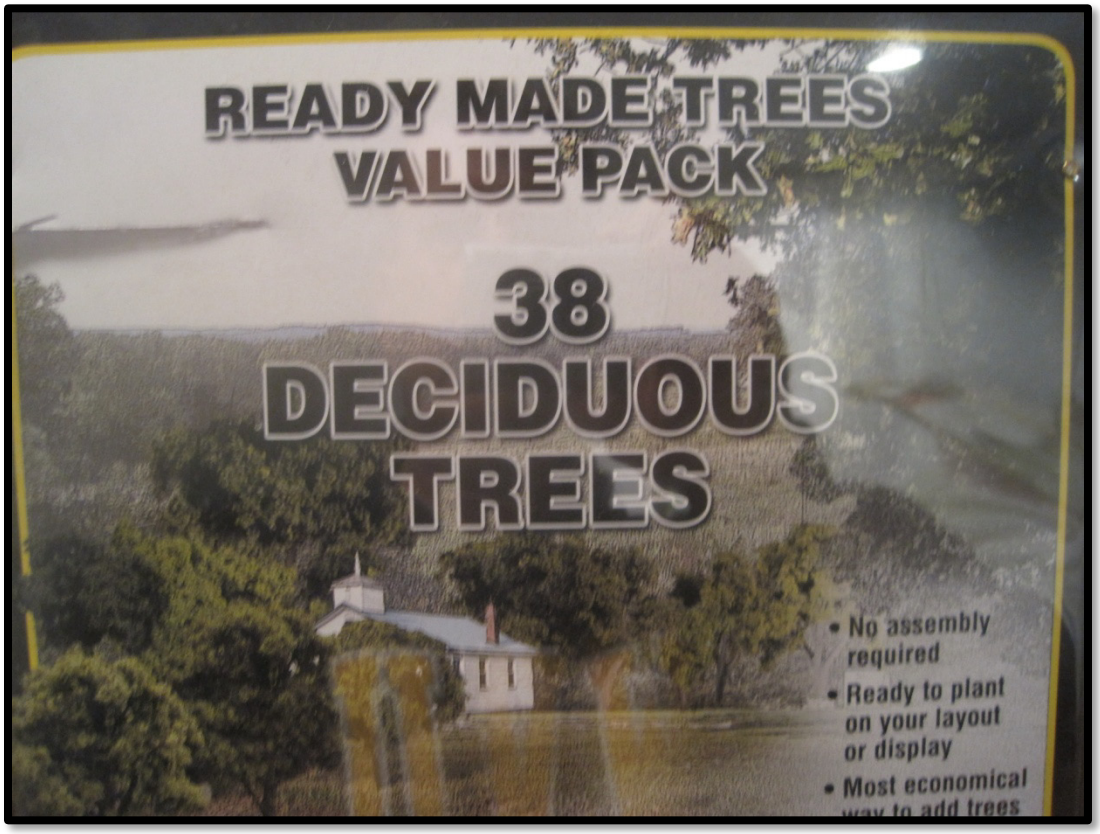
Making Hedgerows

Finding realistic terrain is difficult, and when you do, it's usually quite expensive. Finding it in 6mm is nay impossible. Time Cast makes some nice bocage, but I have never been particularly impressed by the realism. So, I decided to try my hand at making it.

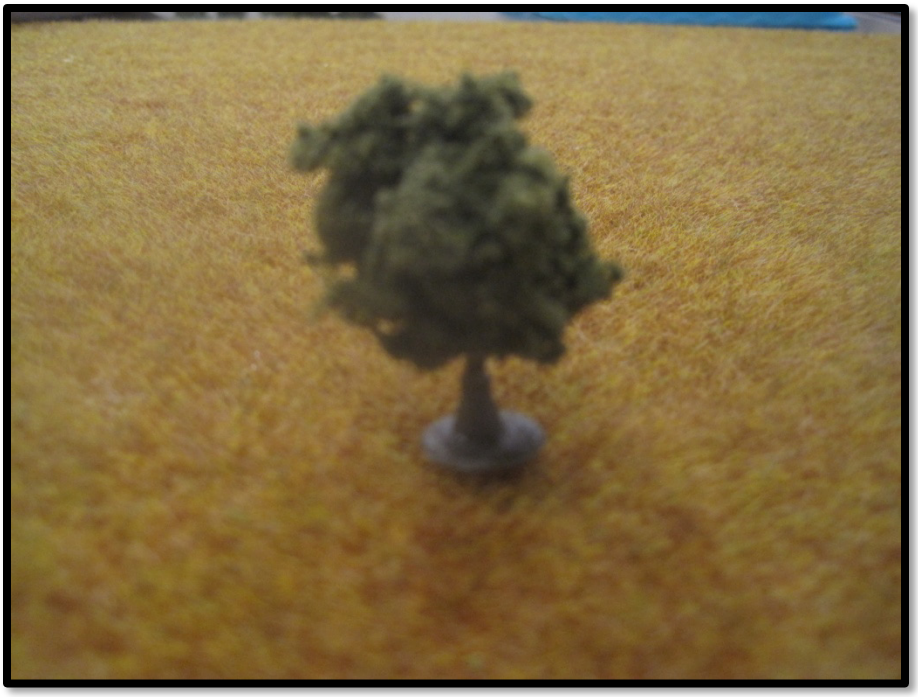
Typically, I do not consider myself an artist, especially when it comes to painting miniatures. As a matter of fact, I will opt to pay someone else to create my gaming pieces whenever possible. But, when it comes to "doing it yourself," it helps to have a wife, who is a professional artist. I know what you're thinking. Why not ask her to do it? Well, she is not fond of my hobby. I suppose I spend too much money hiring others to do the work. Because these darn things turned out so well, I thought I would share it with everyone. So, here we go.

Step 1

I cheated right off the bat and bought some Woodland Scenic Trees. I have tried to make my own with wire, but I was not happy. For just under $30, I was able to get 38 ready-made trees.



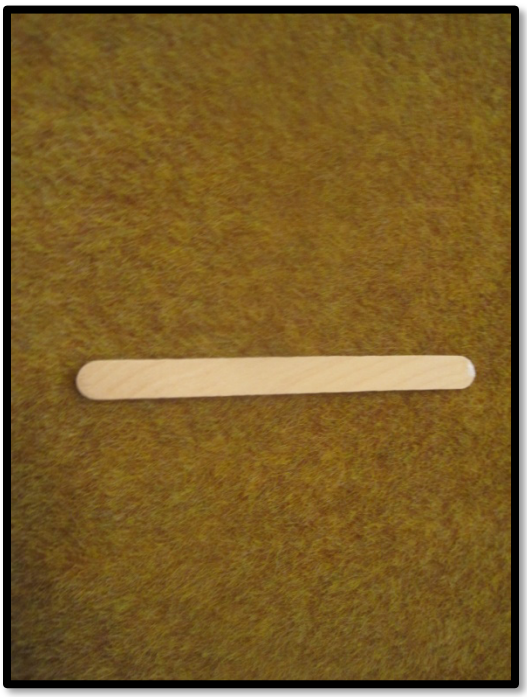
Woodland Scenic Ready-made Trees



2" Deciduous Tree

Step 2

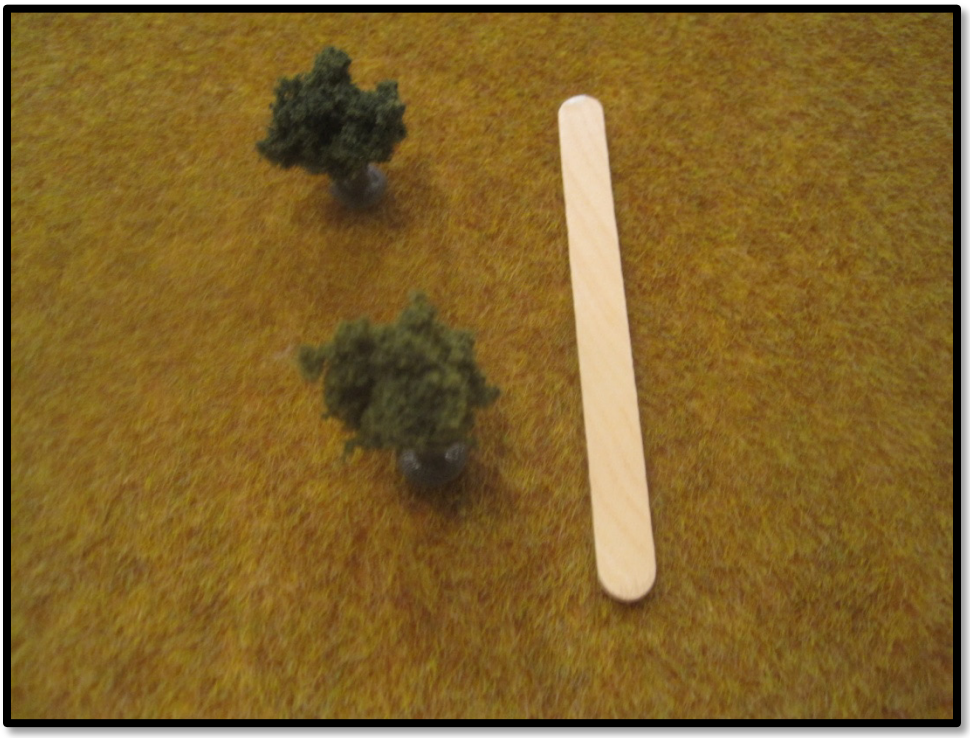
I thought about something that could act as a base for my bocage and it occurred to me that a popsicle stick would be perfect, and wouldn't you know it, my artist wife had a bunch of them in her studio. What would she want with 100 small sticks? Say ah.



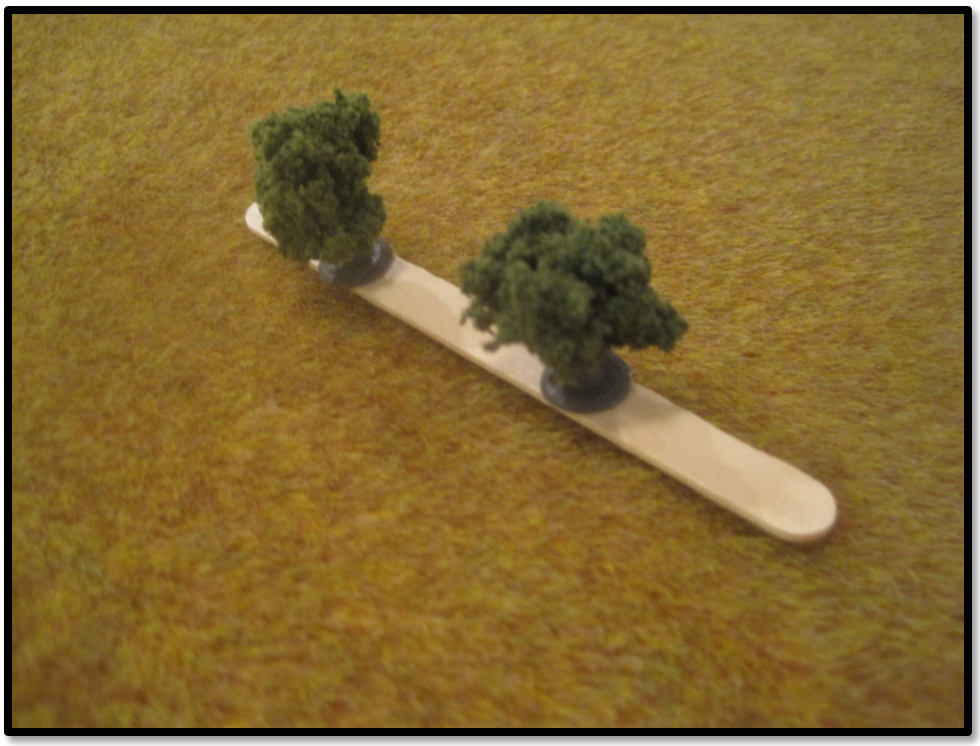
Popsicle Stick

Step 3

The next thing is to select one to two trees for each stick.

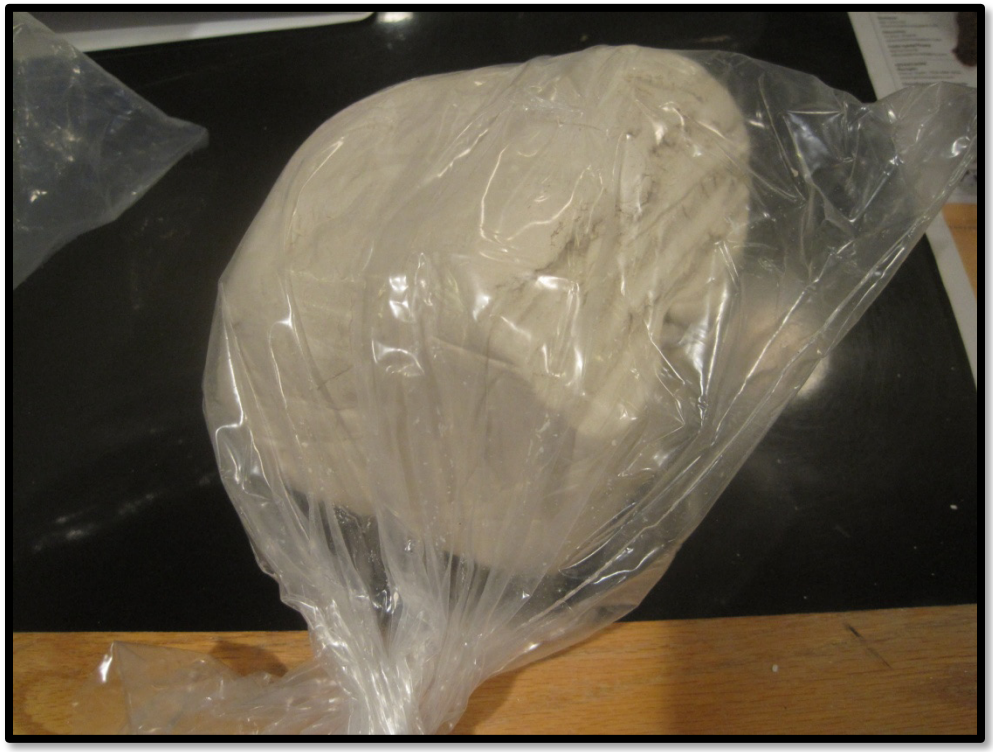


Then just glue them in place with some generic PVA (Elmer's Glue).



Step 4

Now you must build a berm. There are several ways to do this, but because my wife is an artist, I took advantage of the fact that she is a brilliant potter and has a stash of clay. This stuff is easy to manipulate and it dries in a matter of hours. So, pinch off a little and roll it into a worm. Then press it in place and form it with your fingers. Because it has no natural adhesive properties, I spread a little glue and reposition it.



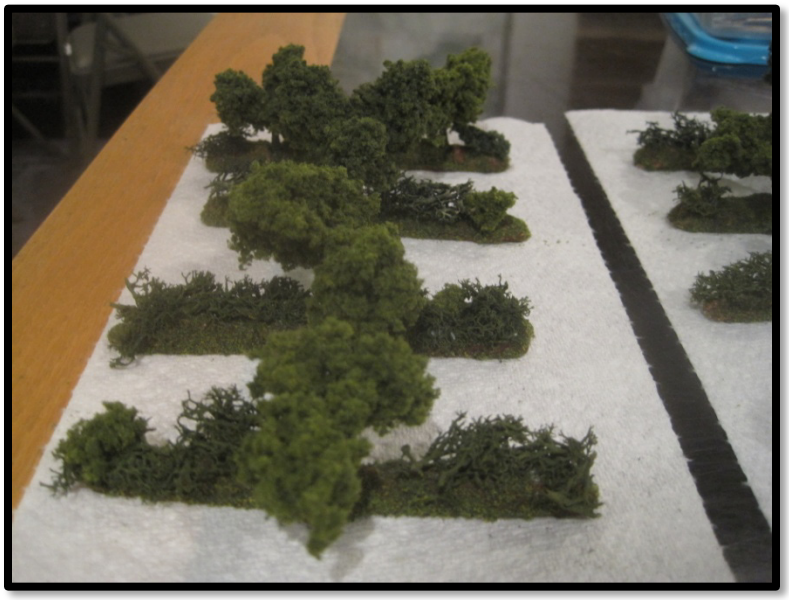
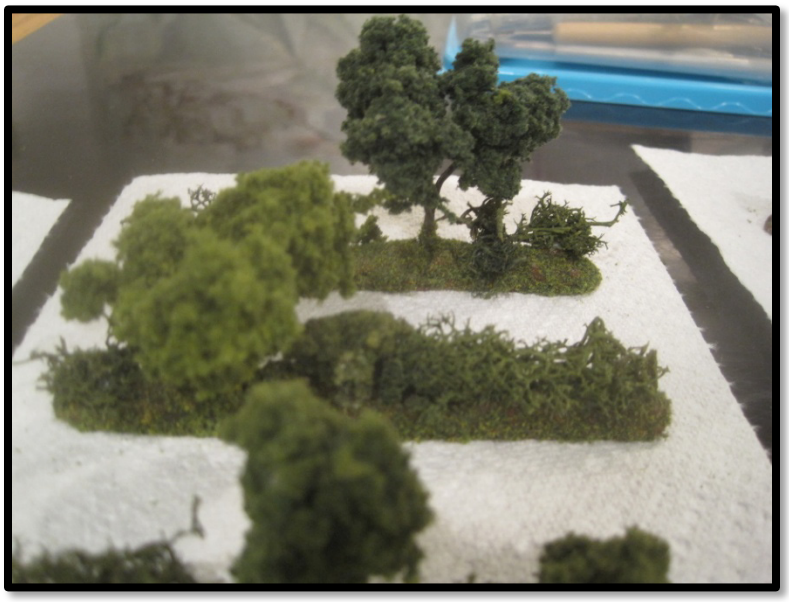
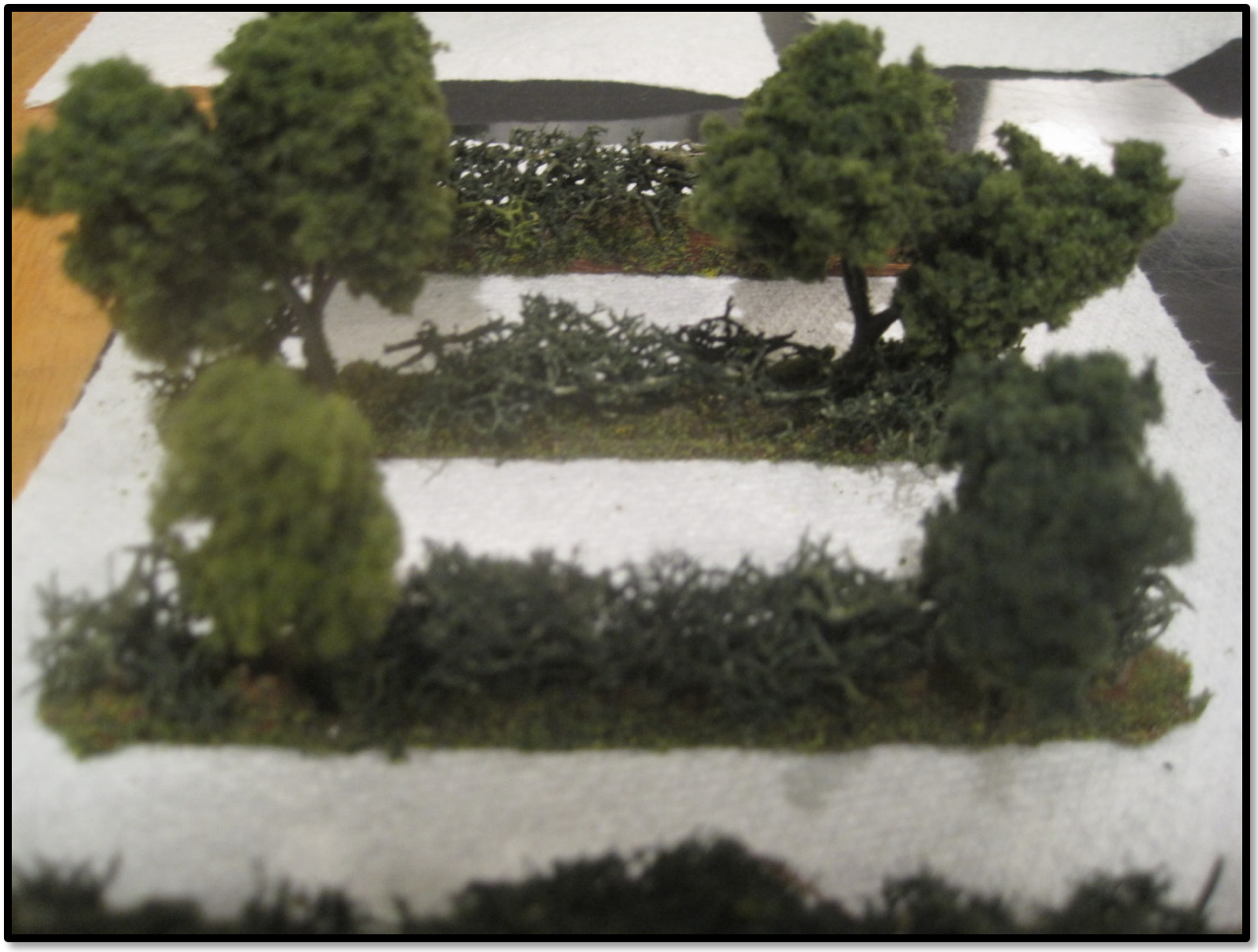
Block of quick dry clay.

A clay knife is helpful.

The berm is shaped and glued in place.

Step 5

Now it's time to paint the berm. This is important, because when flocking the hedgerows, coverage is never complete. In this way, the brown shows through and creates the illusion of irregular bocage. I used a cheap brown acrylic paint available at any arts and crafts store.

Step 6

You're almost finished. The last part really brings the piece to life. I flock it with Woodland Scenic's blended turf. Finally, I glue foliage (lichen) on the top, to give it the final touch. Voila...you have Normandy hedgerow in 6mm. Some of these French hedgerows were immense, anywhere from 10 to 12 feet high. So, these look great on the gaming table. I'm not sure about the durability, but I made them. So, I should be able to maintain them too. I hope you found this helpful...happy gaming.