

Twenty Great Ideas for Pro-Basing your figures

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Twenty

1. Use a variety of materials on each base. Variety is the spice of life, and you need to stick to that. Use combinations of 3 (3 bricks, 3 rocks, 3 reeds etc..) –it's a designer trick! And don't put the same items on each base. Choose one or two gravels or grasses to make the main features on each model, and then vary the items on all the other models in a set of figures. Aim for unity with variation. Plan ahead!
2. Don't rush basing! It is at least as important as the main figure.
3. Learn to observe nature. Take photographs of landscapes. Look for how reeds grow, or rushes grow from underneath rocks.
4. The edges of your base are important – so what colour do you choose? Try to complement your base. If green, then a darker colour is best – such as dark angels green (Games Workshop)
5. Don't forget to varnish the edge! It is a part of the model that can be most chipped. Varnish it in satin varnish, then spray with purity seal afterwards.
6. Static grass can be given variation by stippling or dry brushing with other browns or greens – bubonic brown and bleached bone (games-workshop) work well here.

7. Mix up or buy ready made filler from a DIY shop and use this to vary the height of the base, over which you can then add static grass or other materials. You can also do this with a thick glue/sand mix, or even papier-mâché made from PVA glue and small pieces of tissue paper.
8. You can wash static grass with dark green ink, and then dry brush it with bleached bone, or a combination such as camo green and bleached bone.
9. Don't forget things in the house! Herbs are a great substitute for shop bought products. You will need to dry brush them to get some good colours. Try these ...
 - a. Mixed herbs with a brown ink wash
 - b. Poppy seeds
 - c. Couscous
 - d. Cumin seed
 - e. Mustard seed
 - f. Dried parsley for fallen leaves
10. Don't make it too wet, but some sweeteners in tiny tablet form make for interesting shapes like cobble stones
11. Water can be created using gloss varnish, but a much more effective idea is to use an acrylic gel, available from the states or exclusively in the UK. Gel is a better option as it is acrylic based, which has a water component rather than solvent based. It also lies thicker and can be shaped as it dries. It is most effective when applied thickly.
12. When it comes to using long grass, it can be really fiddly with a lot of waste. Here's how to get the most from it.

- a. First, take a few strands from the packet – you won't need more than 10 (but don't count them, it would be hard)
- b. You need to try to straighten the ends up a bit. To do this, hold them in your left hand finger tips and gently pull the stray ends out, then lay them back in the right place on top of the others.
- c. You will still have a few stragglers, so not letting go of the small bunch you have, trim to the same length. Now take a SMALL dot of PVA glue and put it on the end of the bunch.
- d. Roll the glue into the end with your finger tips until the tips are stuck together. Leave to dry
- e. Once dry take the bunch, and at 1 – 2 cm intervals put another very small spot of glue. Very gently roll the bunch at the glue point in your finger tips until it is well worked in and the strands stick together at that point. You should be able to put in 4 or 5 spots on each length
- f. Once they are completely dry (about 10 minutes) you can't cut the stalks. First, cut in the middle of each area of glue. You should now have strands with a touch of glue at each end.
- g. Finally cut off ONE end of glue, so that only one end is stuck together.
Using this method you should be able to get around 20 or more long grass sections from each packet of base-ideas kits.

13. Use water gel for other effects, such as oil spills or goo seeping from pipes etc. You can add acrylic paints to colour it. It can be painted
14. Use angled tweezers to place scatter materials in hard to reach places such as under horses, wolves and other 4 legged beasts! Also good for shaping grass into clumps and

handling long grass. Browse to **CATALOGUE** for the search engine, then search for item **74003** in **all categories**. On tracks has an incredible range of stock, and so has an in depth search engine and category system, but it is worth doing.

15. When using gel as water, apply quite thickly. Don't forget to paint the area under the water before you add the gel. Use a dark colour followed by a lighter colour. Blues are effective as they seem to be ripples in the surface.
16. Interested in making a more tech or industrial style base? Try these ..
 - a. Beads. Long ones, short ones, thin ones and fat ones. Check out your local craft shop or search under 'craft bead' at ebay. Use them as broken pipes etc. Very small round beads cut in half make great bubbles. Paint around them with gel.
 - b. Use net – fine mesh available from material shops.
 - c. From model shops, buy thin brass rod. Small pieces bent to shape work well
17. After all your hard work, why not display your figures? A proper display case looks great! These have a superb see through clarity, and are usually used for displaying quality 1/24 size model racing cars, but are big enough for a number of figures. Best price on the net and browse to **Tamiya > Display cases**.
18. Use the lids of old-style games workshop tops as base display mounts
19. Turn your plastic base upside down before attaching the figure, then fill it with green stuff or similar. This makes for an interesting shape.

20. Use green stuff not just for shapes and filling! It is an epoxy resin and a glue. I find it great for sticking figures to bases and a lot more controllable than superglue, more reliable too. It is also as strong as using drill and pin methods-ideal for sticking metal pieces together. Simply put small amounts into where the joints will meet and then press together, after which you use a modeling tool to tidy up the edges. Make sure you use the greenstuff within 1 minute of mixing so otherwise it will lose its gluey proper- ties, and cut and mix only very small amounts at a time. Cut the middle bit of blue/yellow in green stuff out before mixing where they touch – it will already have cured and make a hard bit in your mix.