

Modelling rocks

In this short tutorial I want to show you, how I make rocks for my vignettes and dioramas. My “rocks” are copies of real stones. You will need suitable stone (I usually use flint stone), concentrated latex (fig. 1), plasticine, gypsum, washing-up liquid and acrylic varnish.



Fig. 1: Concentrated latex (producer *Gedeo*)

Step 1

Remove dust and remains of earth from the stone. Take a plasticine and make a “pedestal” on the bottom part of the stone. It will serve as opening for pouring a gypsum inside the mould. Place it on a piece of plastic sheet (fig. 2).



Fig. 2: Stone with “pedestal”

Step 2

Apply several layers of glossy acrylic varnish on the stone, plasticine and plastic sheet. Let it dry for a few hours. It's not necessary, but later it will be easier to remove the latex mould from the stone (fig. 3).



Fig. 3: A layer of varnish shortly after application

Step 3

Now you can apply a few layers of latex on the stone with a brush. If you don't want to destroy your brush, pour a little of washing-up liquid into a small pot, soak the brush with it. Wipe the brush against the edge of the pot (fig. 4). Now you can plunge the brush into latex. After work (after each layer of latex) you can wash the brush in water. If you don't use the washing-up liquid, the hair of the brush will be fixed together and you can throw the brush into garbage.



Fig. 4: brush soaked with washing-up liquid

Step 4

Apply a several layers (I usually do 4 – 5 layers) of latex on the stone and pedestal. Let each layer dry for about 20 minutes and apply the next one. Don't let dry the previous layer completely. Layers must join together. Don't forget to clean your brush in water after finishing each layer (see fig. 5 and 6). Let it dry for cca 2 days. It depends on conditions in your hobby room. If the latex is dry enough, the mould is partly transparent.



Fig. 5: Applying the first layer of latex



Fig. 6: First layer finished

Step 5

Now you can remove the latex mould from the stone. It's easy, the mould is like a piece of rubber (fig. 7). It's very flexible and you can roll it upside down. Remove remains of plasticine from the mould and prepare it for casting. I use gypsum from *Gedeo* for casting, but the results will be the same if you use common modellers gypsum. The mixture must be thinner than usual to fill the mould perfectly. Let the gypsum dry several hours and take it out the same way as described in step 4. You can paint the rock with synthetic or acrylic colours.



Fig. 7: Latex mould



Fig. 8: Casting



Fig. 9: Finished casting

You will see this rock in my next vignette. So, enjoy the fun with making rocks and don't forget to show results of your work to all members of Benno's figures forum.

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