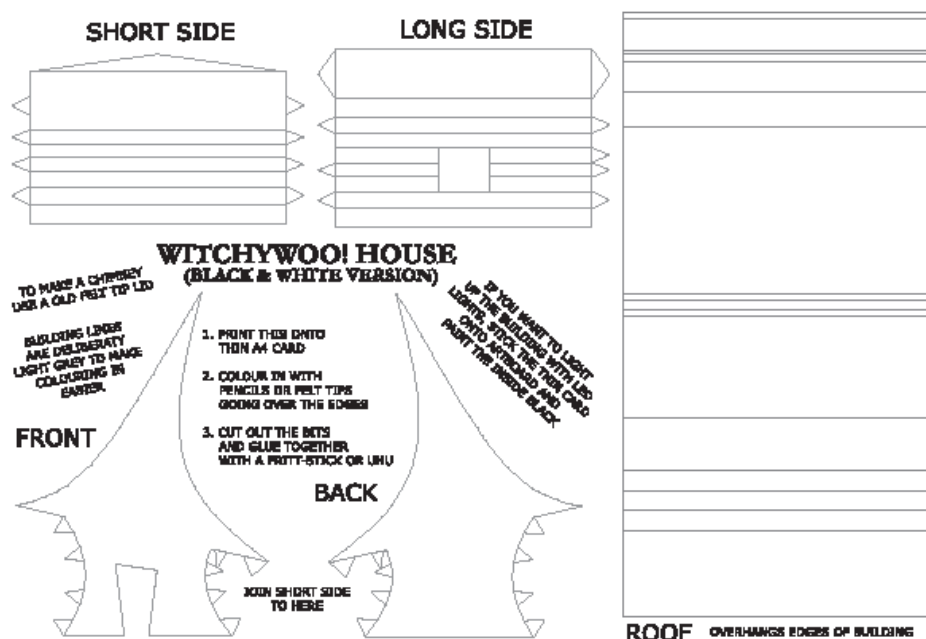
Firstly the 3D model, the *mesh*, is created. Then it's *mapped*, a process where the model is "flattened" out so it can be coloured in. Next any parts that need to move are *rigged*, which is akin to having an invisible skeleton.

Now textures and colours are created, before it's loaded into software where lights are added and textures applied to the model. This software then *renders* an image or animation, like taking a photo.

These can be used in a variety of ways, from animations in movies, to pictures in magazines. Both 3D models and images are often uploaded to dedicated computer graphic websites or social media for others to enjoy.

Some artists use special, and incredibly expensive, printers to print actual models. Though for the model shown here, special software was used to turn the computer version into a paper model. From that a template was printed onto thin card to form the building shape. Then the details like tiles, tree and wood work was added.

The template was also turned into a .PDF, shown below. This and the computer model where then given away on the Internet, so other modellers (both real and 3D) could have fun making their own versions. Google "witchywoo house" if you would like to try it yourself.

SHORT SIDE   LONG SIDE

WITCHYWOO! HOUSE
(BLACK & WHITE VERSION)

TO MAKE A CHIMNEY
USE A OLD FELT TIP LID

BUILDING LINES
ARE DELIBERATLY
LIGHT GREY TO MAKE
COLOURING IN
EASIER

FRONT

1. PRINT THIS ONTO
THIN A4 CARD

2. COLOUR IN WITH
PENCILS OR FELT TIPS
GOING OVER THE EDGES

3. CUT OUT THE BITS
AND GLUE TOGETHER
WITH A PRITT-STICK OR UHU

IF YOU WANT TO LIGHT
UP THE BUILDING WITH LED
LIGHTS, STICK THE THIN CARD
ONTO XYBOARD AND
PAINT THE INSIDE BLACK

BACK

JOIN SHORT SIDE
TO HERE

ROOF OVERHANGS EDGES OF BUILDING

Lighting

For a cool effect place an a battery powered LED light inside your model.
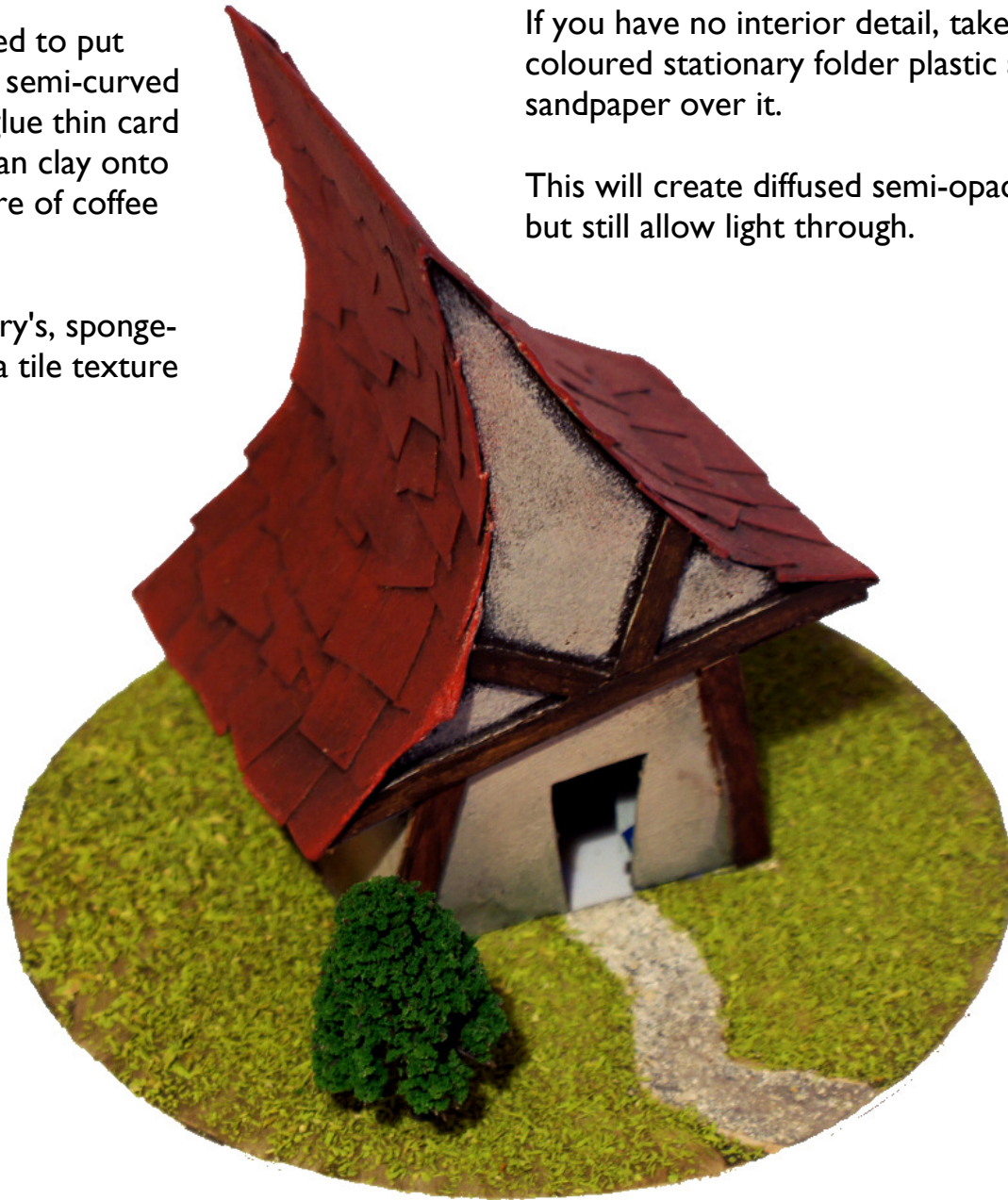
If you have no interior detail, take a piece of coloured stationary folder plastic and rub sandpaper over it.

This will create diffused semi-opaque 'glass' but still allow light through.

Flexible Tiles

If you need to put tiles on a semi-curved surface, glue thin card rather than clay onto a structure of coffee stirrers.
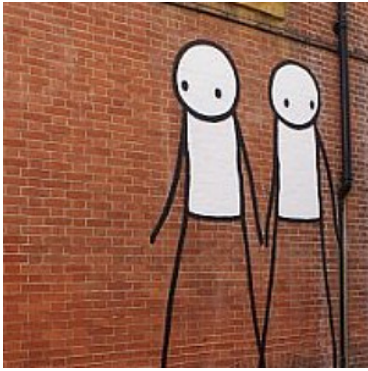
After it dry's, sponge-paint on a tile texture

Trees

Some modellers make trees from twisted wire and leaf scatter, though here this tree was a cheap Chinese one – 12 for £2 - bought from an online auction site.

Paths

The Footpath was made by sprinkling cat litter – before the cat has used it! – over PVA.

Your Model

While the models featured in this guide are all mostly figurative, yours doesn't have to be.

Your model could take an abstract or surrealistic form. It might explore a genre or the work of your favourite artist.

Perhaps even express an idea, as in the example to the right, which asks the question…

"As most people now have mobile phones does that make us all walking art galleries?"

So why make some notes here about what type of model you'd like to make.
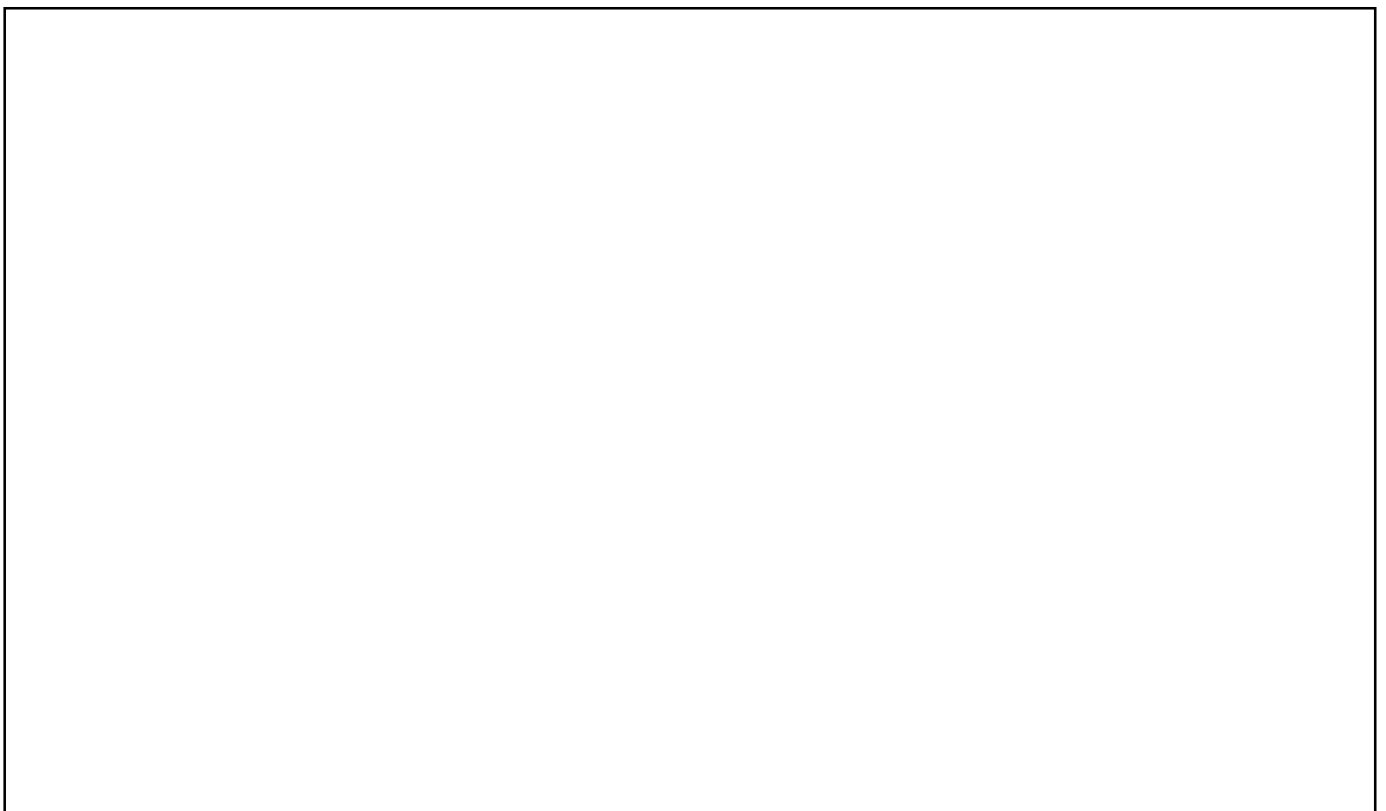
Some Useful Websites

gaugemaster.com - Sussex model making materials supplier.
green-scene.co.uk - Supplier of coloured latex scatters.
paperbrick.co.uk - Free seamless brick paper creator.
malcolmsminiatures.co.uk - Sells scale brick impression moulds.

sheperdpaine.com - Master diorama artist.
timsmodelbuildings.com - Amazing model maker.

Palm Tree

A fair-ground drinks straw.

A wire was inserted into the straw to make it more solid and hold it's curve.

Covered in Mod-Roc, painted with household sample paint pots, then given a wash of black kid's poster paint.

Easel & Crab

A novelty item from a discount art shop and toy from a kids magazine.

Desert Island

Originally a kitchen lollipop holder.

Covered in Mod-Roc and painted with a sand coloured paint.

To make the sand more 'lumpy' the island was sprayed with a spray adhesive and sand poured over the island.

Pallant House Gallery

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