

STEP BY STEP FOAMCORE BUILDINGS

The following guide should hopefully explain the basics and what you can expect to achieve with “foamcore”. First of all a little bit about the material we are going to use. Foamcore is a sandwich of foam in between cardboard hence the name, it comes in various colours usually white which is also the cheapest. A good source of free foamcore is supermarkets they use it as backing for advertising (usually hanging from the ceiling) and is often thrown away when done with. Cutting foamcore requires a very sharp Stanley knife (craft knives tend to be too small to cut right through) and it will soon blunt the blade so don't expect to get a long use out of a knife blade when cutting it. Scissors will cut it but they will crush the edges and so it isn't a good idea. In this step by step I'll be making some Middle East type buildings for a modern 30mm game but I will be trying to make them compatible with most 25mm to 30mm figures so I won't be putting anything on them to put them in a certain time/era or setting in other words a neutral looking building that can be used for anything from fantasy to present day to sci-fi

LIST OF ITEMS REQUIRED

- Foamcore
- Stanley knife with spare blades
- PVA glue (white wood glue / craft glue)
- Thick cardboard
- Sand
- Big brush
- Paint (your choice of colour)
- Wood dowel /balsa strips
- Metal rule

STEP 1



using the Stanley knife and steel rule cut the foam core into four rectangles in this case 14cm x 10cm trying to keep the corners as square as possible

STEP 2



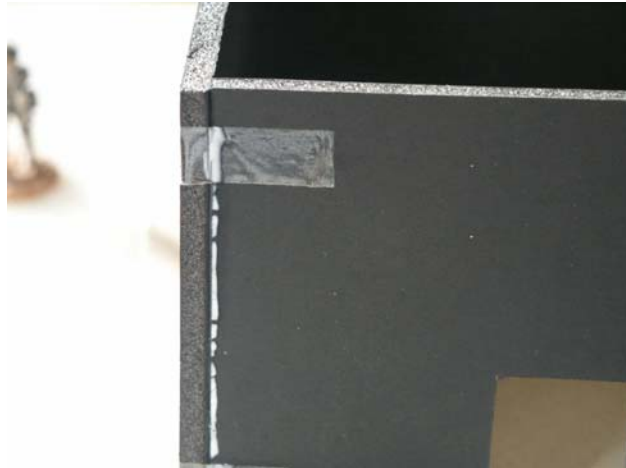
Taking a figure or two position them on the foamcore to give you an idea of how high you need to do doors and windows and how low any walls need to be, make a note of the measurements for future reference .

STEP 3



Cut out any windows and doors you have marked out then glue some off cuts of the foamcore so that the top edge is at the level you want the floor using the measurements you made earlier, these pieces will act as support for the roof/ceiling

STEP 4



Now you have the four walls with windows and doors cut out and roof/ceiling supports in place, glue them together keeping the corners as square as you can holding it all in place with masking tape or cellotape until it dries

STEP 5

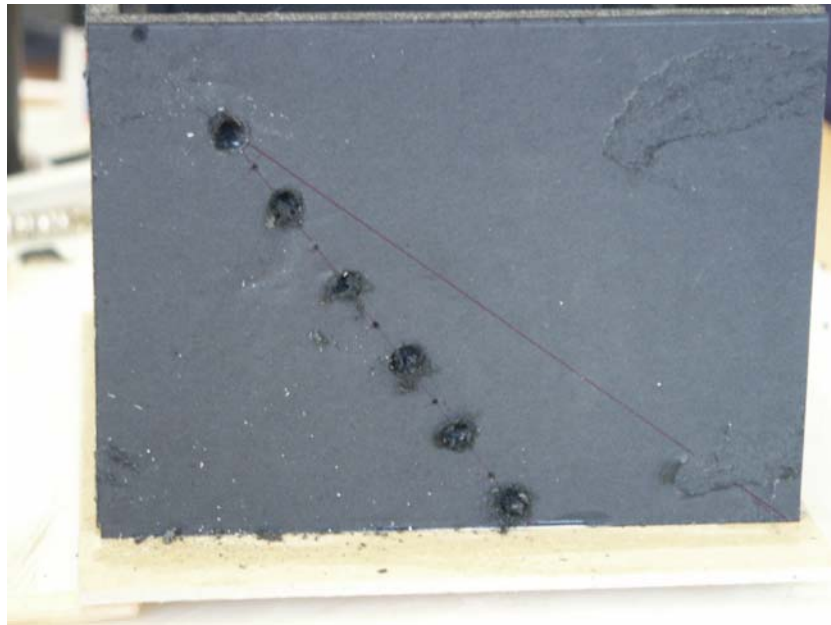


Take some thick cardboard and cut to size for the base and roof of the building, the base needs to be slightly bigger and if you want the roof to be removable the roof will need to be slightly smaller than the inside of the four walls .when you have the cardboard cut out glue the building to the base keeping an even gap all round before the roof is put in place it is a good idea to make a small feature in the middle or to one side of the roof so that you have something to lift the roof off with , this is also a chance to double check any walls windows and doors at this stage using your intended figures as a guide

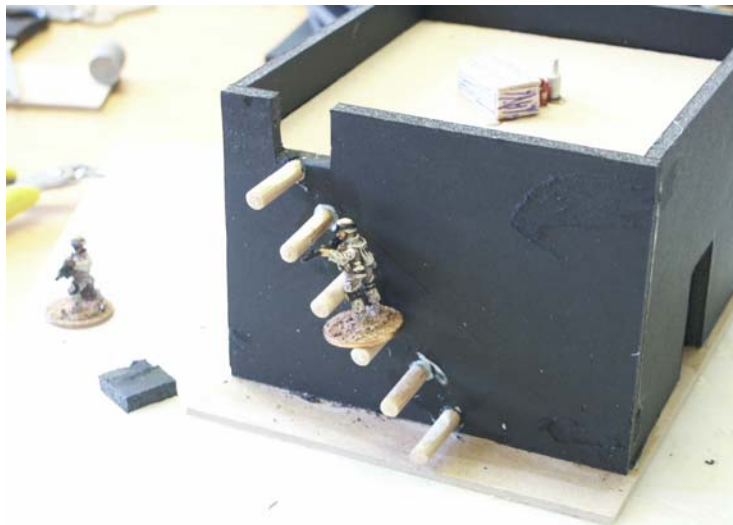


STEP 6

When I measured up the base for this building I allowed room for an external set of wood log steps leading up to the roof, I decided to go for this option as it is a quicker and easier way of making access to the roof than making an internal set or an external set of steps in the conventional style



I started off by marking out the line the steps will follow as you can see I wasn't happy with the first line so a second one was applied and settled on, the holes were spaced every 2cm and were made by taking a drill bit the same size as the wood dowel I intended using and twisting it by hand taking care not to go all the way through the foamcore. The dowel was then cut into 3cm lengths and glued into the holes and a small notch cut in the wall to allow access to the roof



STEP 7

At this stage small features such as the lintels at the top of the door and window were added it was also decided to leave out any actual doors as these inevitably end up broken off during their wargaming life span



STEP 8

Now to give the buildings some texture for these buildings I'm going to cover them in a mix of filler and pva glue, the glue hardens the filler and makes it more durable. An easier way would be to cover the building in pva and then dip it in a fine sand which would need to be sealed when dry, sealing is done by applying watered down pva over the entire surface of the building once the first coat of pva and sand is dry.

For the plaster that I'm applying I mixed 1 part pva to about 8 parts filler this is then mixed with water until a smooth paste is achieved, this is then applied to the building both inside and out using a spatula or a piece of cardboard



STEP 9

Once dry paint the whole of the building in neutral desert colours , for mine I used tamiya spray paints first a coat of "wooden deck tan" then a lighter coat of "light sand" to finish off with I gave the whole building a dusting with a white primer , dusting with spray cans is a quick way of highlighting buildings and other big pieces of terrain it is not very precise but the results are more than satisfactory , the way to do it is to get your terrain piece and put it somewhere with plenty of ventilation but with as little wind as possible ,outside is ideal if there is no strong winds around , place the terrain on a flat surface preferably at waist height then point the spray can directly down onto the terrain from about 2ft away a do short sweeping bursts of spray ,don't over do it less is best for this method , you can always practice first until your happy with the results.



As you can see from the photo all that is left to do is paint the woodwork and apply sand to the base, the stairs and other woodwork was simply washed with ink. The sand was applied by putting pva glue where the sand is to go and sand poured over this when dried it was sealed in , this is a process where watered down pva is applied over the top of the glued on sand when this is dry it will help keep the sand on the terrain .

The finished product with a couple more thrown in for measure, all have removable roofs to allow access to the interior



these two buildings were made in a way that allows one to be placed on the roof of the other making them more versatile by allowing them to become a two storey building

