

Bretonnian Castle (In Progress)

Tuesday, 28 May 2013

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The Idea to put the castle on here was first and foremost, I admit to show it off. But in hindsight I thought to myself "Who better to show it to than you? To ask...What I should add? What colours should I use? and what should a true Bretonnian Castle look like? So please feel free to comment, and post your criticism, (be polite)...and now without any further ado.

My Lords...Ladies of Bretonnia. The Castle (Yet to be named)

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Â The Castle has been, and still is a work of pure evolution. Youâ€™ll see photos all along the way through the design, and see how itâ€™s changed and progressed with time.

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The way I work, as with most sculptures, is with an idea, which constantly changes and grows as I work on it. I get a kick out of designing something which no other Warhammer player has yet dreamed or dared of making. Movies, and past castles that Iâ€™ve visited, with a very large amount of imagination, have all lent their hands in this project.

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The idea: To build a distinctive Bretonnian Castle, one I can use in a game(where appropriate) or just as a mere display piece, so show off to every Bretonnian player out there.

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I think a Castle is as much as personal and important as your army you represent. And I would encourage any DIY enthusiast to pick up that craft knife and get hacking!Â

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I am looking for a name for this castle, Bear in mind its ancient High Elven heritage. Possible names Iâ€™ve considered are Castle Carcassonne, Lou Touradou, Sibourne,and Castle Desfleuve. Any other ideas please let me know, and enjoy the article!Â

Â Â Â The inspiration behind this castle, probly began with a lifetime of fascination with castles, and history. I have a passion for making models and after making woods, a tavern, and a fort for my warhammer figures, a castle seemed like the next big challenge. The Bretonnian army, seems to more based on the French in the medieval times then the English, and so I looked to French castles to fuel this fascination. One French castle from which this inspiration sprung was the fantasy castle of Peirofonds. Sitting on dominant struck of cliff, in a picturesque little village.Â

Â Constructed entirely from Blue foam board, (which is strong, rigid, and very easy to cut) thick cardboard, a variety of glues and adhesives, filler, plaster, and bitz. Â

Â The rest, imagination and a whole lot of improvisation!Â

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:An Orc raiding party, jumps out of the wood.

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In siege conditions, the castle could hold a garrison of one hundred defenders. Not including possible room for others in the vaults bellow the Castle hill. TheÂ Castle contains room for 40 defenders on the walls and towers, 63 arrow slits, and old cannon in the old chapel window. 3 walls, strong gatehouse, and one of my favourite parts, made specially for the army of Bretonnia, a Trebuchet platform! The castle does have its own well, and stables beneath the keep.Â Five battle towers, and the new addition of the Octagon tower,(replaces the D tower) ensuring that all angles of approach are catered for.

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Â Here are several of the early images, showing its many changes.Â

Â Â :The Courtyard

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As you can see at this point the model is taking more of its current form, notice the conical turret (which will change latter), also note the gatehouse, and main turret remain blank as I was not decided on it.Â Â

After trying numerous things with the gatehouse, like trying a small balcony, I scrapped it and went all out maximising the number of archersÂ I could potentially position on the top of it.

It presented the nice challenge of shaping the foam board around the curved section which worked like a dream. Instead of cutting tiny pieces I cut âœVâœ• sections out the back to help it bend. When it was glued in place, I went over with filler and filled the incisions, and now itâ€™s solid!Â Can fit about eight + archers on it, facing various ways.

This gatehouse is actually one of my favourite components, the curved tower gives the archers a clear view over much of the eastern side of the castle, and vice-versa. Also the tall opening in the gatehouse might not be to everyoneâ€™s liking. I admit it is narrow, still a knight can get thought with its lance, which is exactly what it would be used for, but it also gives the castle that, tall feel, dominant feel which castles so typically are like. The horse heads where a nice addition, giving it a real Bretonnian feel, Shields would also work. You may have noticed that I have glued rocks around the Castle; if you look closely youâ€™ll also see some âœOddâœ• shaped ones, that because they are fossils, which can be painted up to look like skeletons, or just weird rocks!Â

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Â Â Â Â Â Â Â :The Gatehouse

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Â :All painted and looking sharp.

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You might have seen the detail in the gatehouse bricks, as much as I wish the card came like that, it didnâ€™t. And every brick you see in this model is painstakingly hand-crafted.Â

Of course doing that level of detail around the entire castle will take forever so for the most part everywhere else will be randomly covered in cut cardboard tiles. To imitate the brick look.

The edges might be done individually however and made to stand out, and painted a different colour.

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For all this time I had no idea what to do with the tops of the tower! So as all great artists do, I procrastinated until I found an idea that grabbed me. I got inspiration from a Warhammer tower (below) I saw and instantly started work on what I thought would be a satisfactory solution. These pictures here show you how the double tapering roofs were constructed. Reminecent of medieval French roofs using one tall thin cone, and a ring of small triangles. Was glued and held in places and when dry was covered in plaster. Then sanded down and painted.Â

Â Â :GW tower

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Â The end result though is quite neat. Its solid too, so even if it does get knocked in transit, (which it will) Iâ€™m glad to say that itâ€™s not going anywhere. To finish: cut several hundred hand cut card tiles and glue them on individually! Joy! I love making more work for myself!

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Â When it was finally all painted, I was so excited I had to take photos of this little diorama. The view from Kings Tower, as a unit of Knights of the Realm hasten to do battle with a small rabble of rather brave Goblins!

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A Good view of the Trebuchet Platform, with supporting ramparts on either side.Â Spikes have been added. And now I just need some Elf heads, or skulls to glue to them! Â-Â-Â Â Â

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Â A good view of the north face, clearly showing the two separate modules that will remain independent. The reasons how and why they were is to be honest quite accidental, but all due to the evolutionary process I mentioned earlier. In hindsight, itâ€™s actually a very good idea that it is, as Iâ€™ve got to try and paint this beast whenever I finally decide to stop building it!Â

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Â Â Â With so much attention and revamping on the main gate and towers, I turned the model around and thoughtâ€œThis is going to doâ€œ and so started changing this. Again a new addition upon finding an old cannon in a box of bits, I thoughtâ€œWell why not?â€œÂ

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Â Crafted an old blocked up, Portcullis. All buildings tell a story, and none so much as Castles.Â I wanted to add age, so by looking at the Castle you can clearly see that itâ€™s been modified,Â over the centuries of war and fighting.

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Â I actually expanded the base because I ran out of room! My brother-in-law, a War History expert, among many things, is also a collector of High Elves, but I wont hold that against him. He was surprised when he saw the solid castle protected on its west side by little more than a garden wall! (As the original plan shows) I replied saying "The castle was on a steep hill!" Not long after, I saw his reasoning and added an extra "Extention" roughly another fifty percent to the castle!Â

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Â I am adding to this project weekly, and so will add more information and photographs as I go. Please, as I stated in the introduction, let me know you thoughts, I want advice and suggestions. I also have no idea what colour scheme to paint it, so if you have any ideas, do get in touch. Thanks for showing your interest!Â

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Â 13/06/2013 Changes

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Â In this photo and the one below you will be able to see a few "slight" changes to the outside. Firstly the gatehouse round tower has been taken down a touch, to stop it apperaing too tall. Heraldry has been added to the facade of the Gatehouse. My obsession with Geroge RR Martins work stands out here as I quite liked the Starks I decided to both combine the wolf sigil with a pair of anthlers as seen in the gatehouse closeup.

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Â Right here is the now opened up courtyard, I removed the overhanging platform and moved it to the rear. Â I wanted to be able to see inside the courtyard, and really make it a bit more "Grand". A door now leads into the great hall from the wall, and you can make out archways, and chimney which are planned to be built latter. A coat of arms will be added to the main tower doorwar, and decorative "stonework" above the two arched windows. Any ideas please comment. Â

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Â In this photo you will firstly see that all the ramparts have been extended to fit two rows of defenders quite comfortably. Will make playing games by far easier if you can rank everybody up evenly.

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Â I wasn't happy (yet again) with the back of the building and so as you can probably see I moved bits around and what not, added a new tower which is still under development. In my oppinion by far better!Â

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Â Below is another little project I started alongside the Castle. Made entirely from sprues, all chopped and aged to maake look like planks of wood! Add a very basic wash of paint, and the useless boy from the trebuchet model and there you have it! My very own broken wagon.

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...More to follow! Thanks for all your interest please comment.Â

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And finally, at long last here are some photosÂ

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Â Birds Eye View the tape is measured at 24 Â inches.Â