

If you go down to the woods today

PHILIP MACKIE



MAKING THE CANOPY

THIS TYPE OF INSULATION IS USED ON MANY BUILDING DEVELOPMENTS AND THERE IS ALWAYS LOTS BEING THROWN AWAY. ASK THE SITE AGENT/MANAGER IF THEY CAN SPARE YOU ANY SCRAPS FOR MODELLING. DON'T JUST HELP YOURSELF!
THE MATERIAL IS SOFT AND CAN EASILY BE CUT WITH A KNIFE.

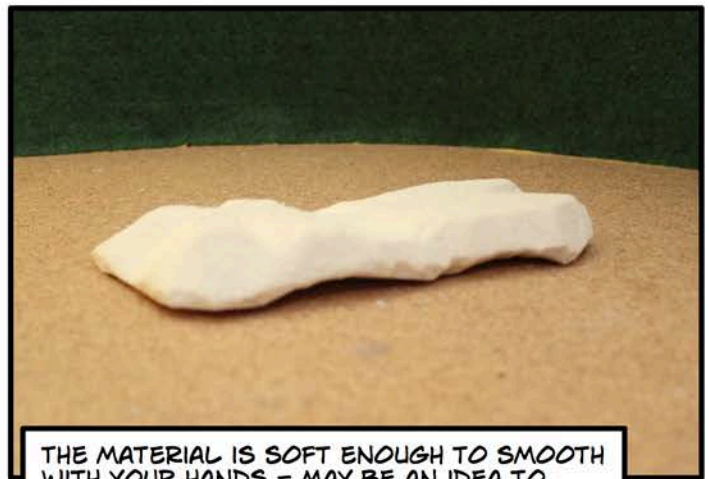


HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED:

- KINGSPAN INSULATION FOAM (OR SIMILAR)
- PVA GLUE
- BLACK ACRYLIC PAINT
- MIXING POT
- BROAD FLAT BRUSH
(CHEAP WILL DO FINE AS IT'S LIKELY TO BE RUINED BY PVA)
- SHARP KNIFE (I USE AND AN OLD KITCHEN/STEAK KNIFE)
- OLD NEWSPAPER TO SOAK UP THE MESS
- HAND PLANT SPRAYER OR SIMILAR
(I USE AN OLD CONTAINER THAT HAD A HOUSEHOLD CLEANING PRODUCT IN IT, BUT GIVE IT A GOOD CLEAN)
- WOODLAND SCENICS CLUMP FOLIAGE
- WOODLAND SCENICS COURSE TURF
- PAIR OF SECUTEURS TO CUT TWIGS
- SUITABLY SIZED TWIGS OR ROUND DOWEL TO USE AS TREE TRUNKS
- OPTIONAL PIECE OF FELT OR SIMILAR TO DEMARK EXTENT OF WOODLAND



MAKE A ROUGH CUT WITH A KNIFE TO SHAPE THE TREE CANOPY.



THE MATERIAL IS SOFT ENOUGH TO SMOOTH WITH YOUR HANDS - MAY BE AN IDEA TO WEAR RUBBER GLOVES



MIX PVA IN A CONTAINER WITH BLACK ACRYLIC PAINT. THIS WILL ADD DEPTH TO THE LOOK OF THE CANOPY AND HARDEN THE FOAM. THE ACRYLIC SHOWN CAME FROM THE WORKS AND COST ABOUT £1.00. PVA FROM BEIQ
THE SPRAY BOTTLE HOLDS A VERY WATERED DOWN PVA SOLUTION (NO PAINT ADDED) AND IS USED TO SPRAY ONTO THE FOLIAGE ONCE IT HAS STUCK TO



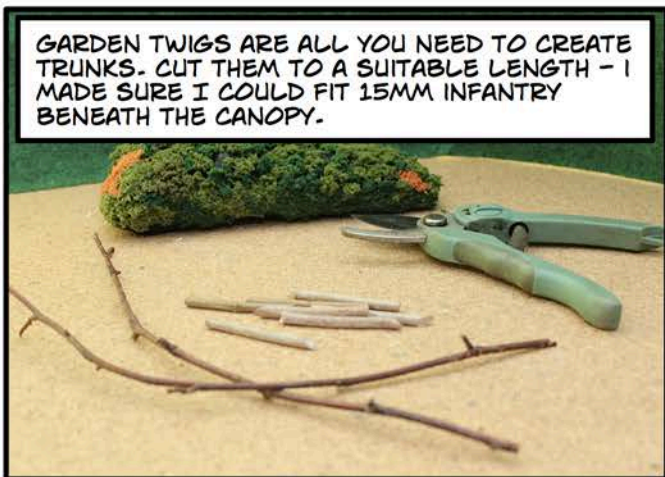
GIVE THE FOAM A GENEROUS COATING OF THE BLACK PVA MIX AND ALLOW TO DRY. DON'T FORGET THE UNDERNEATH TOO.



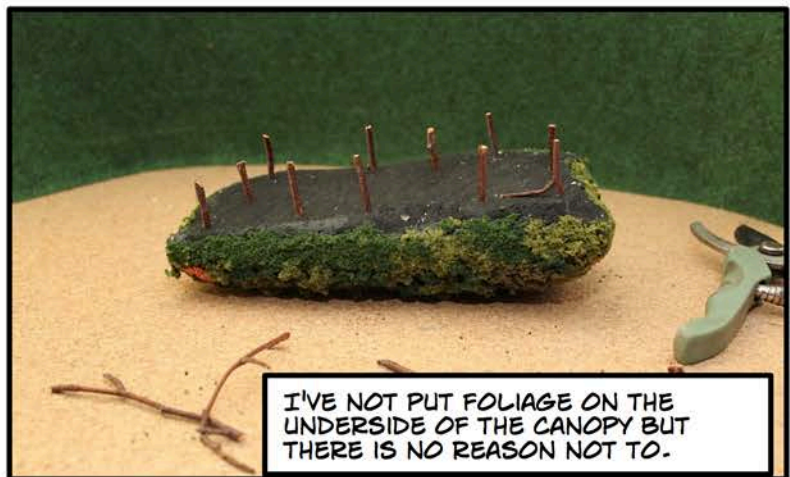
WOODLAND SCENICS PRODUCE GREAT PRODUCTS WITH GOOD COLOUR CONSISTENCY. I USED TWO TYPES - CLUMP FOLIAGE IN 4 COLOURS - DARK, MEDIUM AND LIGHT GREEN PLUS SOME AUTUMN RED. LOWER DOWN THE CANOPY I USED COURSE TURF IN LIGHT AND MEDIUM GREEN. THIS IS FINER THEN THE CLUMP FOLIAGE AND IS EASIER TO STICK TO THE



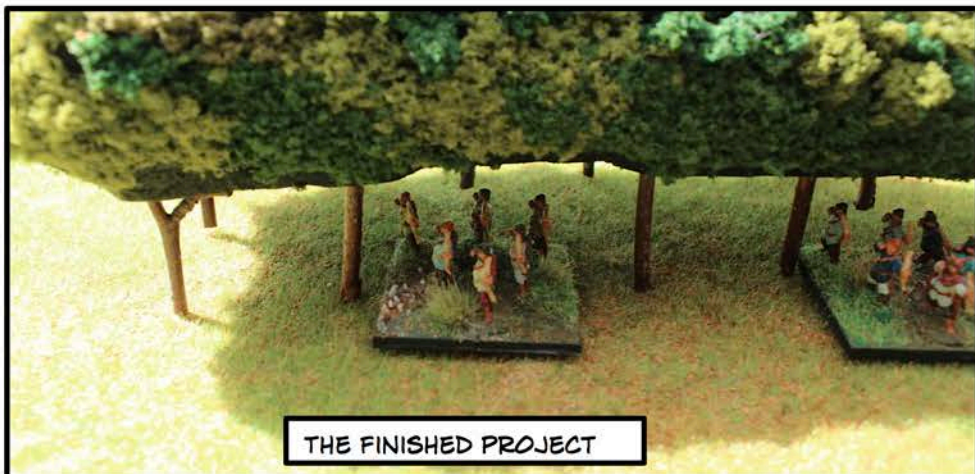
HERE IS A PART FINISHED CANOPY. I USED DARK CLUMP FOLIAGE IN THE DIPS AND A MIX OF MEDIUM AND LIGHT TO THE SIDES AND TOP. ONCE THIS HAS DRIED ON, SHAKE OFF ANY PIECES THAT HAVE NOT STUCK PROPERLY. YOU CAN SOON STICK THESE BACK IN PLACE. ONCE YOUR CANOPY IS COMPLETE TO YOUR SATISFACTION GIVE IT A GOOD SPRAY WITH THE WATERED DOWN PVA AND ALLOW TO DRY.



GARDEN TWIGS ARE ALL YOU NEED TO CREATE TRUNKS. CUT THEM TO A SUITABLE LENGTH - I MADE SURE I COULD FIT 15MM INFANTRY BENEATH THE CANOPY.



I'VE NOT PUT FOLIAGE ON THE UNDERSIDE OF THE CANOPY BUT THERE IS NO REASON NOT TO.



THE FINISHED PROJECT

YOU CAN BUY SQUARES OF FELT FROM MOST FABRIC STORES OR HOBBY CRAFT THAT CAN BE USED TO MARK THE GROUND AREA OF YOUR WOOD. OR YOU COULD MAKE SOMETHING MORE ELABORATE IF YOU HAVE THE TIME. I KNOW OTHER PEOPLE HAVE MADE SIMILAR WOODS. RICK PRIESTLY HAS SOME VERY NICE FOREST AREAS CUT FROM SOLID FOAM WITH THE TRUNKS OF THE TREES CUT INTO THE SIDES. VERY EFFECTIVE IT LOOKS TOO. GIVE IT A GO. PHIL © PHILIP MACKIE 2018