HOBBY MASTERCLASS

Mark Jones gives us some tips on making Ogre Encampments

Making your own themed terrain can provide objectives for scenarios and make a significant difference to the atmosphere of a tabletop wargame. Over the following pages Mark reveals how to produce some extra terrain pieces to complement the new Ogre Kingdoms army.

Few things make a game of Warhammer feel more alive than well-made terrain, especially if it has a strong connection to one of the armies involved. How much more dramatic is it when an army of Bretonnian Knights are fighting to defend their crumbling castle, than when they fight a battle on an open plain? Naturally the same applies to all armies, from the rough huts of the Orcs to the grand strongholds of the Dwarfs.

Although the Ogres make their home in the icy environs of the Mountains of Mourn, far to the east of the Empire, they’re far more likely to be encountered on the road as they wander throughout the land.

As such, if you want to make terrain to complement an army of Ogres, an encampment is ideal in capturing a key aspect of Ogre society. Ogre tents also have the advantage of being easy to build, which means you can quickly create a small encampment for your Ogres to defend.

As the tent is basically a polystyrene core surfaced with paper animal hides, the dimensions of the tent are very flexible. If you want a larger or smaller tent, just change the dimensions to suit your requirements. You could, for example, make them smaller to represent the dwellings of man-sized nomads.

When you’ve completed the Ogre tent, you may want to add trophies around the outside to personalise it. On the tent below the tusks around the door were taken from an old toy while the stacks of helmets and blades were assembled from parts found in a bits box. However, you could use a number of other items such as Ogre standards or even chicken bones (make sure you boil these first to make them clean!).

Safety First
Always cut away from yourself when using your knife and take care if you choose to use a hot wire cutter.

Tools & Materials
- Polystyrene
- Foamboard
- PVA Wood glue
- Sharp knife
- Square plastic rod
- Stiff card
- Ready mixed filler
- Map pins
- Cartridge paper
Step 1
Cut three, 1" thick, layers of polystyrene, roughly 6" in diameter. These will form the core of the tent.

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Step 2
Glue the layers together and then use your knife or hot wire cutter to shape them into a dome. Gouge a small hole in the roof and a larger one around 2" x 2" in the front of the dome for the door.

Step 3
Cut out a base for the tent from a sheet of foamboard, and then pare away the foam to leave a gently sloping edge.

Step 4
Glue the core of the tent to the base.

Step 5
Take a plastic rod, trap it beneath a paintbrush, and then drag it out from underneath. This will help put a curve in the rod, making it easier to use in the next step.

Step 6
Cut six holes into the base around the core, just big enough to allow one of the rods to be anchored in it.
Step 7
Glue each rod into one of the holes and onto the side of the core. You may find map pins or tape useful for holding the rods in place while the glue dries.

Step 8
Photocopy the templates below, then cut and mount them on some stiff card to create a stencil. Use them to create two door flaps and as many hides as you can. Drawing them on cartridge paper works best, as you can create very realistic textures by crumpling the hides into a tight ball then smoothing them out before you glue them in place.

Step 9
Glue both door flaps in place and then begin to glue the rest of the hides onto the core, starting at the bottom and working the whole way up and around the tent in layers.

Step 10
Make a door flap. You can do this by rolling a single hide into a tube and securing it with thread, then gluing it into place above the entrance.

Step 11
Glue small lengths of plastic rod around the tent to represent tent pegs. These look best if you have whittled them a little. Alternatively, you could use small, square-headed tacks.

Hide templates
Templates produced at 80 per cent. To make them full size, programme your photocopier to reproduce them at 125 per cent.
PAINTING THE TENT

Step 1
Seal the paper by applying a layer of watered down PVA wood glue. When dry, basecoat the tent with Dark Flesh.

Step 2
Drybrush the tent with Bestial Brown.

Step 3
Drybrush the skins with Vomit Brown.

Step 4
Complete the basic colour of the skins with a final drybrush of Bleached Bone.

Step 5
Bring some variety to the skins by giving a few skins a wash of Chestnut Ink or Brown Ink.

By varying the shades of colour between different hides, you can make the surface more interesting and give the tent a more naturalistic appearance.

It takes very little time to build an Ogre tent, so making a small group of them shouldn't be difficult. Ogre plastic sprues have the additional advantage of being packed with extra bits, making it even easier to personalise each one, maybe with a stack of weapons and plunder, or Gnoblar attendants.

This method of creating and treating hides is something that is useful in many projects, from making huts to cladding the front of a siege tower (or the boudoirs on certain large animals - Rudgie).