

**RS**  
ISSUE **01**

# SCALE MODEL TUTORIALS & GUIDES MAGAZINE



A Free E-Magazine - Made by Modellers for Modellers

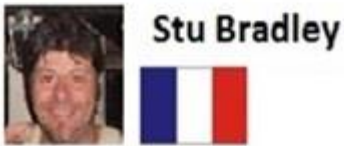
*Jose Brito*



**Special Edition**



Hello, and welcome to the very first SMTG 'Red Sash Special! The first in what we hope will be a long-running series of pure modelling porn! This is where we get to feature some of the most well-known model-makers from around the world, showing us their skills.



Our first featured modeller should need no introduction, but just in case you haven't seen his trademark blue gloves gracing the pages of one of the many magazines dedicated to our hobby, we've invited him to give you a short biography to bring you up to speed...

All of us here at SMTG Magazine HQ wish you happy reading....

*Stu Bradley*



*"My name is José Brito, I'm 41 and I've been building scale models since I was 5. I'm from Portugal and I live in a city called Barcelos. Besides being a modeller, I'm also an architect.*

*I started by building airplanes and sailing ships, but in recent years my interest turned to the armoured models and dioramas, mainly in 1/35 scale. I also cooperate with several modelling magazines and I'm a frequent presence in several Portuguese and international modelling events. When I'm not at the workbench, you can find me at the nearest beach, surfing...*

*All the best to you all!"*

*José*



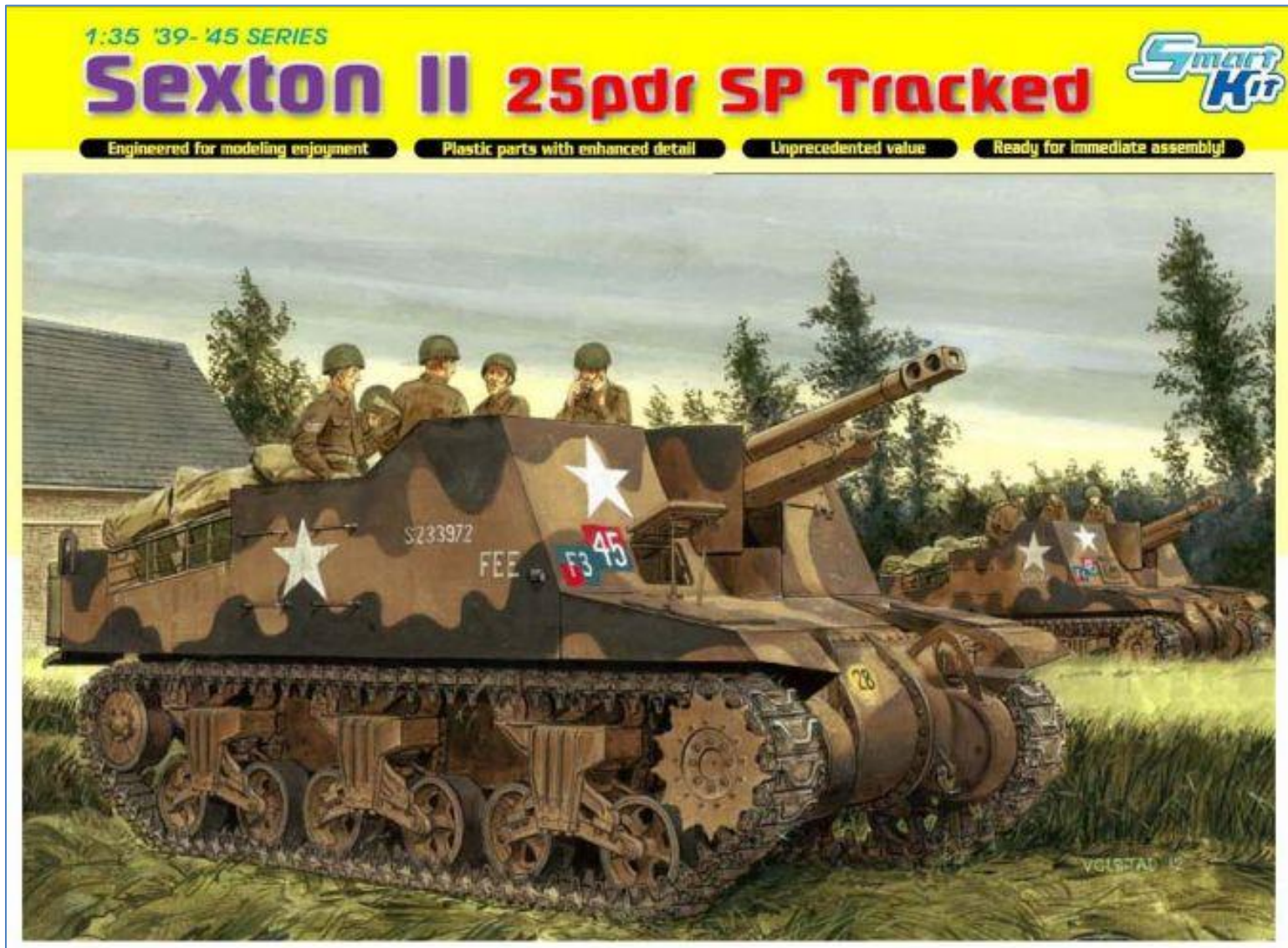






# Sexton II – 25Pdr SP Tracked. Dragon Models Item # 6070

By José Brito – Portugal



The new Sexton from Dragon Models is another typical kit from this company. The kit is presented in a medium sized open top box with a beautiful box top painted by Ron Volstad.

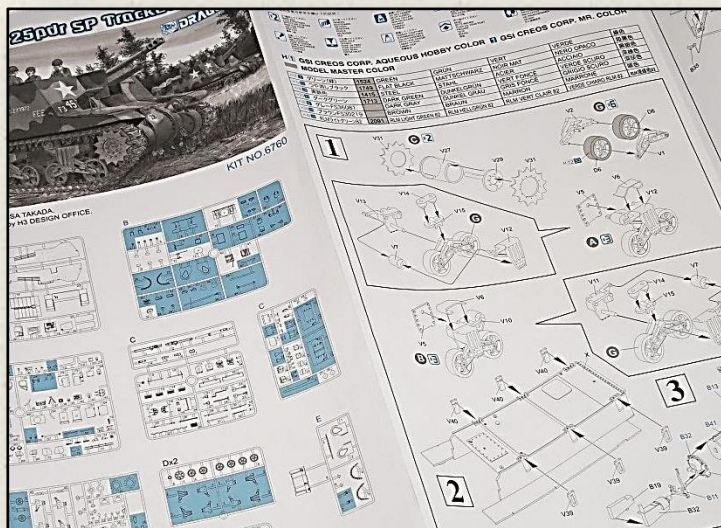
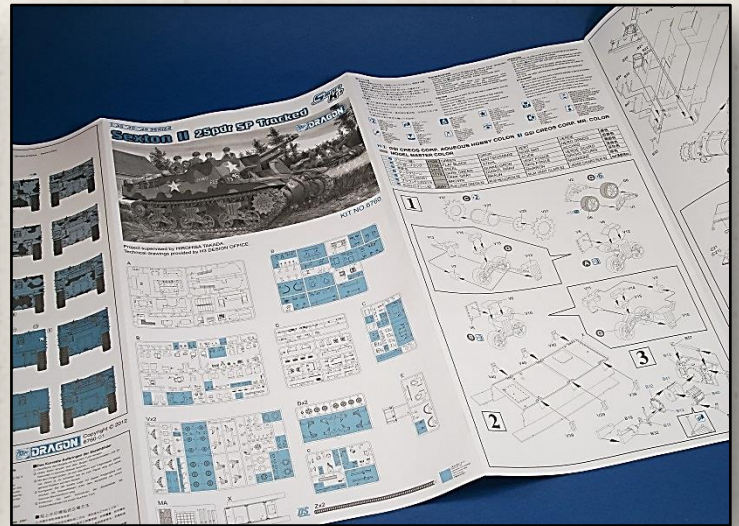
Once the box is opened, we are presented with several plastic sprues, a small photo-etch sheet, single piece vinyl tracks, decals for 5 different versions and clear and concise instructions.

The plastic parts are moulded in top quality grey plastic and the detail is flawless. No flash is visible and the ejection marks are placed in hidden away spots, invisible in the final build.

The photo-etch sheet is small but covers very important parts where an extra touch of accuracy is necessary



A classic offering from Dragon. Great box-art, great plastic and photo-etch, clear instructions, decals for several versions...







The new Sexton from Dragon is a lovely kit and with a great level of detail. Even so I decided to replace the Dragon bogies for **Resicast** ones. In this case I used the item *35.2356 Sexton Heavy Duty Canadian Bogies Type A*.

The resin bogies from Resicast are top quality and will improve the models final look. The resin casting is flawless and the detail is top notch.







Assembling the **Resicast** bogies can be tricky and some proper tools will be necessary. It's a time consuming job, but the final look compensates for all the extra time spent on this step.





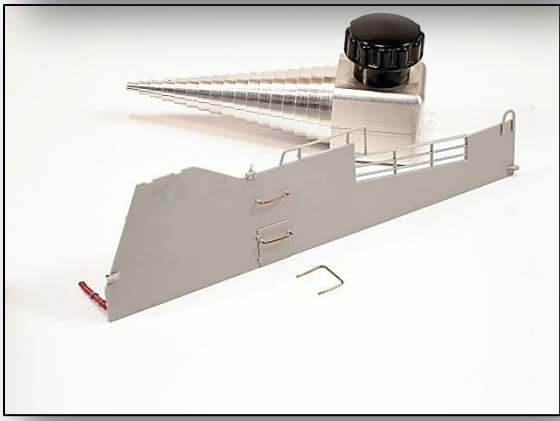
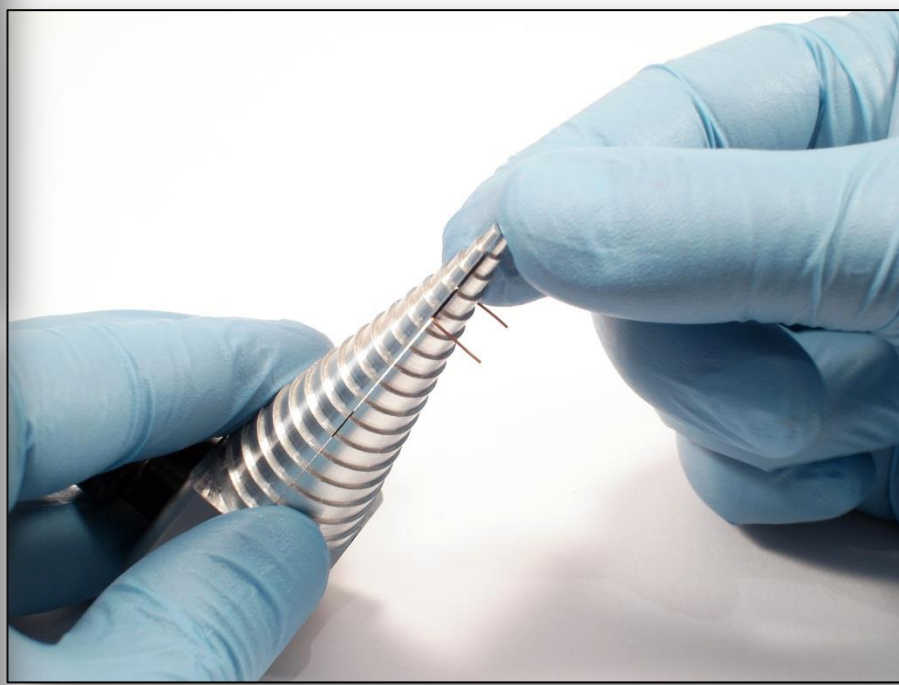
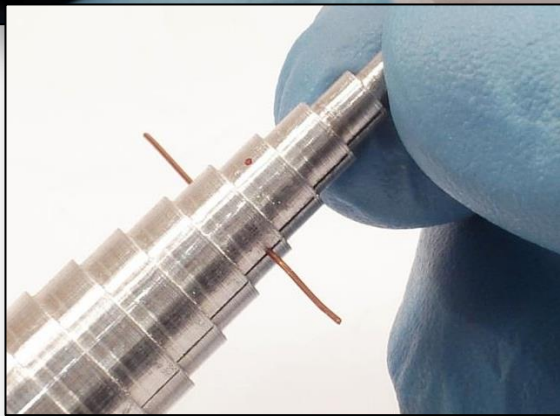
The 'rubber' portion of the wheels also received some extra detail. Small cuts were made with a scalpel blade.

Small details like this are easy to achieve and really increase the visual interest to our models.



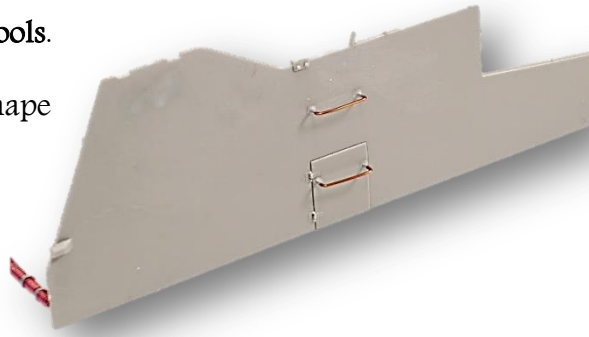
The combination of **Dragon** parts with **Resicast** upgrades. Two great companies working hard to make our models even better.



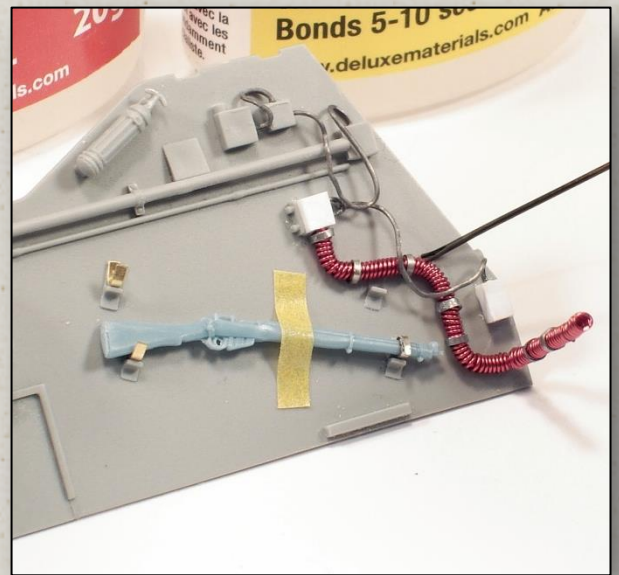
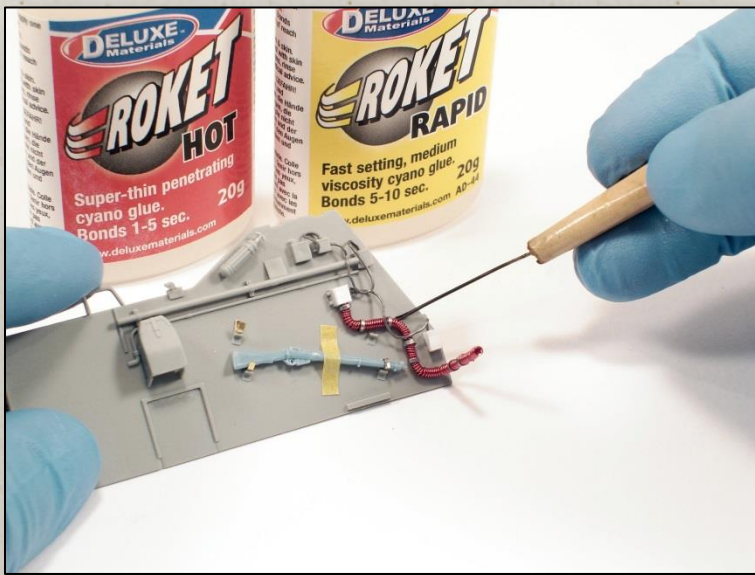


To get the best shapes and results I usually use tools from **Small Shop Tools**.

We can make hundreds of these small parts with the same consistent shape and size. Once done, all we have to do is glue them in place!



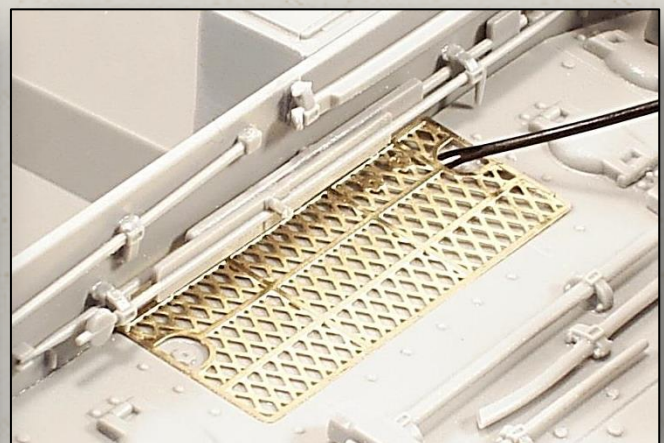




Small metallic parts were glued in place with the help of Deluxe Materials *Rocket Hot* and *Rocket Rapid*. Look how all those scratched small details can improve the model's interior. Several reference pictures were used for this task. Sadly, it was not easy to find good interior pictures of the Sexton tank.



Small and hard to reach plastic parts were glued in place with the help of Deluxe Materials *Plastic Magic*. This is an ultra-thin glue and ideal to work using capillary action. For a better flow control, the Deluxe Materials *Pin Flow* was used.



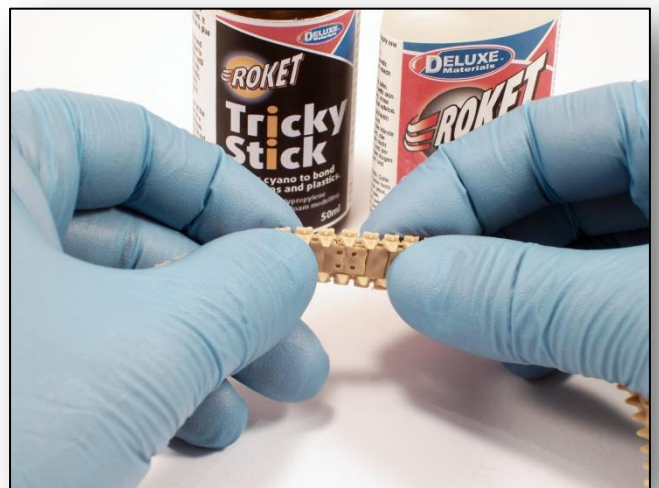
All the photo-etch parts were also glued using the capillary method. Most of the time by using the Deluxe Materials *Rocket Hot* glue solution.



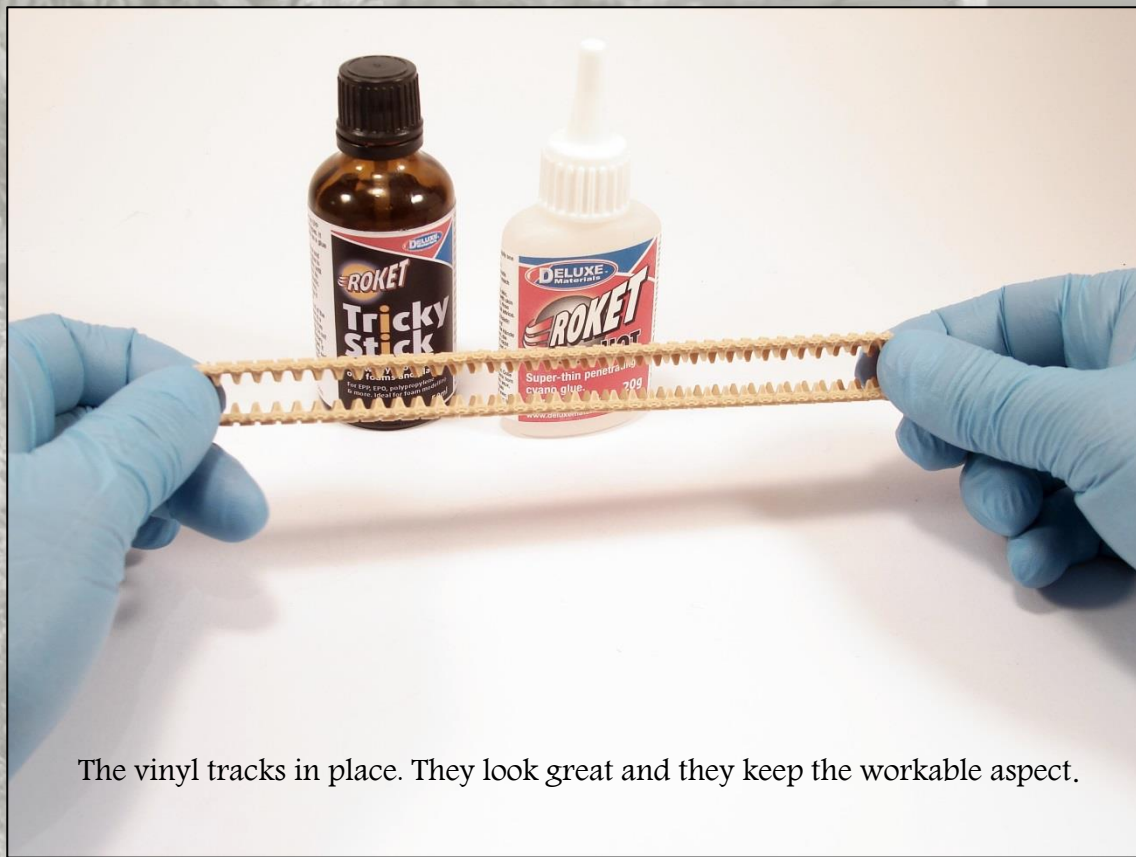


We all know that gluing vinyl tracks can be a real nightmare, but, thanks to **Deluxe Materials**, those days are gone! Their new solution, *Tricky Stick* is just great. As the name says, this is a solution for tricky situations. This is not glue. This is more like a primer for glue.

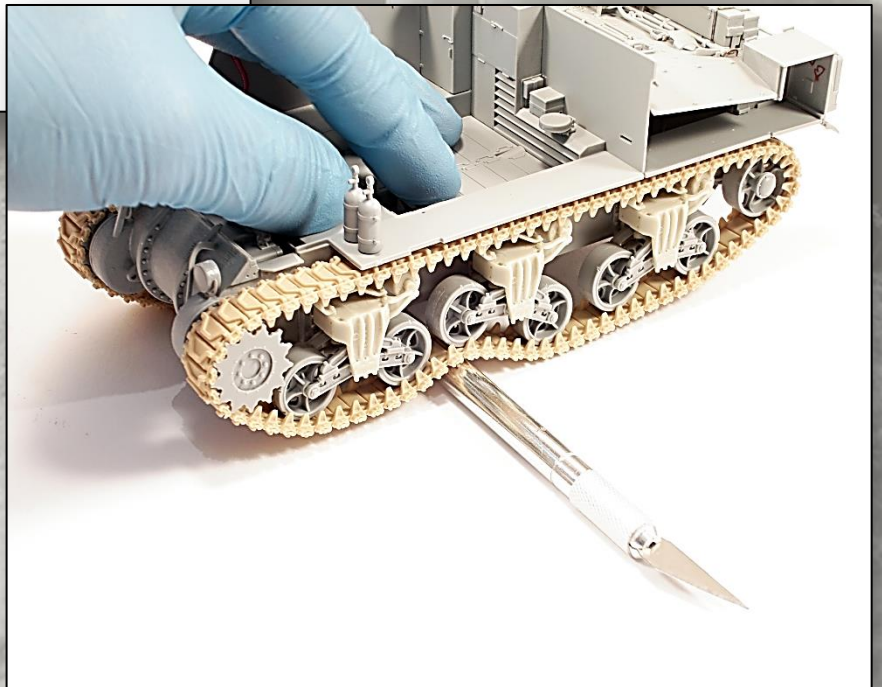
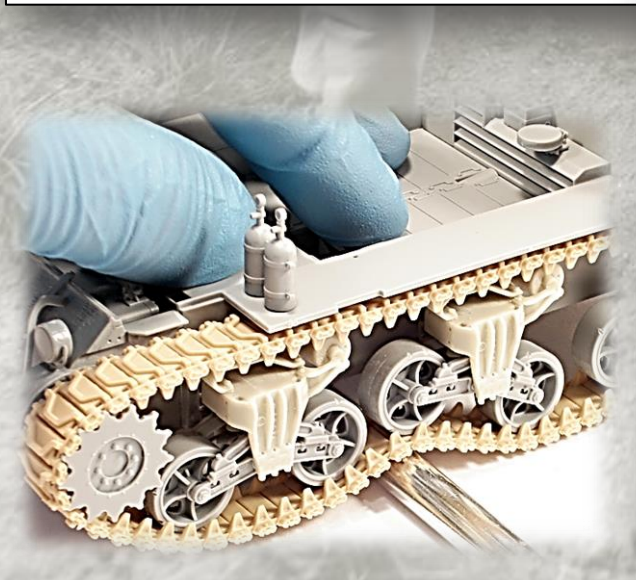
All we have to do is apply some *Tricky Stick* over the track and then let it dry for a few minutes. Once dry, it looks totally invisible. Then, all we have to do is apply **Deluxe Materials** *Rocket Hot* or *Rapid* over the jointed parts. Simple, effective and it works! Finally, a product to use that really works with vinyl tracks.



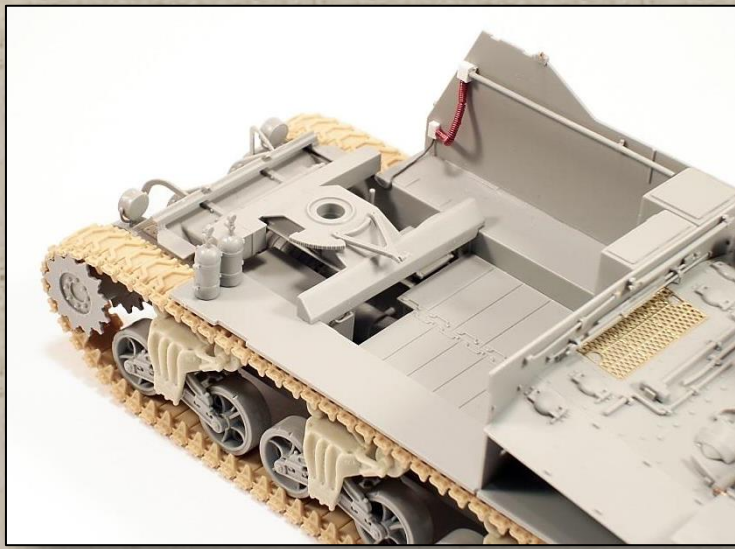




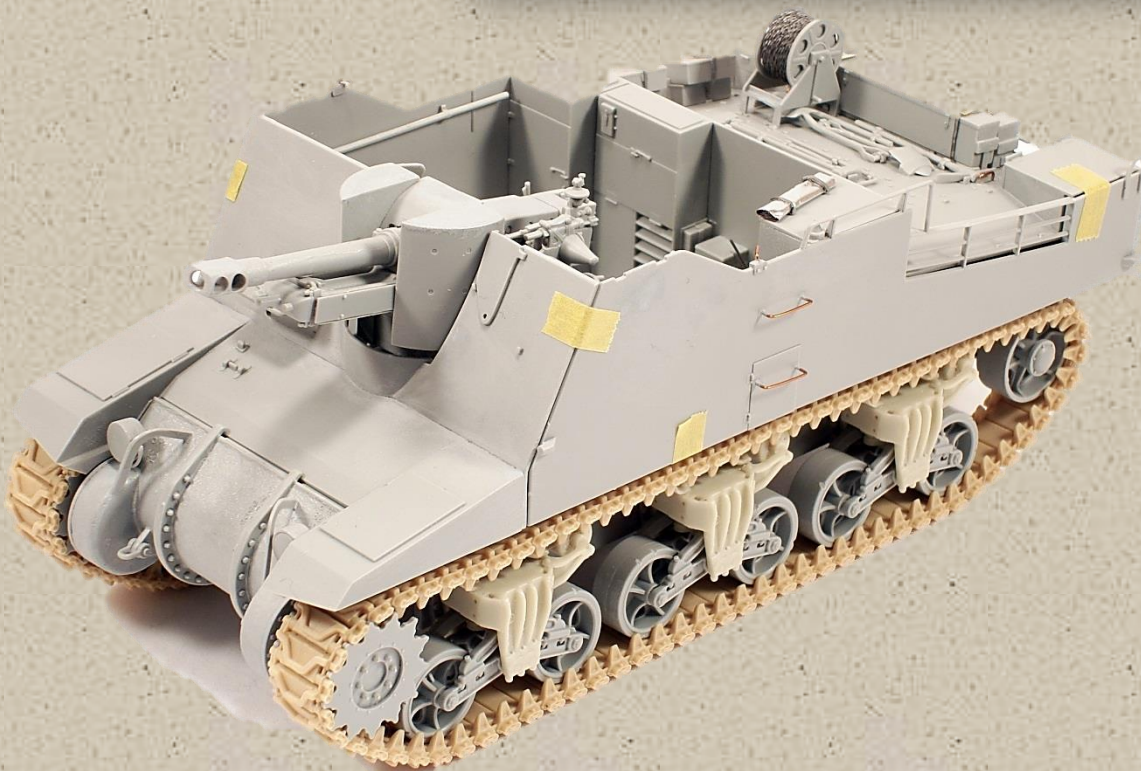
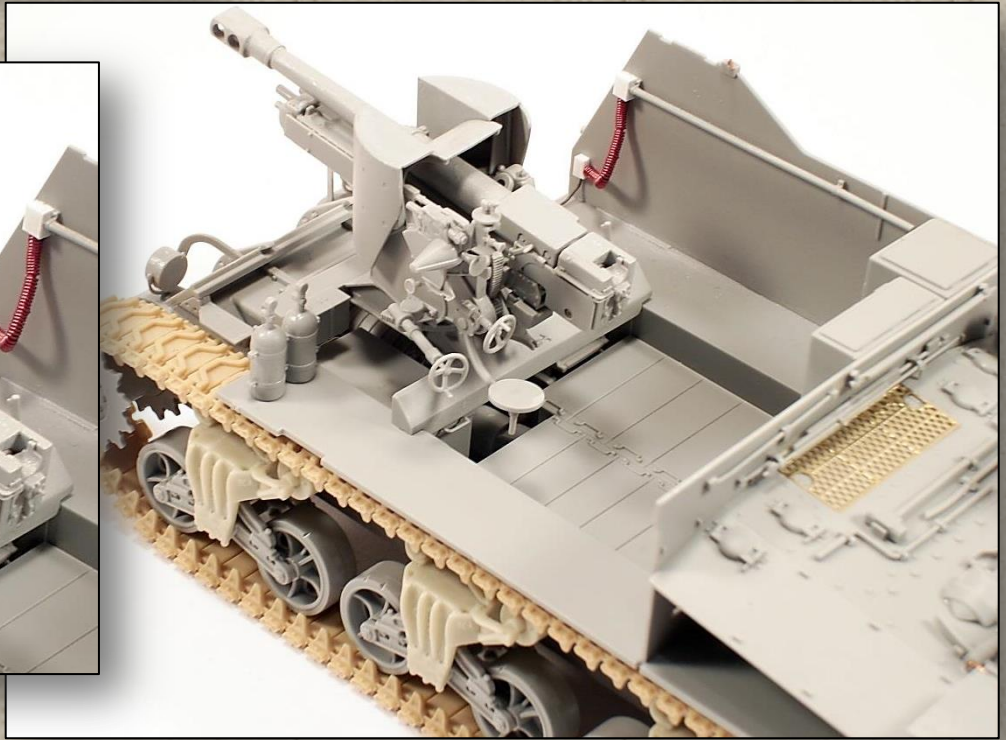
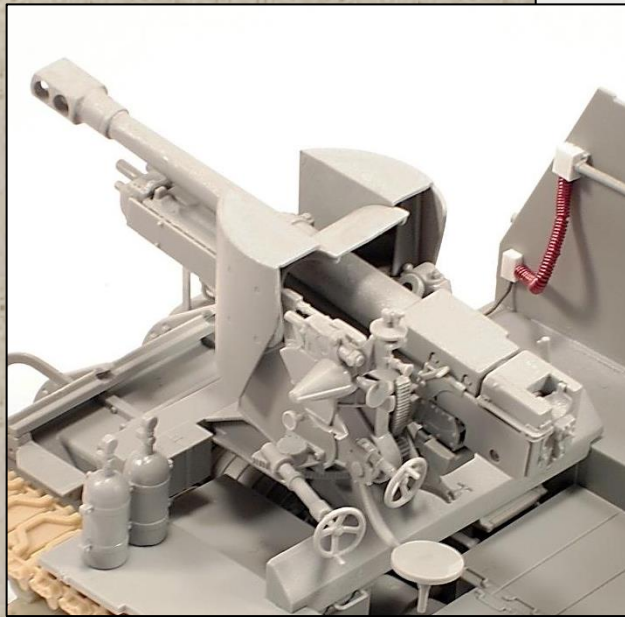
The vinyl tracks in place. They look great and they keep the workable aspect.







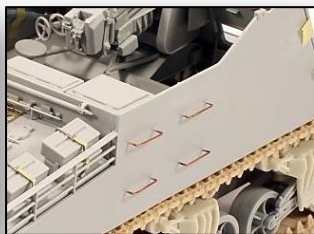
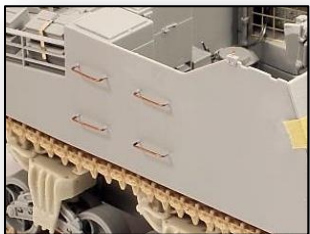
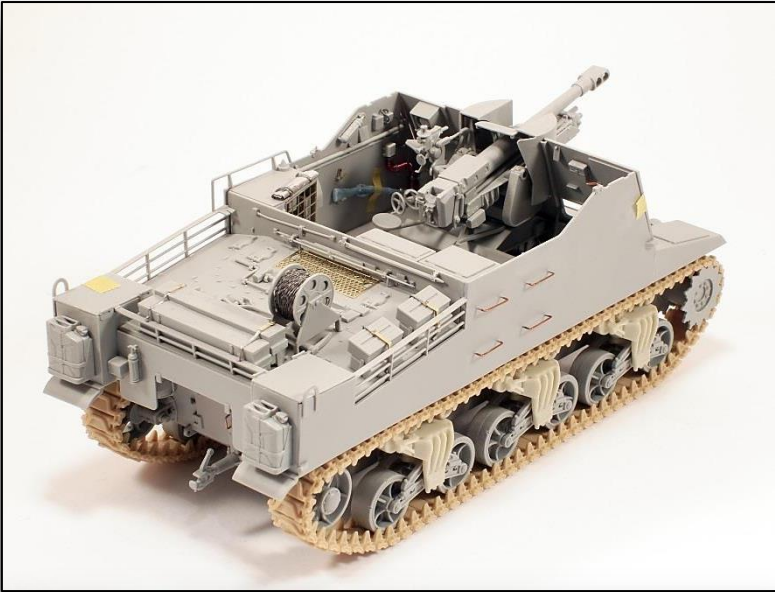
Several interior details. Dragon made a great job of both the inside and outside of this model. The main gun is a 'kit within a kit'. The best thing is that all the parts fit together extremely well



The main gun added to the chassis. Now the build really begins to come alive!



The model is now fully assembled and ready for the painting process. Note how all the extra work and details really improve the final look.





The entire model was primed in Vallejo 73602 Black Primer. The primer must be applied in several thin layers in order to keep the fine surface detail. Once dried, it's rock hard and extremely smooth.



As usual, I like to paint my models using the *Zenith Transformation* approach. This is a completely different and much more accurate technique when compared with the modulation style. In the modulation style, the model looks like a 3D CAD job. With the zenith technique, the light effects are accurately represented on the model.

In the *Zenith Transformation* technique, the colours must be airbrushed in well-thinned and consecutive layers.

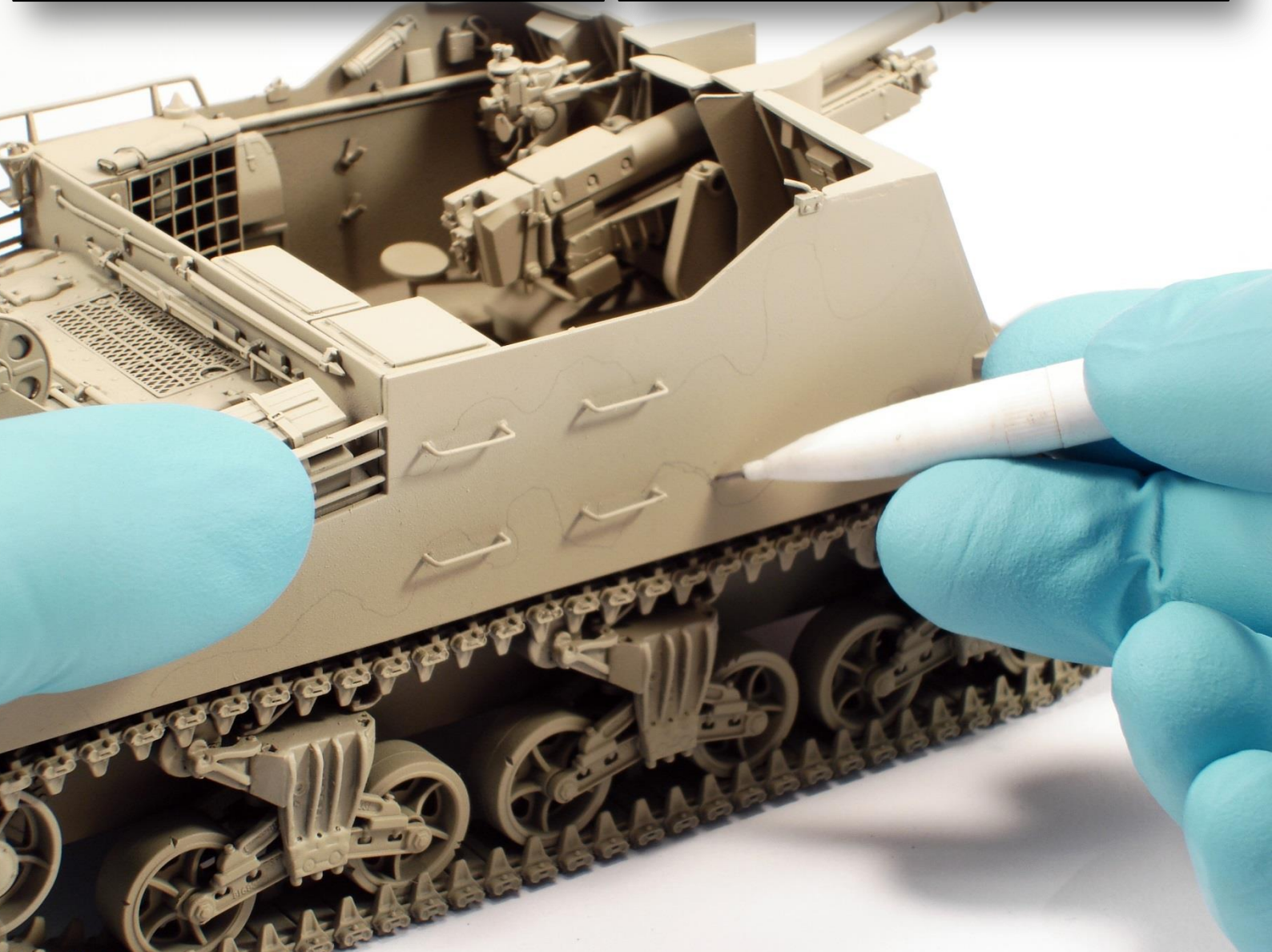
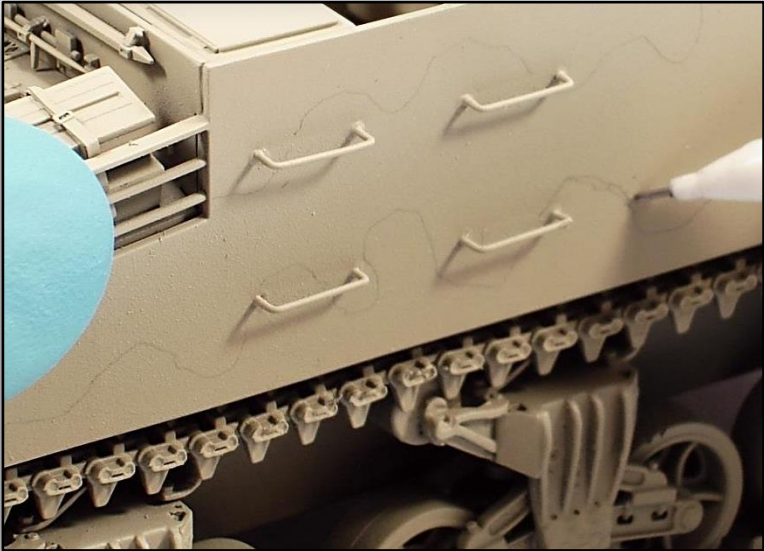


In these pictures we can clearly see how the *Zenith Technique* looks much more realistic and accurate when compared with the modulation style. With the *Zenith Technique* we do not see aggressive colour contrasts and panels painted in several different colours.

With this technique the model is exposed to the light, and the paint is applied in the same fashion as if the model was exposed under a spotlight. The colour transitions are ultra-smooth and the models have a higher visual interest.



The camouflage pattern was marked with a soft pencil and according to the kit instructions. The camouflage was hand painted in Vallejo Model Color *dark grey*.







Before starting the weathering and finishing, we must apply the decals. In order to make the surface even smoother, the model was airbrushed in *Vallejo Gloss Varnish 70510*.

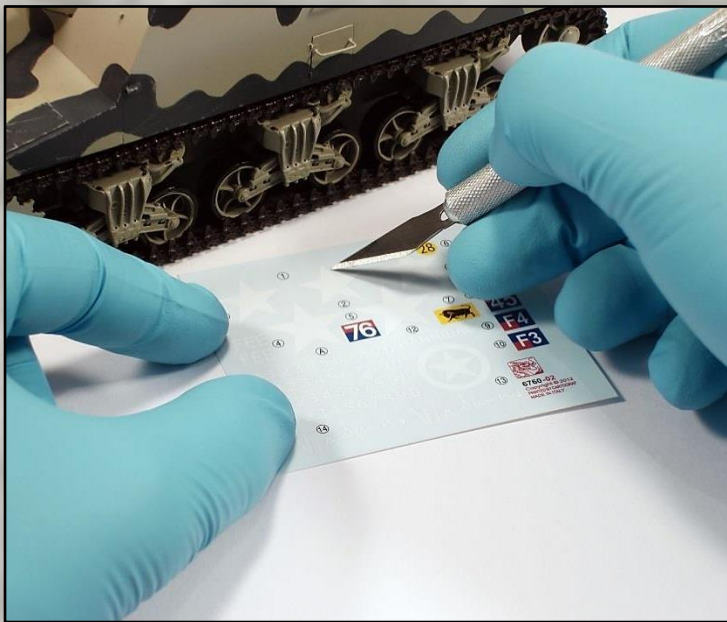
As usual, when placing the decals, I used the new **MIG Productions** decal solutions. The **MIG Productions** *Decal Set* and the *Decal Softener*:



In the desired spot we apply a small quantity of **MIG Productions** *Decal Set*. This formula will increase the decal's adhesion onto the model's surface.







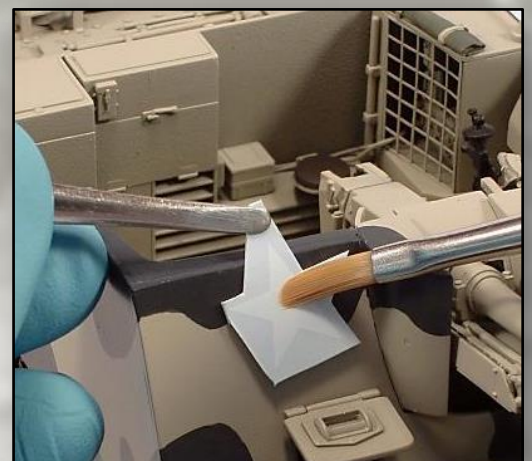
The decals were cut from the sheet with the help of a brand new scalpel. Dragon Models decals are crisply printed.



The decal is submerged into water and all we have to do is wait a few minutes until the decal peels easily from the underlay sheet.



The decal is then gently transferred to the desired spot with the help of a brush.







The excess water is removed using a cotton bud. At this stage we can also make some corrections to the decal position.



Once the decal is in the final position, we apply **MIG Productions Decal Softener**. This formula will soften the decal and increase the setting. Leave the decal untouched, and when the formula is fully dry, the decal will look great and just like it's been painted over the surface.



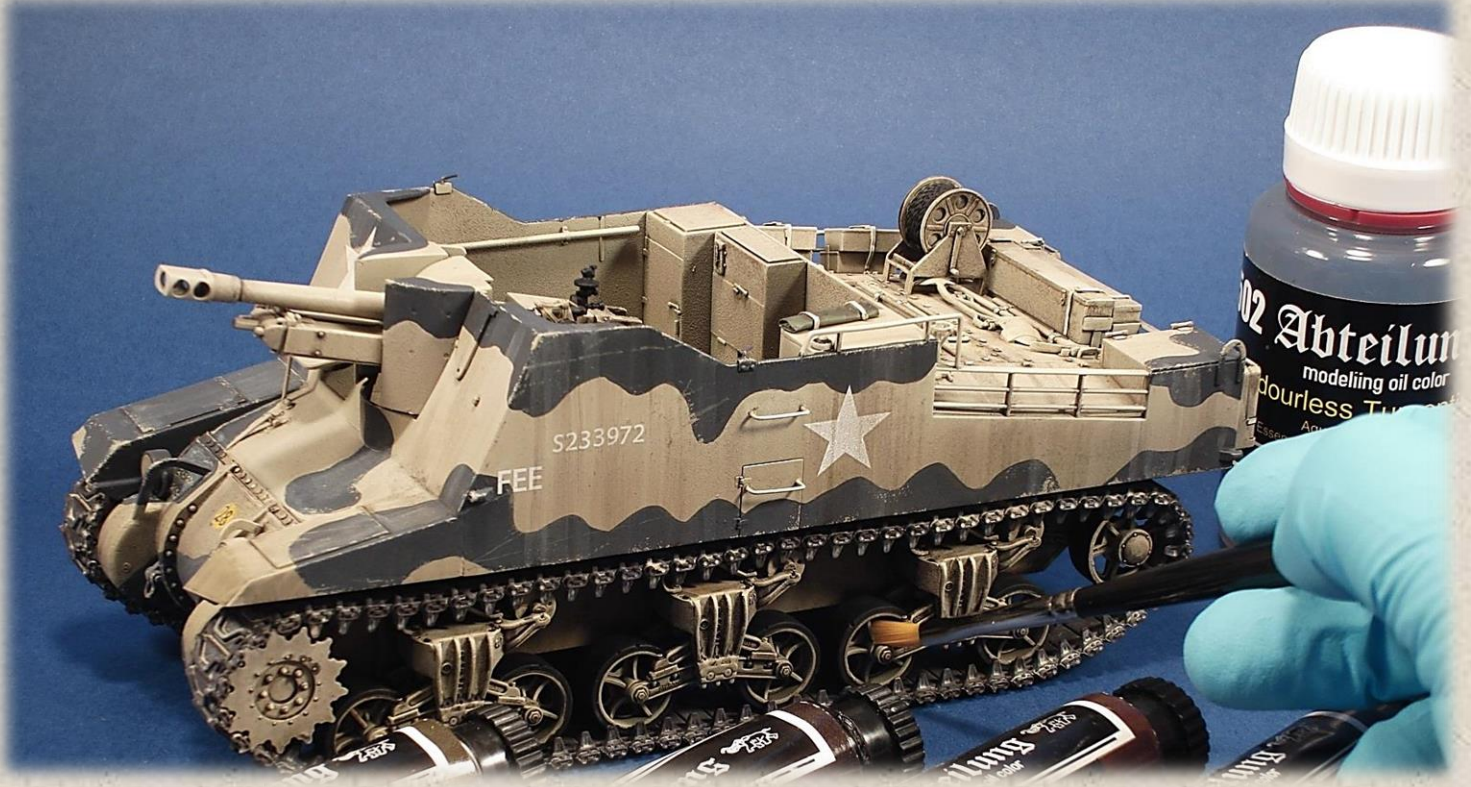




MIG Productions oil colour *Buff* was applied to represent the rain and moisture streaks on the chassis. It must be applied in several layers and be well thinned using MIG Productions *Odourless Turpentine*.



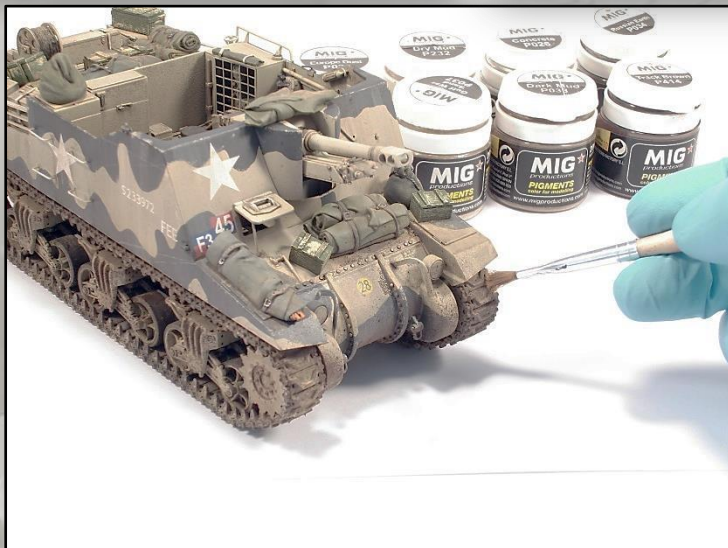
The colour variation was achieved by applying several other oil colours from the MIG Productions range. Colours such as Dark Brown, Shadow Brown, Engine Grease and Wash Brown. Once again applied well thinned and with a flat brush.







MIG Productions *Dark Wash* was applied into the recessed parts. It must be applied with a very fine-tipped brush. For the best results and a better control, the wash can be thinned by using MIG Productions *Thinner for Washes*.



The dusty look was achieved by using Mig Productions pigments. Several colours must be used in order to get a more realistic look. In the meantime we must take some care. The colours must be accurate and placed in the right spots. Also, we must not overdo this process; otherwise our model will look inaccurate and unrealistic. The aim is always realism!





The pigments were fixed in place with the help of **Mig Productions Pigment Fixer**. All we have to do is apply, by brush, several drops over the pigments and leave to dry, untouched. During this process, the model will turn very dark and it seems that the pigments disappear, but once the fixer and thinners evaporate, the pigments will appear again and they will look very natural and realistic.

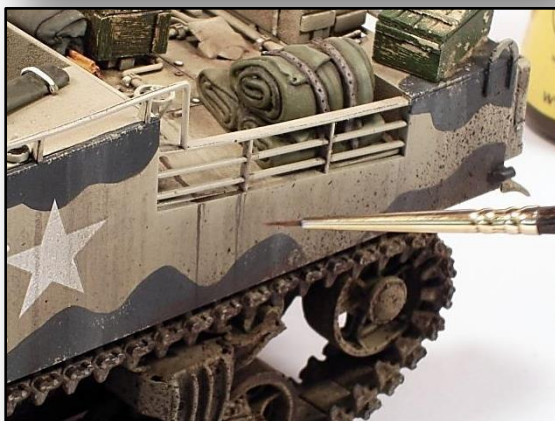


For the splashes, **Mig Productions Mud Splash Wash** was applied with the help of a brush and an airbrush. The finish looks very natural and can add spots of interest to the model.





MIG Productions *Oil and Grease Stain Mixture* were also applied around recessed and usually lubricated parts. For a better finish these wash solutions can be thinned with **MIG Productions** *Thinner for Washes*.









# THE DIORAMA



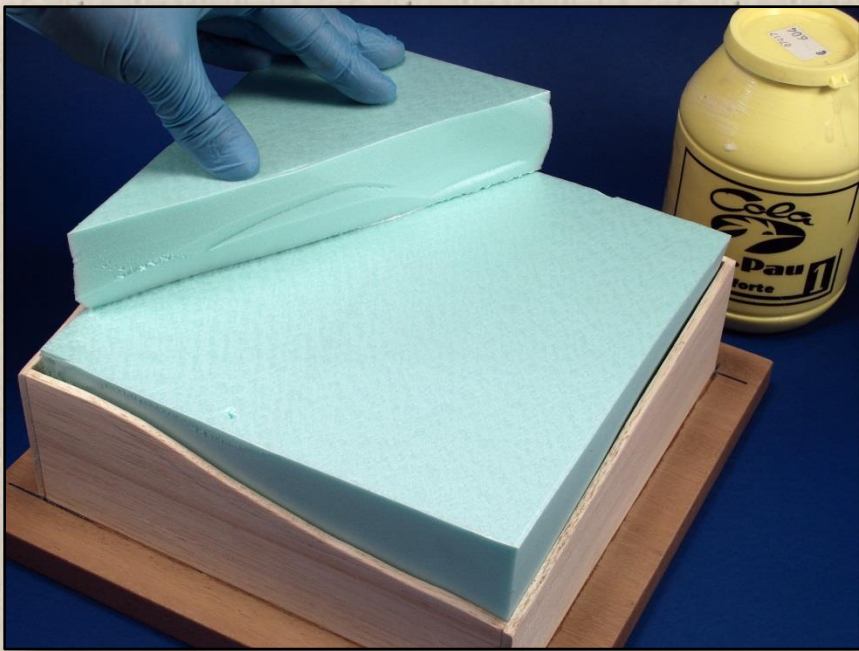




I'm a diorama builder and I like bases with volume. As usual, I use a wooden base and make the side walls from balsa wood. This will form a box, and the volume will add an extra touch of interest to the base and the piece as a whole.







The interior was filled in with heat insulation foam. This foam is cheap, easy to find and easy to work. Also, it's lightweight and ideal to use when you need to fill large volumes. Several layers of **Deluxe Materials Foam Armour** were applied in order to give an extra strength to the foam. Once dry, it's really hard and will protect the underlying foam base.

The natural elements must be placed in a dynamic way and according to invisible diagonal lines. We must avoid at all cost, the placing of these elements parallel to the sides of the base.



For the soil, **MIG Productions MUD P500 Europe Dry Mud-Fine Texture** was applied in several layers. Once dry, it will look really nice and with a very convincing wet look. The final texture is really fine and the scale is spot on.

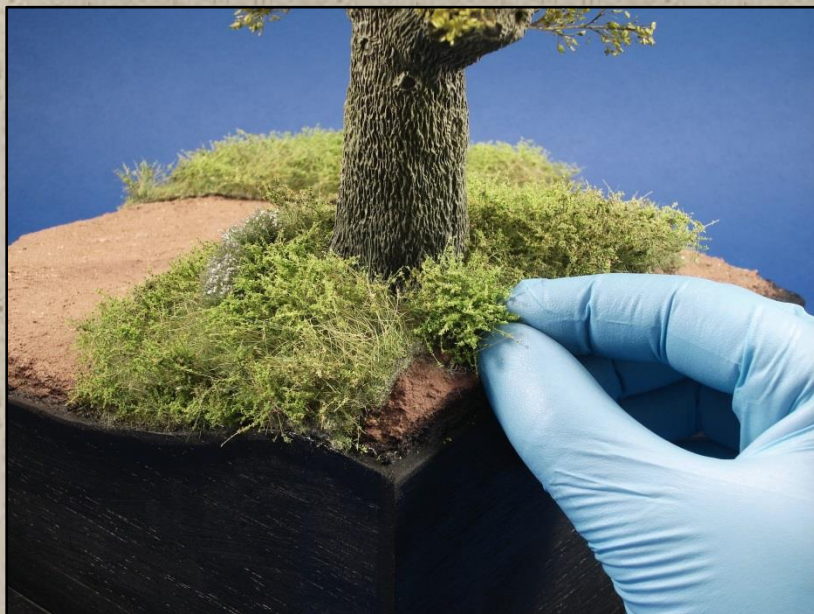








*Model Scene Grass Mate F571 Wild Area With Bushes – Spring*, was used for the main vegetation. This is a new line from **Model Scene** and is absolutely stunning. The vegetation looks very natural and visually accurate.



It must be applied in small portions and glued into the desired spots with the help of *Deluxe Materials Rocket Rapid*.





Once the terrain had dried, several pigment colours were applied directly from the jar and fixed in place with the help of MIG Productions *Pigment Fixer*.



A resin tree trunk from **Joefix** was used on this project. The detail is lovely and all we have to do is make several holes on top and glue the branches into it. The branches are also from **Joefix** and are absolutely awesome. The tree trunk was airbrushed in several Vallejo primers. Using several colours adds more visual interest and turns the item into a more natural and accurate representation.





Some dry brushing was applied into the tree trunk with **MIG Productions** oil *Light Mud*. This simple dry brushing process will bring all the raised details to life.



The tree is placed in the final position. Even at this early stage, this item already looks nice and very interesting, visually.

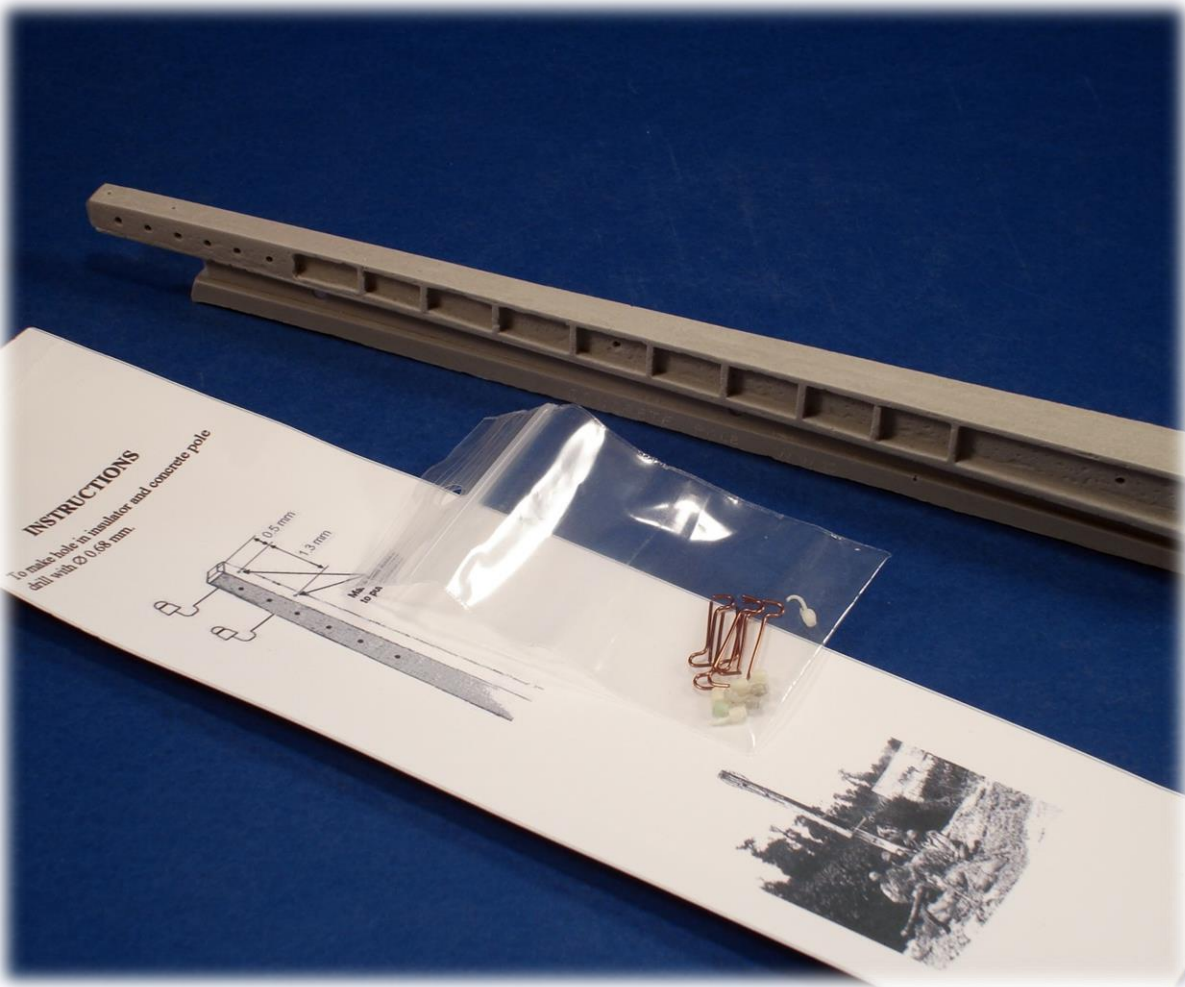




More foliage was added around the tree trunk. In this case, foliage from **MiniNatur**.

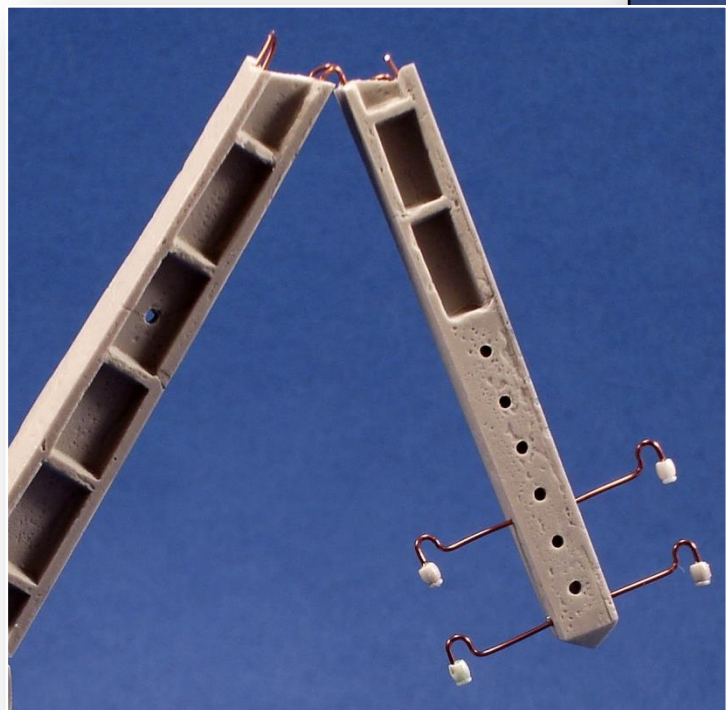
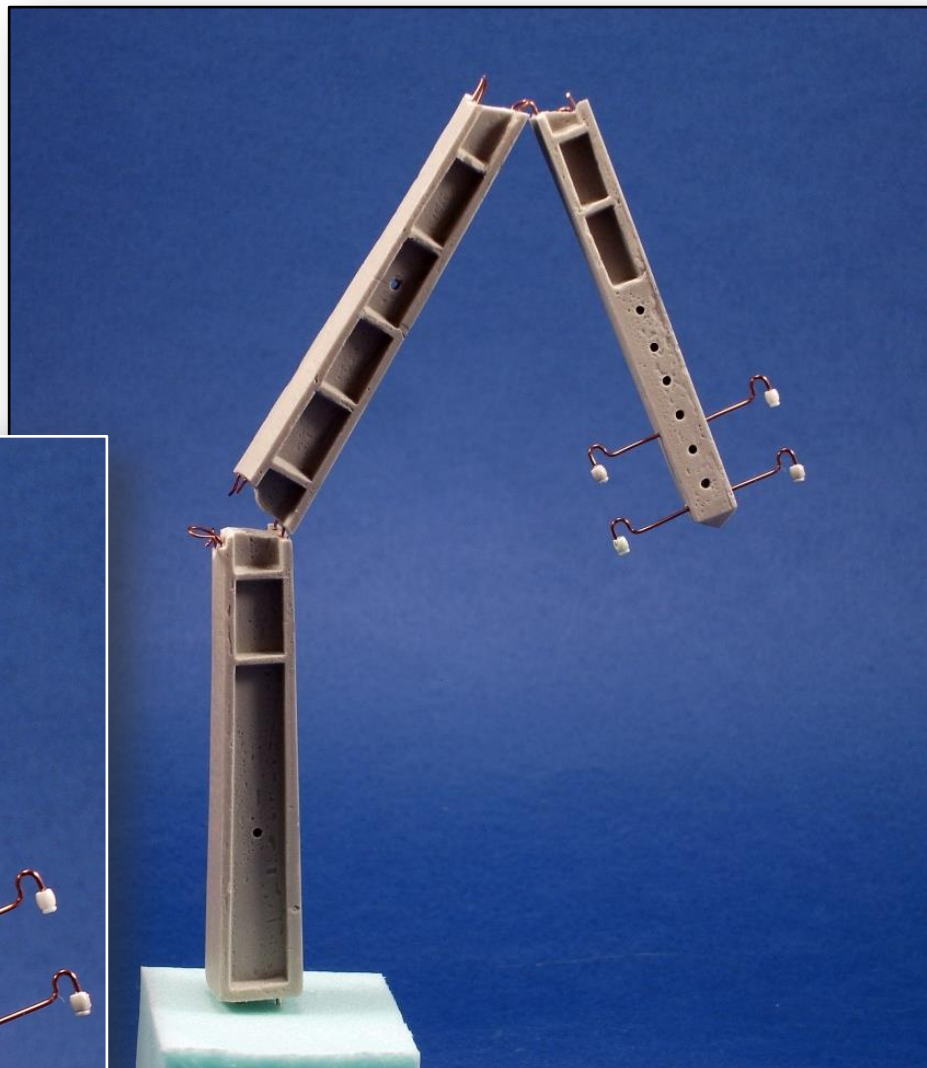






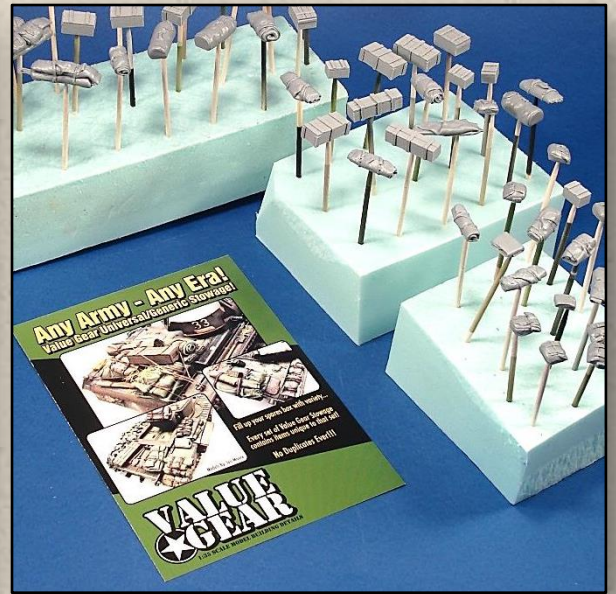
A resin telegraph pole from **RMG** was also used. This will fill 'the empty spot' in one of the diorama diagonals. It realistically reproduces the type of concrete telegraphic poles seen in Normandy during the 1940's. The **RMG** item is a flawless resin item and also includes some pre-shaped wires. A lovely touch.

I decided to 'destroy' my telegraph pole! My idea is to represent the role of French Resistance in the early hours of D-Day. Besides, this destroyed item looks even more interesting.





Value Gear Details is a new company specializing in military accessories – especially tents, tarps and boxes. The detail is amazing and the resin casting is totally flawless. So, I decided to try them!

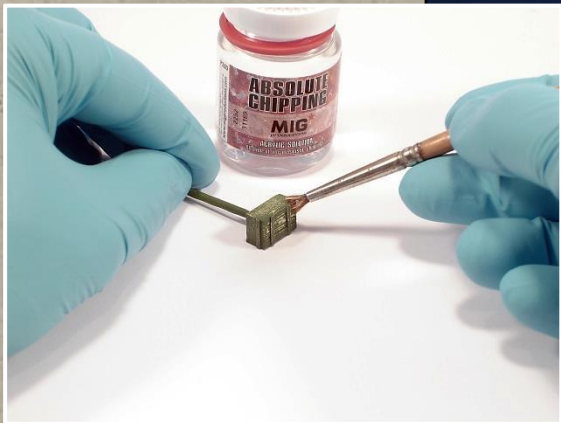


All the Value Gear items were airbrushed in Vallejo *Surface Primer 70601 Grey Primer*. Vallejo primers dry very fast and turn the surface very smooth – ideal for airbrushing. They must be airbrushed in several layers in order to keep the surface detail. Once the primer had been allowed to dry, all the items were painted in several colours from Vallejo's *Model Colour* range.





The wooden boxes were airbrushed in a clear colour and then **MIG Production Absolute Chipping** was applied in order to achieve an extra touch of realism. Once dry, a green paint coat was applied and, once again, when dry, it was peeled off with the help of **MIG Productions Absolute Chipping**. The result is very accurate and easily achieved.



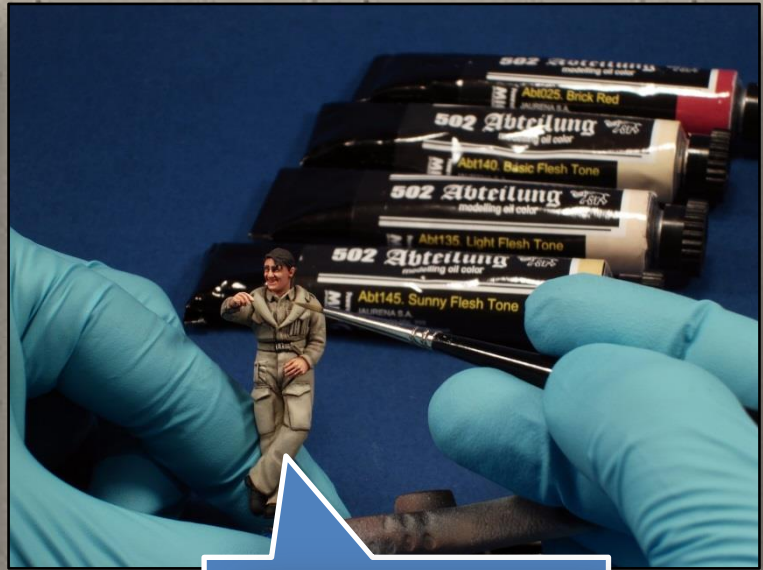
Several washes from **MIG Productions** were combined to give that extra touch of realism to the wooden boxes.



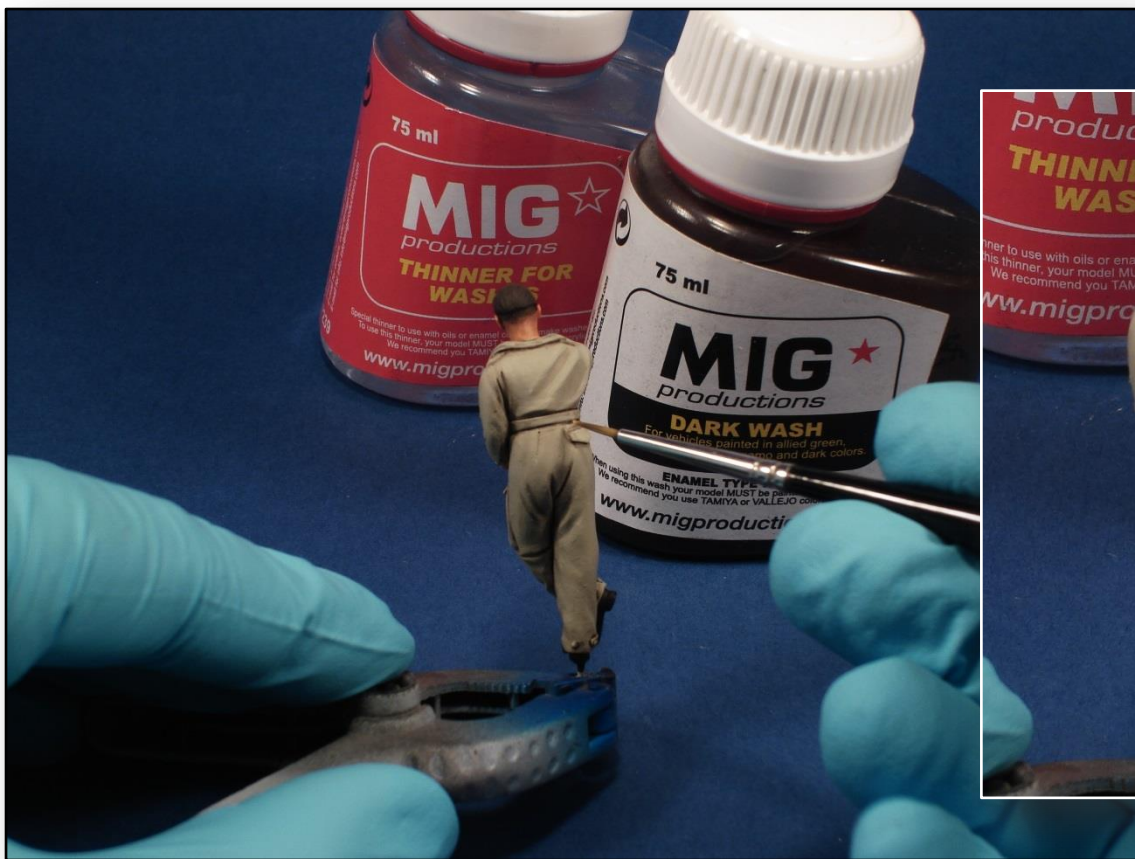


All the figures in this project are from **Resicast**. As usual with this company, the figures are just great and present a flawless resin casting. The poses and fit are very nice.

The figures were primed in **Vallejo Acrylic White Primer 73600**. After being allowed to dry, they were airbrushed in **Vallejo Model Air 71076 Skin Tone**.







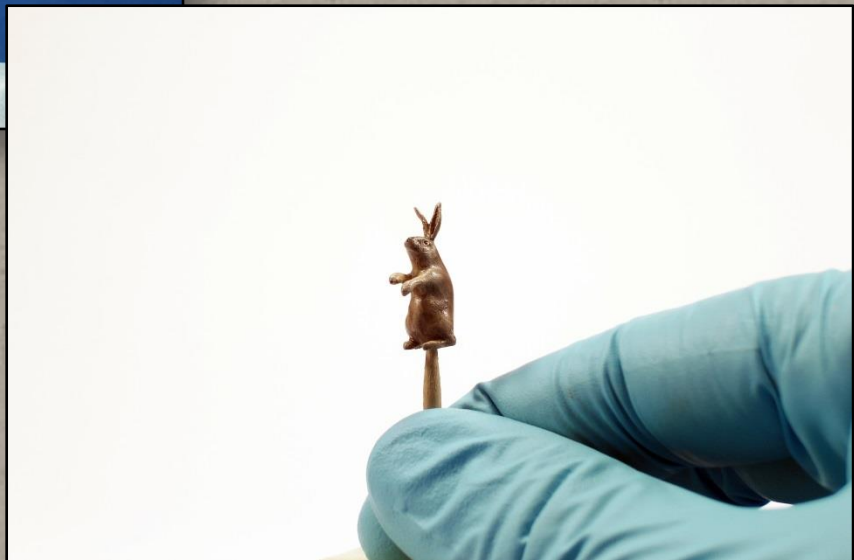
Once the primer had dried hard, the figures were painted in *Vallejo Model Color*, except the flesh tones that were painted in oils from the **MIG Productions** range. Small details were picked out in **MIG Productions Dark Wash**, very well thinned in **MIG Productions Thinner for Washes**. This must be applied only in the most recessed areas.



The dusty look was achieved by applying **MIG Productions** pigments and then fixed using **MIG Productions Pigment Fixer**.









































































## Conclusion

The Sexton from Dragon is a lovely kit and it can be transformed into a stunning model even if built 'out of the box'.

This was a very enjoyable project and a great opportunity to add another diorama to my collection.

Hope you like it. Be safe!

*José Brito*



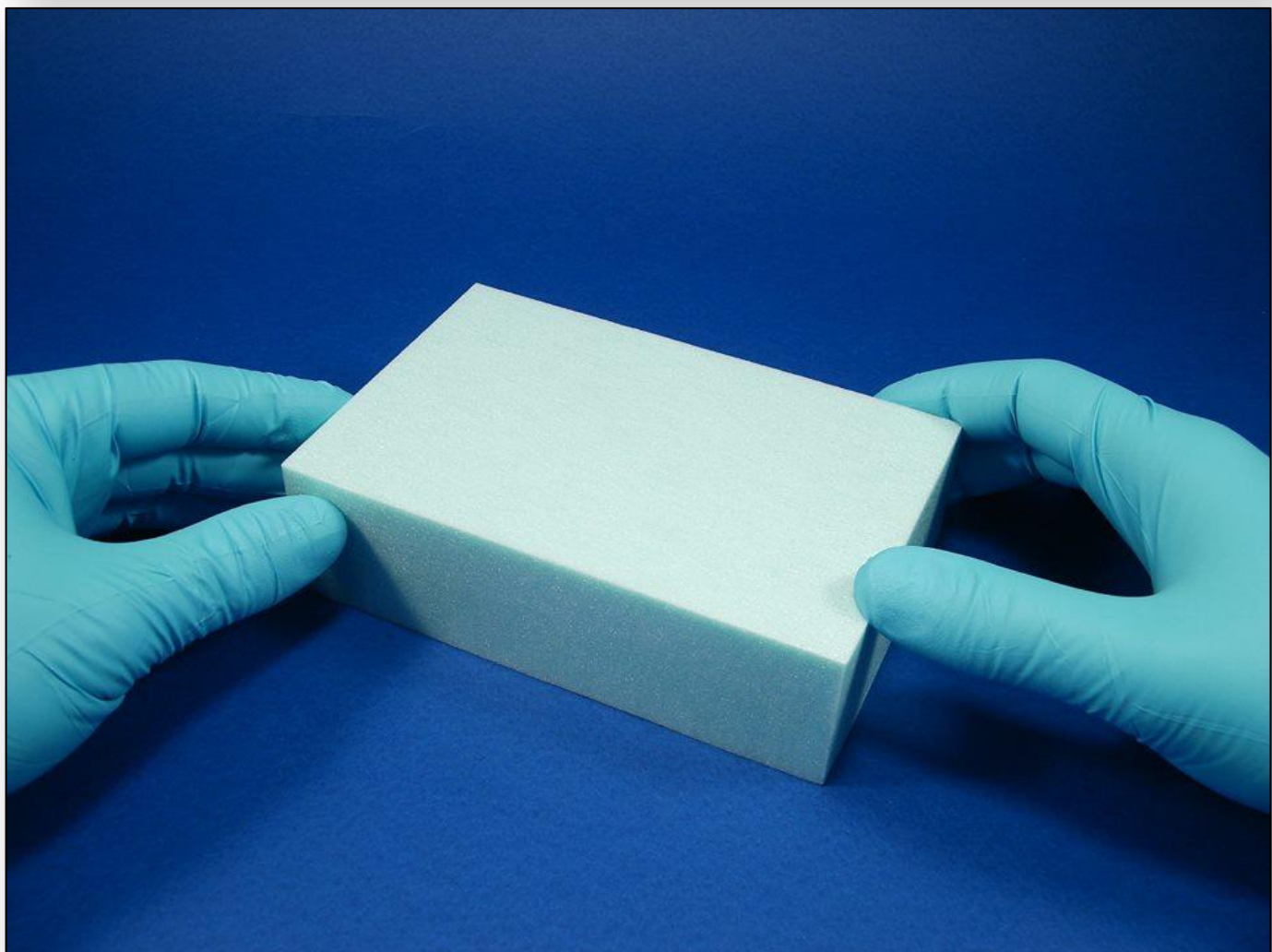


# BONUS SECTION

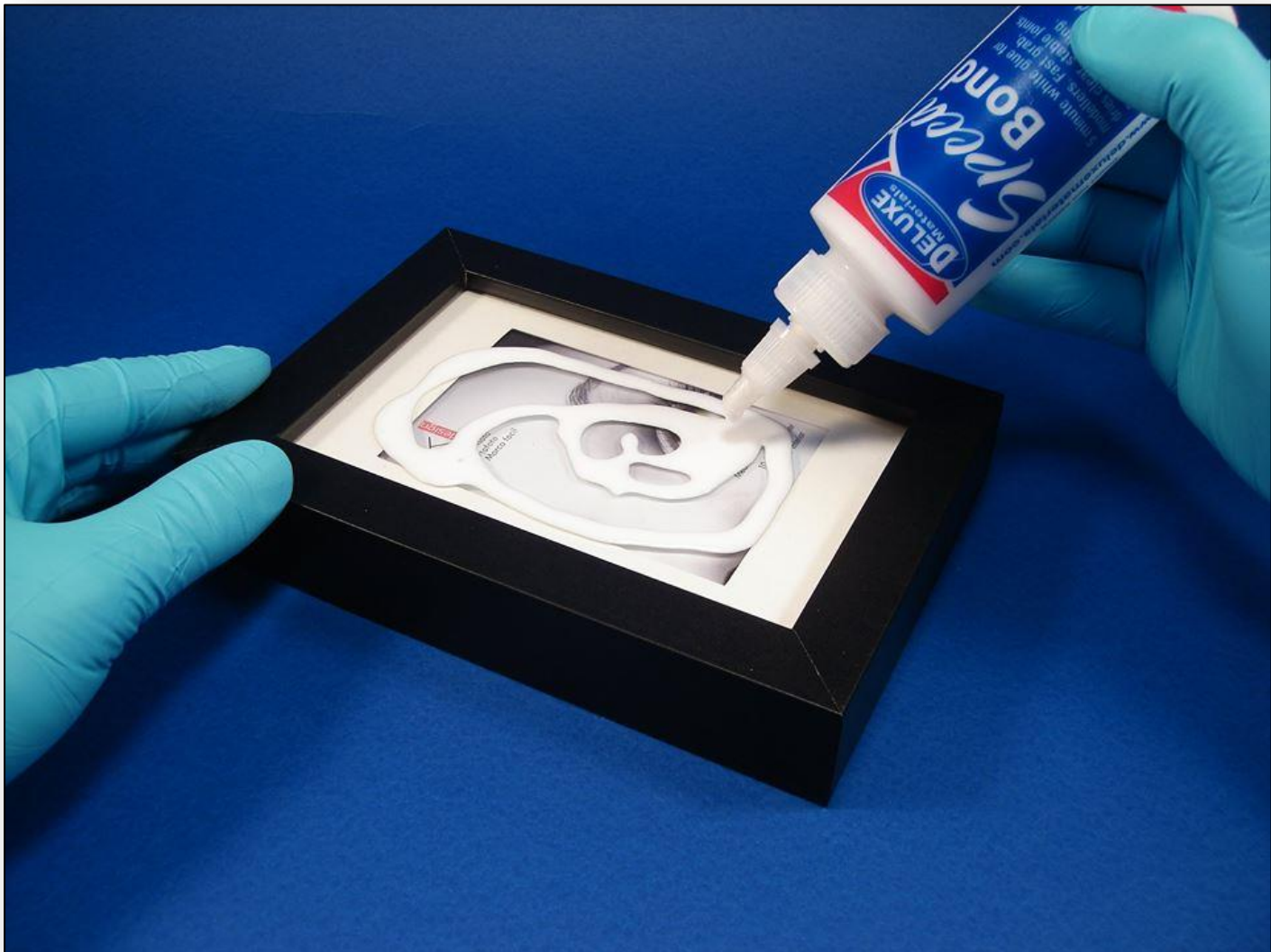
Well, not new, but it can be a good tip for someone out there!

How to make diorama bases in a easy and cheap way, using picture frames and heat insulation foam.

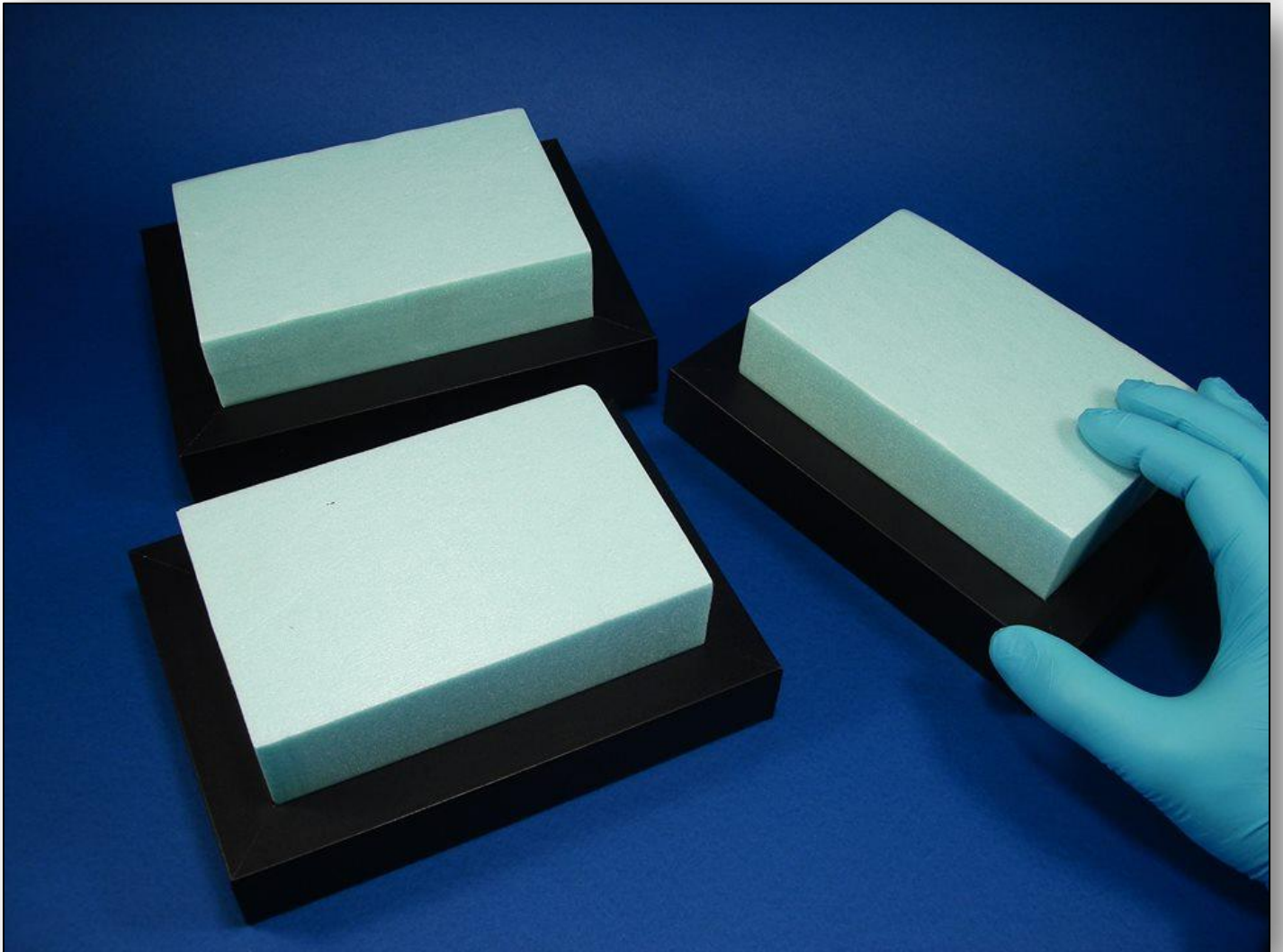
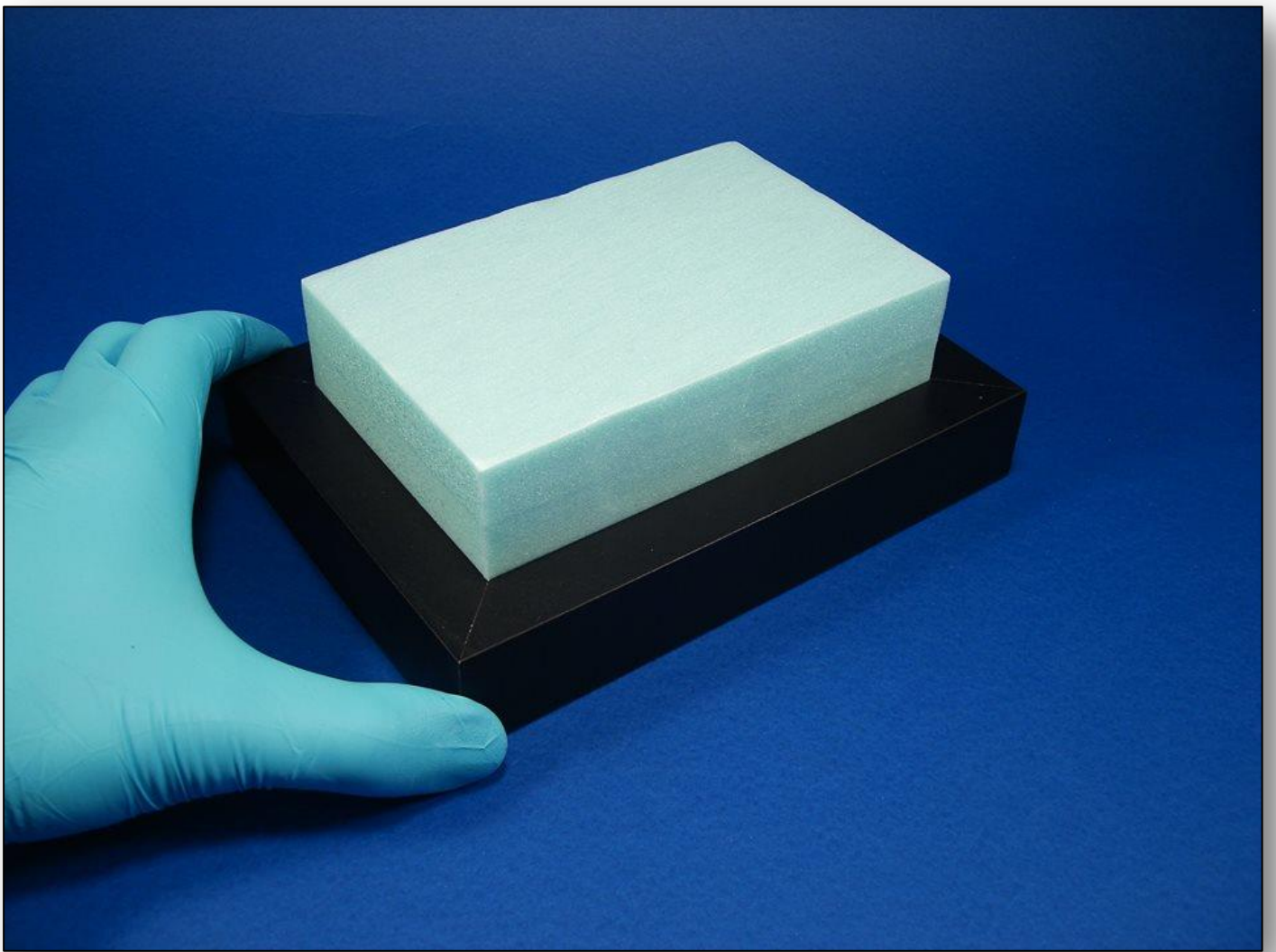




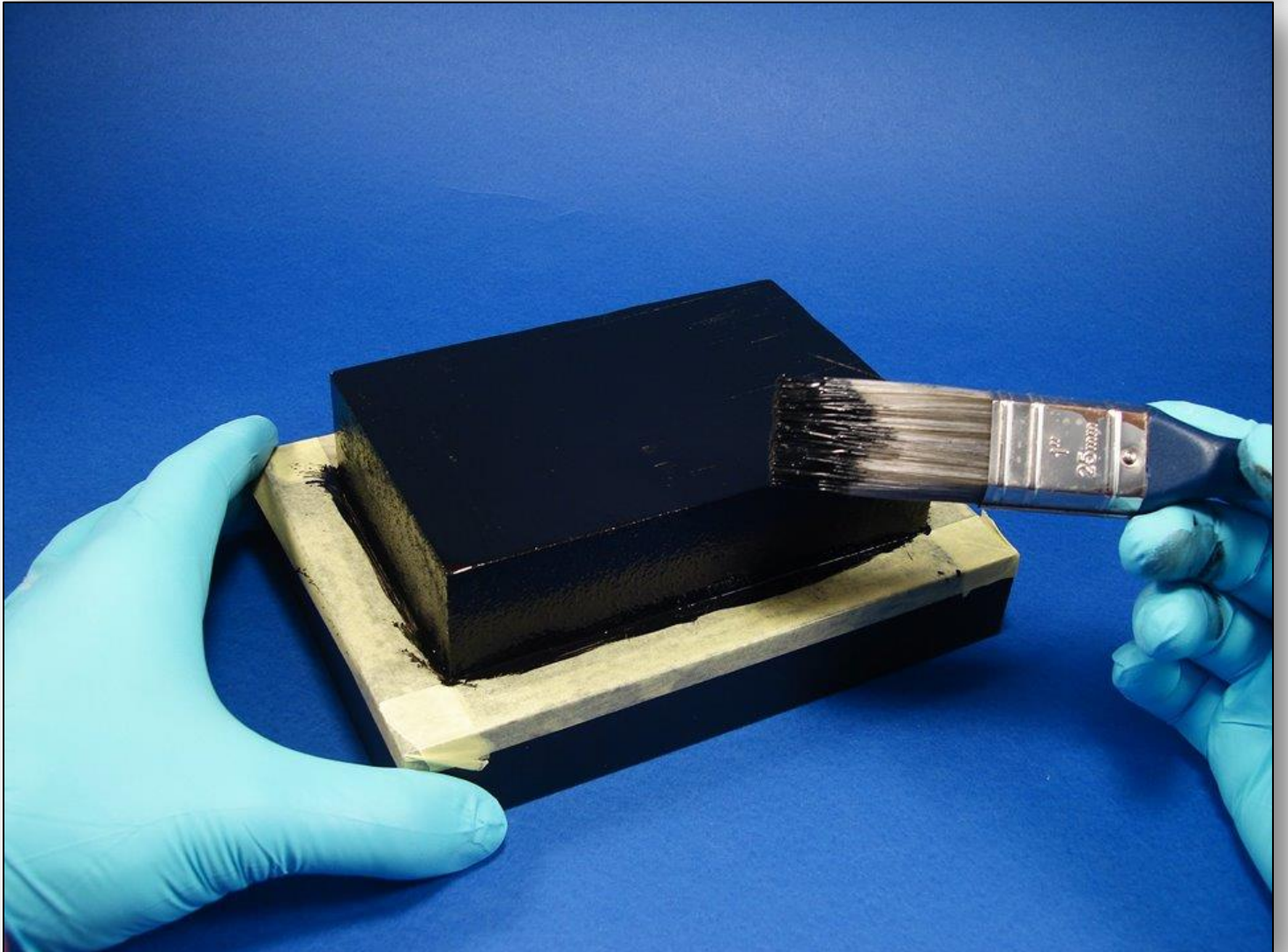
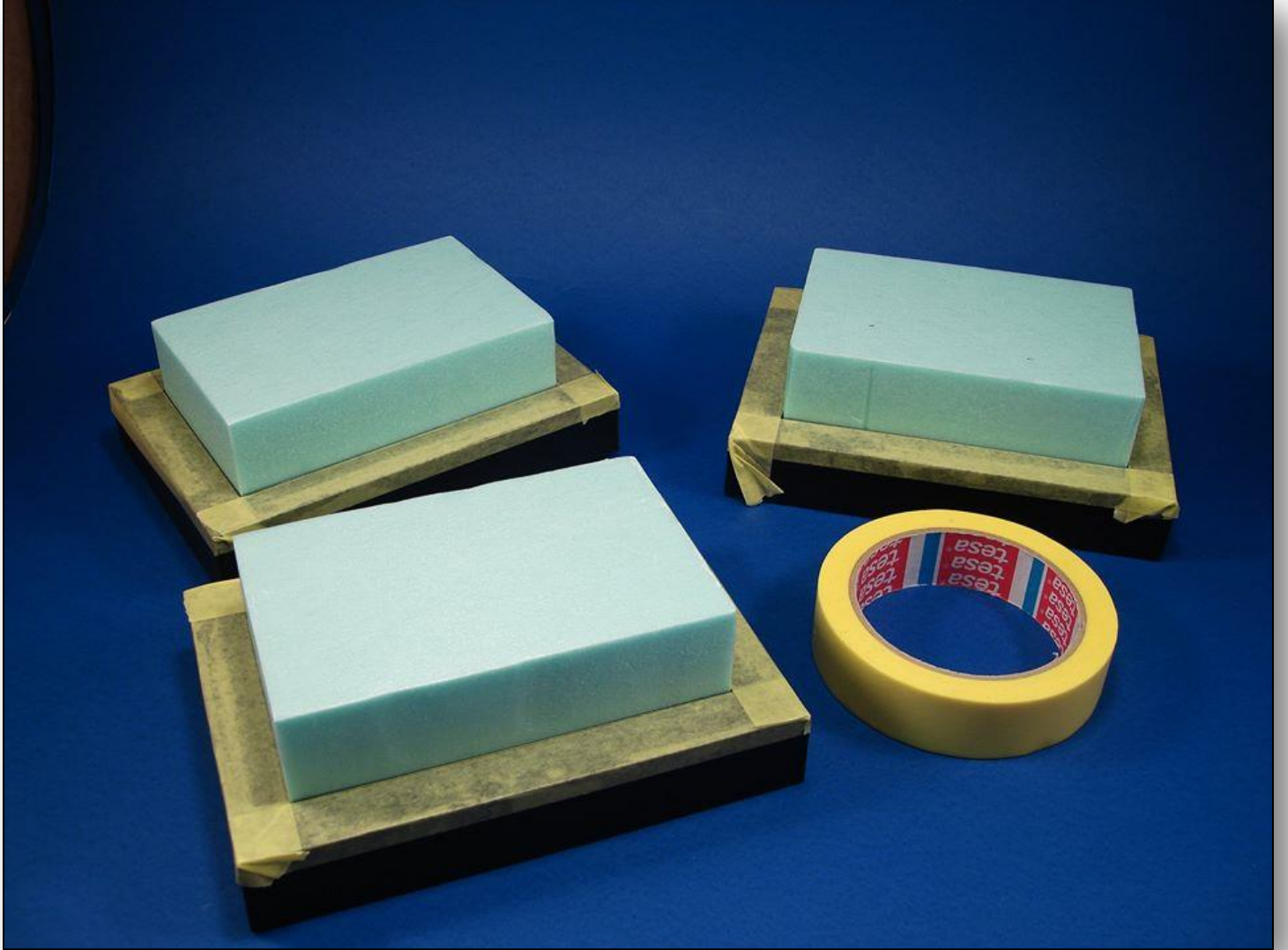




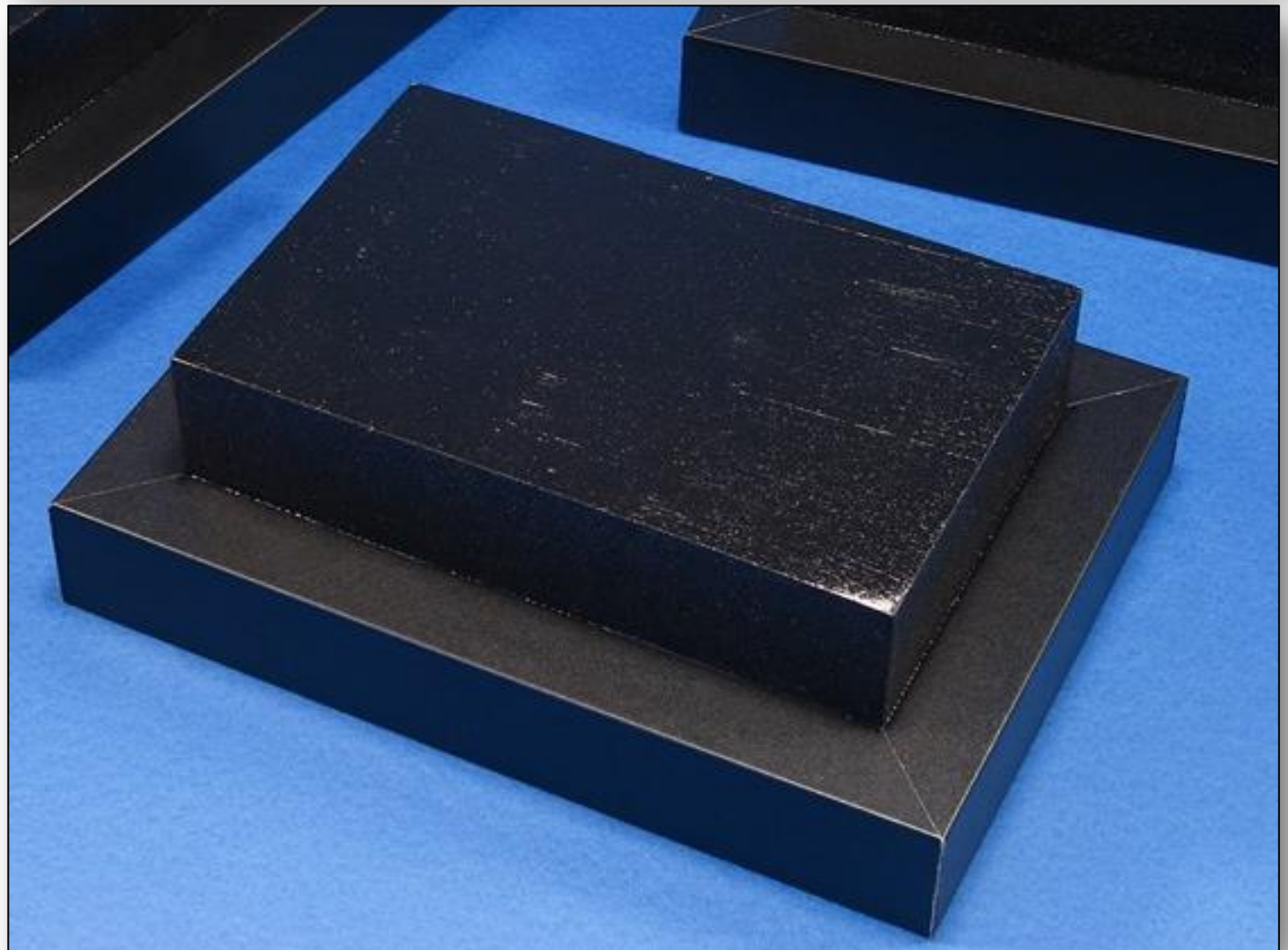
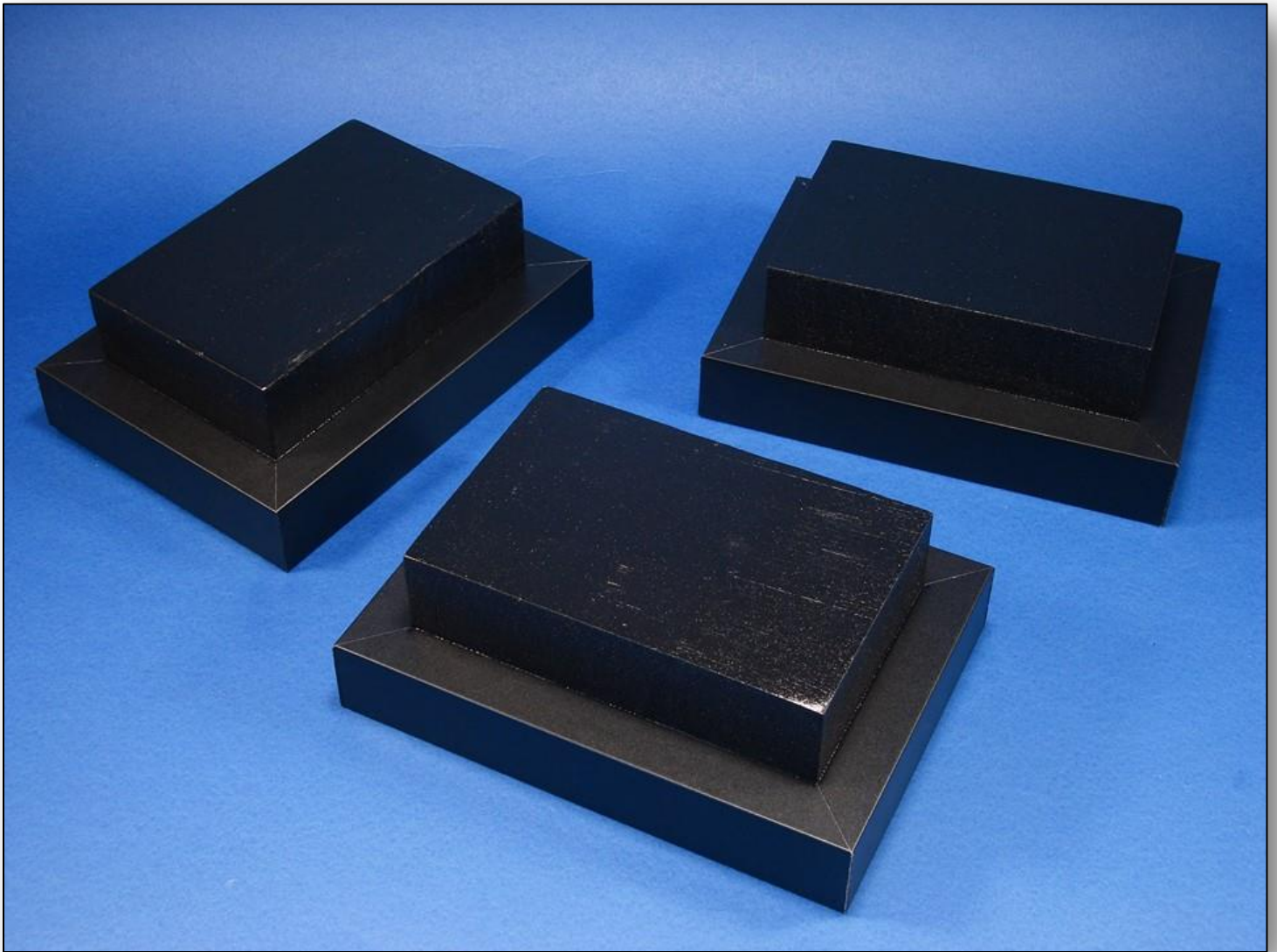








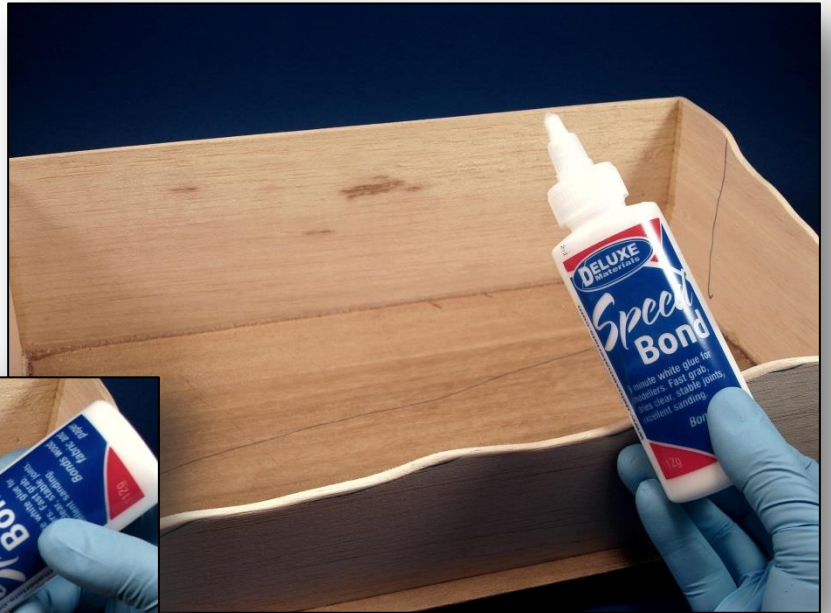




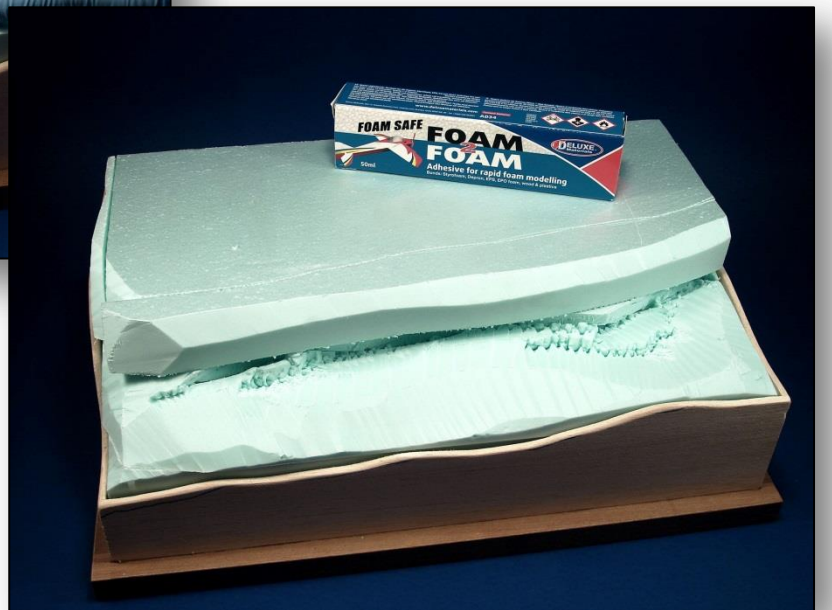
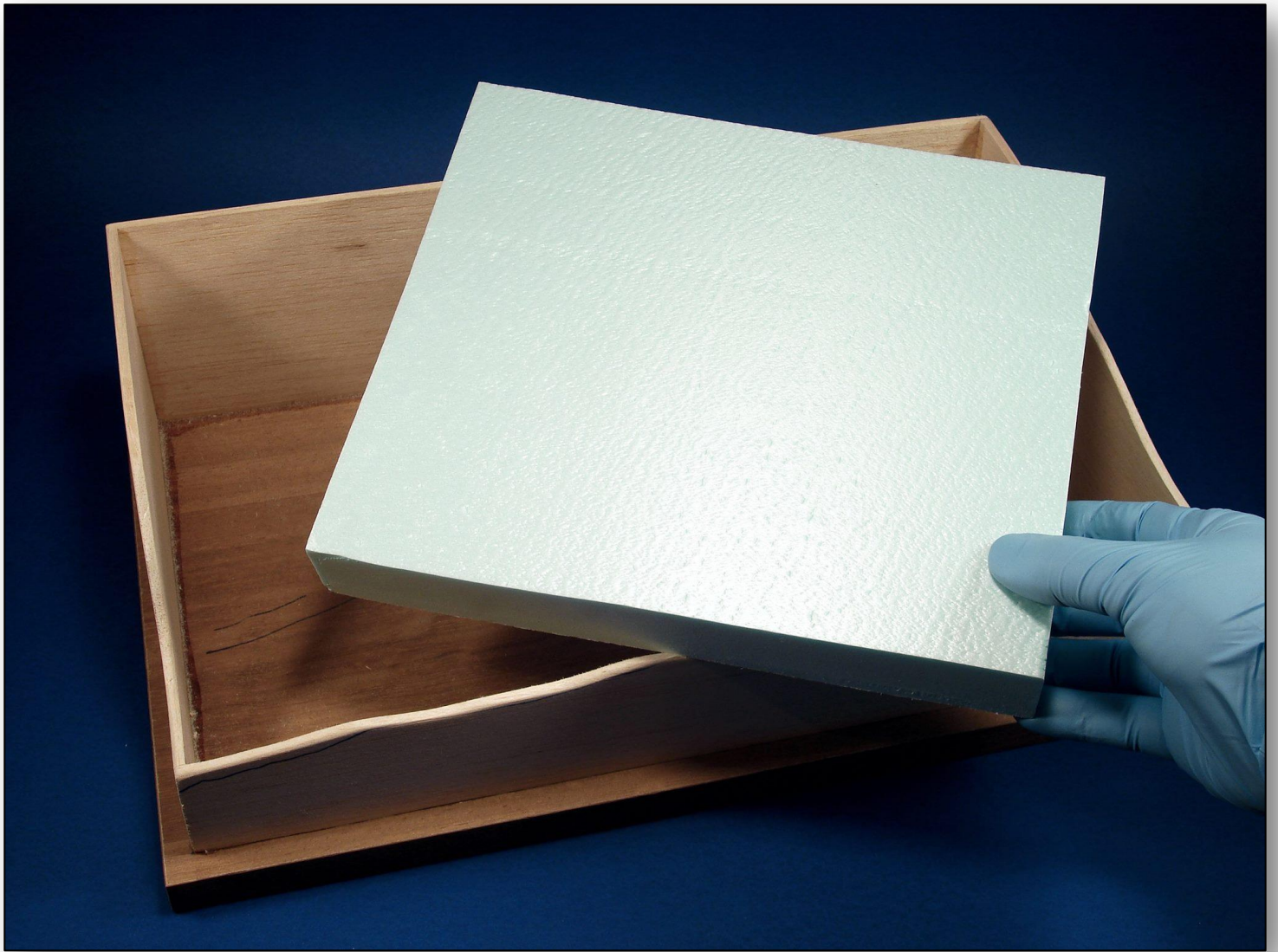




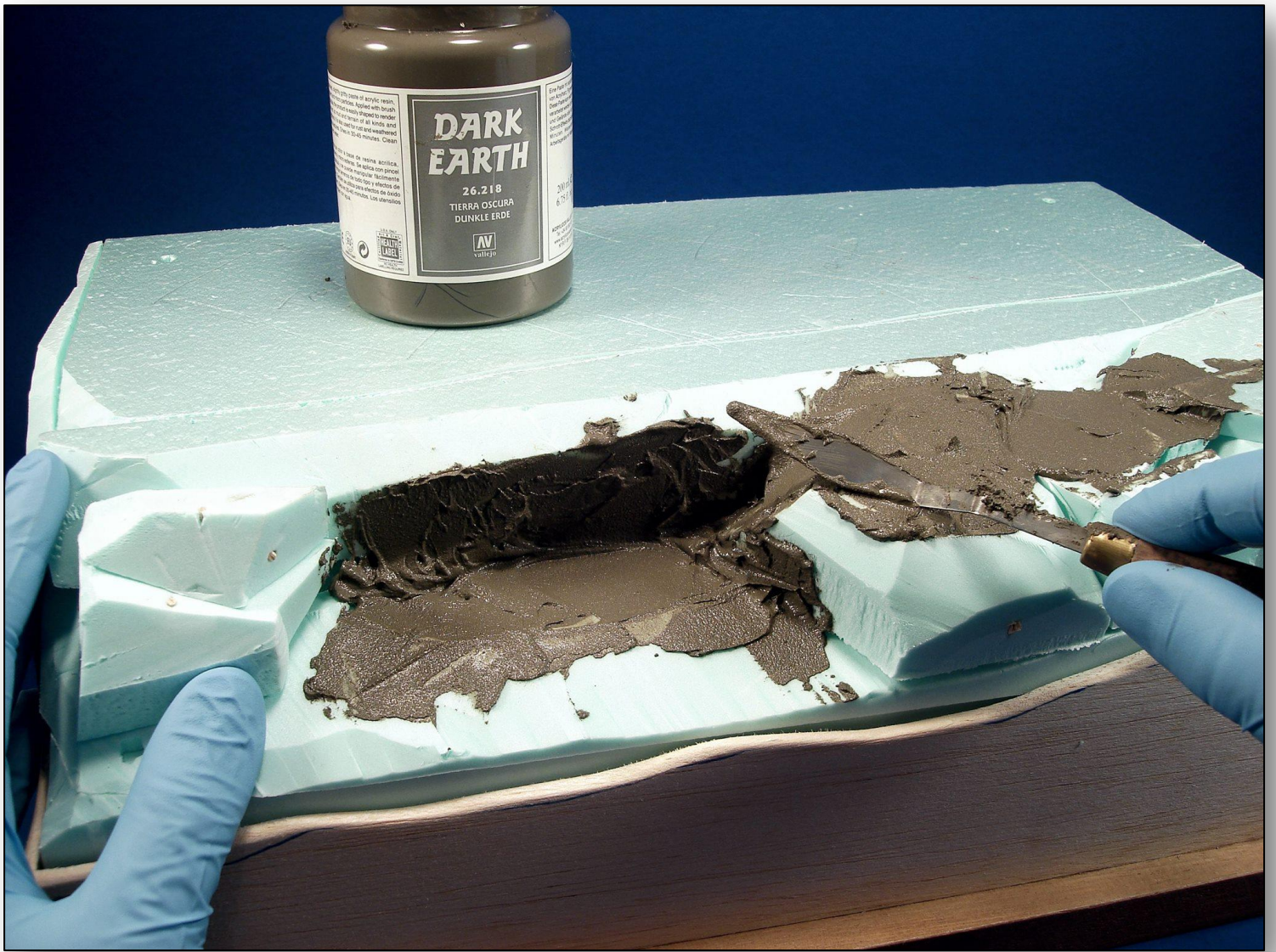




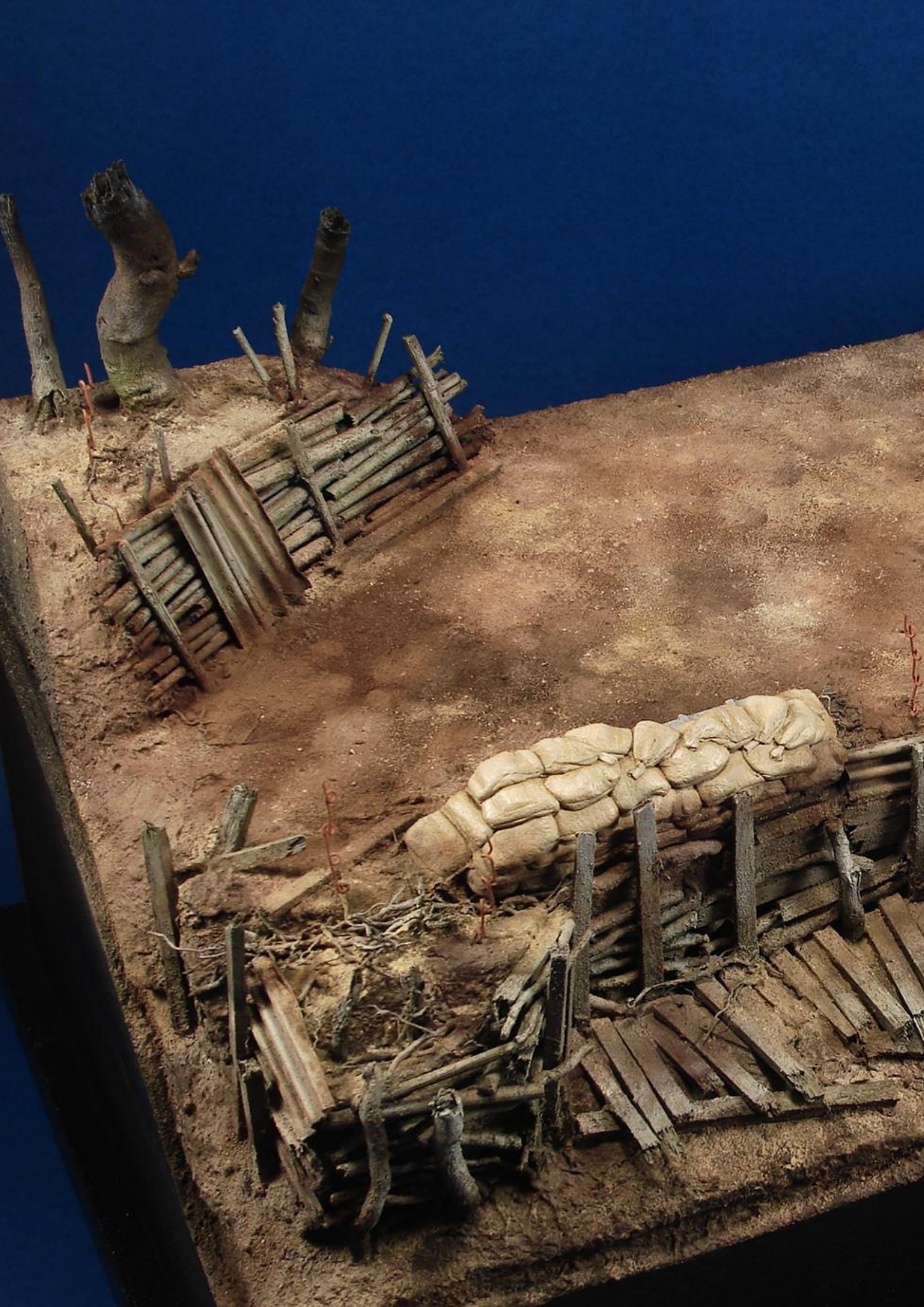










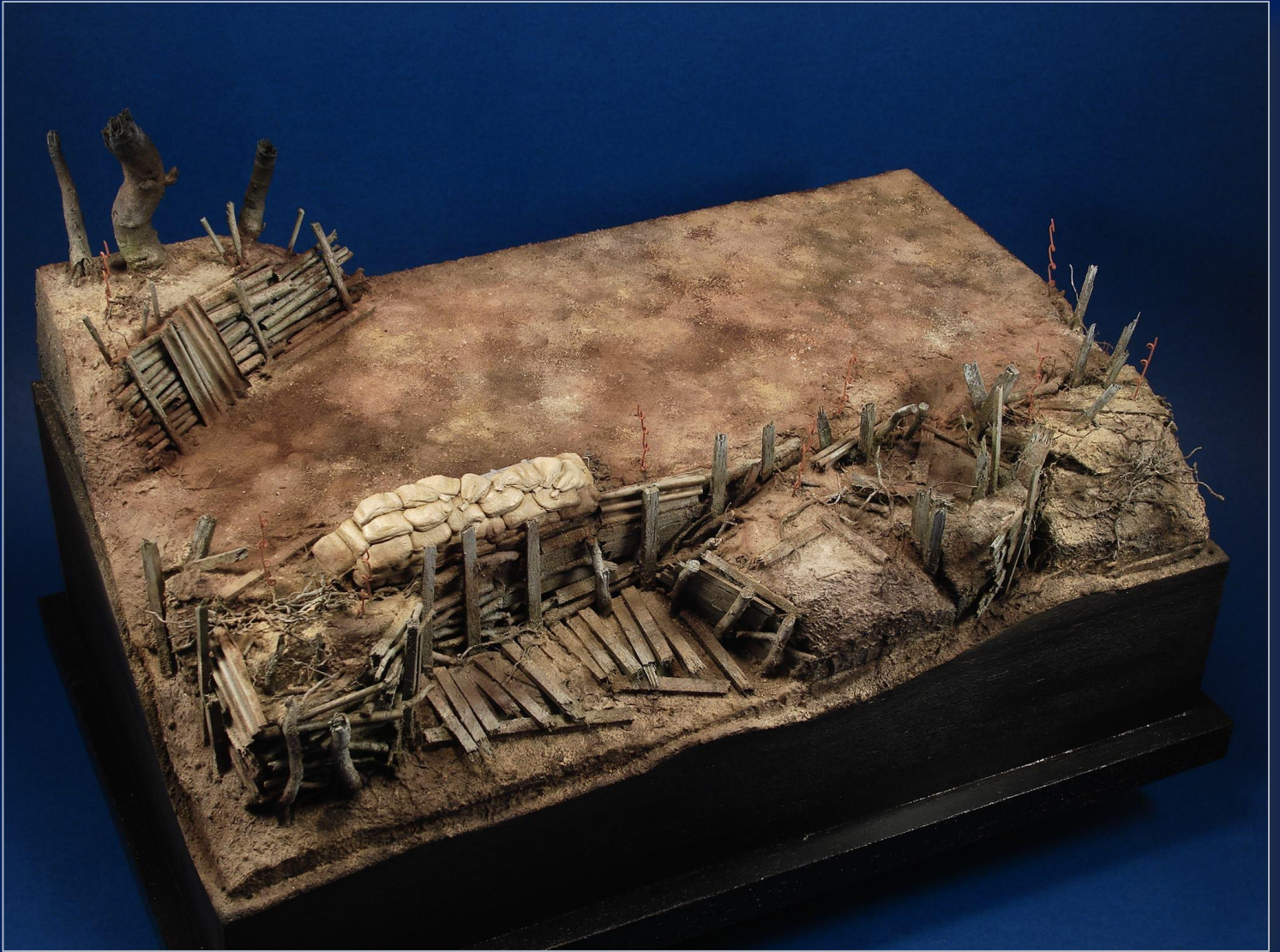








# *José Brito*







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