



SPARTAN SCENICS

WORKING WITH HDF & ACRYLIC SPARTAN SCENICS ASSEMBLY TIPS AND TRICKS Advice on Constructing Your Model Kits



Working With HDF (high-density-fibreboard)

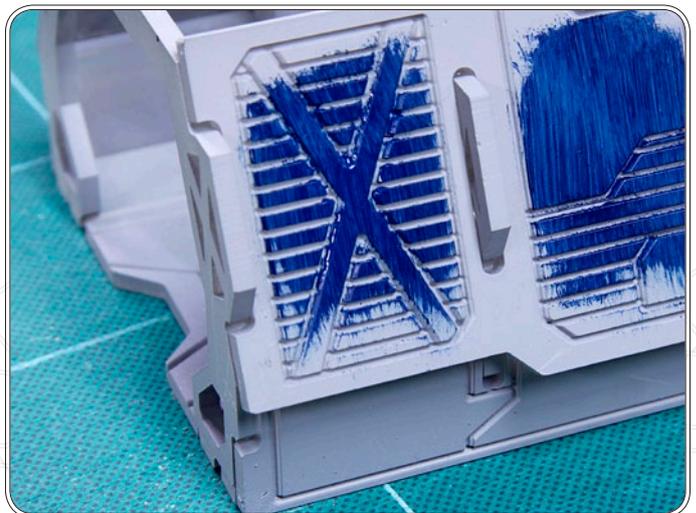
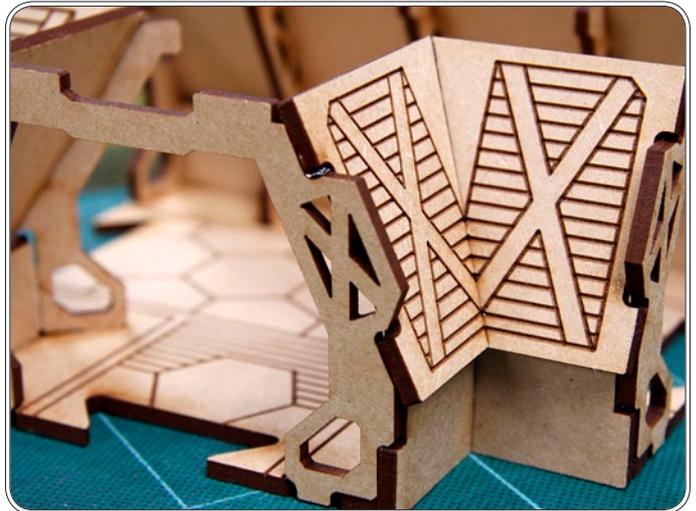
Your HDF scenery kit is precision lasercut from 3mm thick high quality wooden board. The only clean-up necessary is with a craft knife to remove small sprue tabs which are less than 1mm in thickness. No sanding is required as slots and tabs are designed to have a satisfying 'push-fit' tolerance to aid in construction. This means that you can slide most pieces together with either PVA glue or superglue applied without having to hold the two surfaces together whilst waiting for the adhesive to set.

The 3mm HDF is machined to a very accurate tolerance and we are confident that you will thoroughly enjoy putting your terrain together. However, in the rare event of the material being more than the factory standard 3mm in thickness you may wish to use a needle file to widen the slots a little helping to ease the fit of components. Whilst the HDF itself is harmless filing or sanding can produce dust which like any air-born particle can be harmful when inhaled over long periods of time. If you choose to sand or modify the terrain components in any way we highly recommend wearing the necessary protective equipment which is a dust mask.

Using Adhesive And Sensible Approaches To Building

Spartan Scenics Products are intended to be fixed together permanently with glue. Certain products such as the 'Modular Base' will then provide you with a set of units that can be arranged in a vast number of combinations giving you an array of gaming options. Once you have finished your session they can then be separated and stored individually ready for the next game scenario.

You may also wish to customise your terrain for you own enjoyment. The Modular Base 6 Inch Corridor for example has been designed to accommodate a variety of game experiences. If you wish to remove one or even both of the side panels you will be left with a waist-high barricade and a more open-plan design, perfect for ducking and shooting! Our advice is therefore to plan ahead before you glue anything permanently! Use the push-fit nature of the HDF pieces to build your kits first without glue. Once you are happy you can slide the pieces apart again and apply an adhesive. You may even find no glue is necessary; the corridor side panel is a perfect example of one such piece. We recommend using wood adhesive (PVA) or superglue. Both can be purchased at any hardware store or hobby shop.



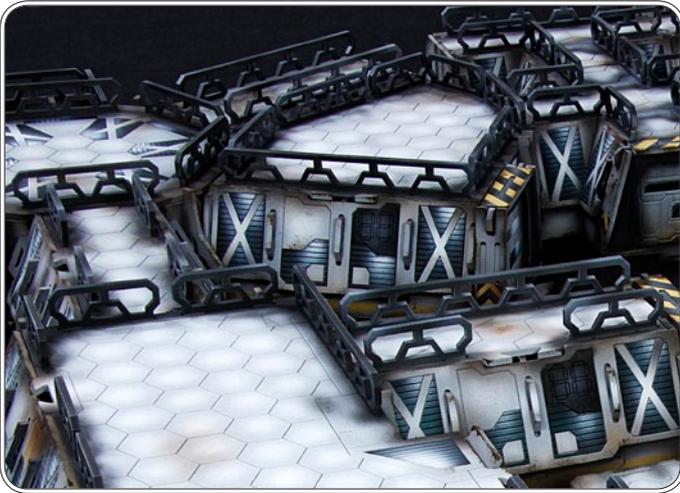
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Painting the HDF

You may apply paint to the components before construction or after - the choice is yours. Personally, I would recommend after construction as the paint will add a slight thickness to the material thus tightening the tolerance of slots and tabs. A good layer of primer is recommended. Spray cans are convenient but using a brush or roller with a water-based paint like acrylic would still provide an excellent base coat. Take caution not to apply too much of a thick basecoat otherwise some of the surface details may start to vanish!

The examples you see in the photos have had a variety of paint techniques applied including airbrushing and stippling with a brush. There are many excellent painting tutorials available in the internet to help you bring life to your battlefields!

Working With Acrylic

Acrylic is a superior material to HDF. It has weight and quality with a hard surface finish which is extremely durable. It is also available in thinner sheet sizes than HDF. Overall it's the more bespoke modelling material available to enthusiasts. Like the 3mm HDF however it too can occasionally become thicker than the factory standard. If you find your slots and tabs to be tight we recommend filing them slightly to ease the fit. An additional warning is required whilst handling acrylic as it can have extremely sharp edges, especially where flashing is present from the lasercutter.

Using Adhesive

We recommend superglue to fix models together as it binds acrylic very well. Acrylic is more likely to split than HDF so be careful when slotting pieces together. Do not force components into each other - if it's a tight fit ensure the surfaces are free of flashing or debris.

Painting Acrylic

Primer from a spray can is best for acrylic as water-based paints tend not to adhere to the glossy surface. Once primed you should be able to build up your base layers of colour with ease. A good tip for an ending paint job is to key the surface first. This requires some fine grade abrasive paper. Keying the acrylic surface back before applying the primer (in thin steady coats allowing drying time between) is a sure way to a long-lasting finish.



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