

Noville School Diorama Part 6 Finishing the Walls & Making Rubble.

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Moulds

The moulds we used to finish the walls and make the rubble:

- 1:35 Scale German Standard Brick Mould (1350001)

Finishing the Walls



To finish the broken ends of the walls we cast some bricks using the 1:35 Scale German Standard Brick Mould (1350001).

The bricks were stuck into the brick gaps at the ends of the wall sections using mortar coloured filler. Where the wall sections had been cut and had no gaps for bricks, we cut some into them using a rotary tool with a diamond coated burr. You could also use a junior hacksaw to cut mortar courses into the broken ends.

After the bricks were stuck in place we stippled some more mortar coloured filler between them. When this had dried we broke off some of the brick ends.

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Making the Rubble

For rubble to look realistic it needs to be made from the same materials as the damaged parts of the building and there needs to be enough of it to justify the damage done to that building.

The materials should not be a problem as we have made the building from scratch using materials that closely resemble and will break like the real thing. The only exception is the cast wall sections, simply breaking these up will not look like a real collapsed wall, so it is best to use cast individual bricks (you could break up any leftover wall sections and use them under the good rubble for bulk).

You should also have a good idea of the amount and the ratio of materials based on the amount of material it took to construct the standing part of the building.



Tip: *The debris from a collapsed floor is unlikely to be just a pile of wooden planks; it is more likely to be large sections of floor with broken edges. If the wooden debris and brick rubble have been piled up either by a bulldozer or by hand there will be many more individual broken planks and few larger sections.*



Rubble we made near the building.



Rubble we made which has been pushed off the road and piled up.

To reduce the amount of rubble we had to make. We cut the rough shape of the piles of rubble out of polystyrene and stuck it to the base (polystyrene is good because you can imbed wood and other debris into it). We then painted the polystyrene with diluted mortar coloured filler.

To make the rubble:

- Make lots of scale bricks (to up production use more than one mould).
- Using a flexible plastic chopping mat as a base, roughly build some bits of walls by sticking individual bricks together with mortar coloured filler. These bits of walls do not need to be perfect as they will be broken up, we are going for quantity here not quality.
- Break up the wall sections (we use a pestle and mortar). If you want to make rubble for old walls with weak mortar break the wall sections up while the filler is still damp, if you want to make rubble for newer walls with stronger mortar wait until the filler is completely dry before breaking it up (in either case do not make the pieces too small).

- To make broken mortar, spread mortar coloured filler onto the flexible plastic chopping mat (approx 0.5mm thick). Remove the set filler by bending the mat. Break it up into small pieces. These pieces should range in size from dust to quite large pieces; no piece should be larger in size than half a brick.
- Mix everything together adding more whole and broken bricks (the more bricks you add the more broken mortar you will need), bits of weathered wood, plaster sheet, broken tiles and anything else you feel is appropriate.

To make the large pieces of wood debris we made up some floor and roof sections as before and broke them up.

Once we had made our rubble we applied diluted PVA glue to the polystyrene base and poured some of the rubble onto it. Non water resistant PVA glue does not seem to change the colour of the plaster and can be diluted.

When you have covered the polystyrene you can layer up the rest of your rubble and debris following the order in which they would have collapsed.

When diluted well, PVA glue can be sprayed over the rubble to keep it in place. Make sure to do a test first as you do not want the brick rubble to be a different colour to the rest of the building. It will also wash away much of the mortar dust which may or may not need replacing, areas exposed to heavy rain may have had the dust washed away anyway).

Tip: *Even if you build a wrecked building from your imagination it is best to use pictures of real wrecked buildings as a reference when it comes to rubble.*

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