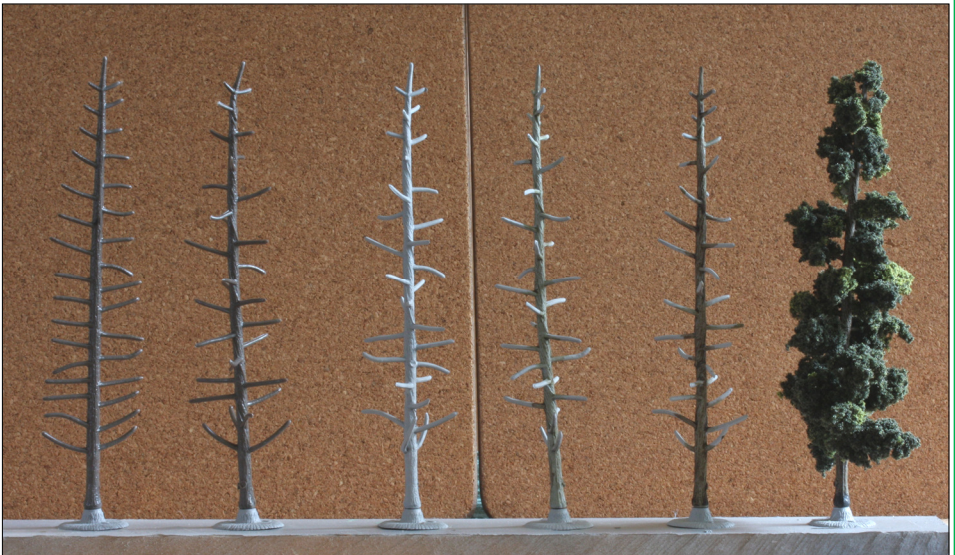


Basic Trees

I have been making a lot of trees lately, some rather large ones for Okehampton and many more smaller trees for my own layout. Here is how I make the simpler ones:

Woodland Scenics conifers:

- 1 These come as a pack of flat armatures, in this case plastic but some are whitemetal.
- 2 twist the trunk (you can soak them in hot water to help) so that the branches are pointing in all directions. If you do not twist enough you get a spiral effect.
- 3 Spray with grey primer, in this case Tamiya, available from Hobbycraft.
- 4 Paint with Games Workshop washes (earthshade and camoshade) to get the required colour. In this case the first wash is earthshade and then followed by camoshade while this is still wet.
- 5 When dry another coat of earthshade is added. This gives a slightly brown tint suitable for these conifers.
- 6 Add foliage, here I have used Woodland Scenics Forest Green bushes which is Conifer Green with some lighter highlights. Conifer green and dark green would also be suitable. I used superglue for speed but any adhesive with a bit of instant grip will work. Some of the clumps of foliage were pressed over the spike of the branch while others were attached to the sides.



These will be background trees, 1 or 2 deep on my N gauge layout. They work out to be a scale 22.4 metres tall or 74 feet tall. I think that is a good size for a railway tree. The effect I wanted was for the trunk to be visible through gaps in the generally dense foliage. Looking at the forests out the window of the trains while I travel around Europe you get just this effect. When the sun shines you see the brown trunks. A small spotlight may be needed on the layout!

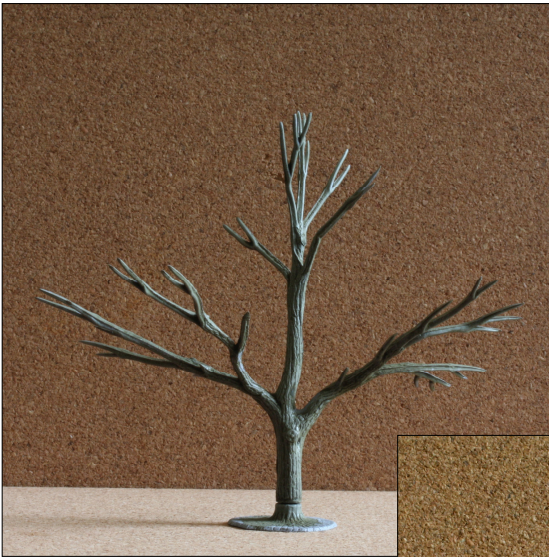
Paul

Basic Trees 2

Woodland Scenics produce deciduous trees in a range of sizes. Just like the conifers you need to twist them and then paint, I use a spray of light grey Tamiya primer and then acrylic washes. In this case I use less brown and more green than for the conifers. The aim is for a grey/green colour.

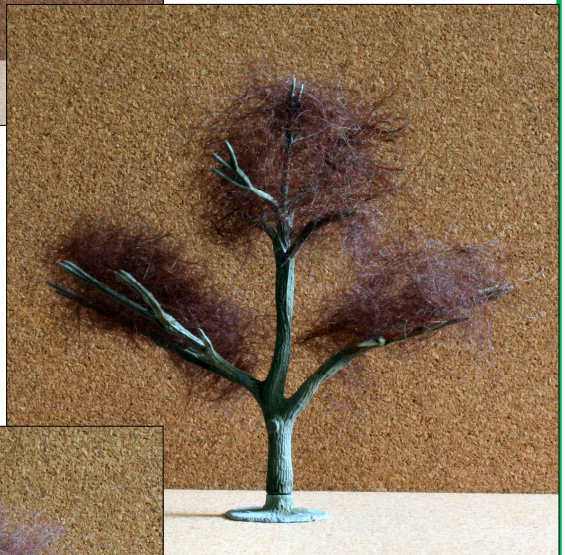
The armatures do not have many branches, see left. In the case of the ready made trees (page 14) the foliage is large pieces of clump foliage and that fills the tree shape. The smaller tree could do with some more added as it still looks rather bare lower down.





If using your own foliage the gaps need filling with postiche or Woodland Scenics Polyfiber to get the tree shape. The photo on the right shows the effect of 1 layer and the photo below the effect of 2 layers of postiche.

The Postiche or Polyfibre is used to bulk out the tree and give it shape as well as acting as the base for the foliage.



When you have the shape you



want you can add the foliage of your choice, in this case from Polak Scenics. I have used a spray adhesive available from Ceynix Miniature Trees (also available from War World Scenics). This tree has been made with the same type of armature as the ready made trees on page 14 but you get a completely different shape of tree. This is down to the shape



you build up using the postiche or Polyfiber material. By using materials of different colours and from different manufacturers you get a wide range of trees. Due to the shape of the armatures, these trees do have a rather oval shape to them. This can be an advantage if you want a small woodland at the back of the layout as you can get more trees in a given depth of layout. The above tree will be planted on Okehampton which needs a number of small trees at the back of the layout.

Paul