Gaming Table -- for kids...

Posted by Dante - 2005/11/27 11:46

So we're moving into a new house at the end of December and I've been turning ideas over in my head about how I can setup my game room (what kind of shelving & storage? what kind of workbench? what kind of table? etc. etc. etc.). My wife says to me (after she saw our son building out his first dungeon with one of my DOE sets), "You know you're going to have to build a little 'gaming table' for Deacon now so you can put it by yours."

I thought that was a brilliant idea--particularly since I had planned on building a small "work bench" for him to go in my shop / game room. His grandparents just got him one of those train tables made by Imaginarium. The table comes with a two-sided play surface but I thought, "Hey, why not make up a couple more to swap out?"

I thought a forest type terrain board would look cool--with dirt roads and maybe a river. Any other suggestions for what else would look cool and could be painted with relative ease?

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Gaming Table -- for kids...

Posted by MyLordVoid - 2005/11/29 00:41

Well I'm Thinkin' that an "Urban" area might be Neat, You Know with Roads Running in a Grid, With "Lots" In between them where Buildings could Go? (Would be Kewl for Hotwheels and the Like too)...

Maybe a "Castle Assault" Kind of Board? With a Moat?

Oh And of Course some Sort of "Swamp"?

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Gaming Table -- for kids...

Posted by jkratzer - 2006/01/23 06:39

I'm using a 4' x 8' model railroad table, which is kinda high for some folks (43"), but that's because I used some pre-fab benchwork instead of starting from scratch, and it DOES get used for a Christmas layout every year, November - January.
I just laid 1/2" plywood down, edged it with square trim to fill it out to the edges of the benchwork legs, and painted the whole thing Goblin Green! Well, it isn't REALLY Goblin Green, but the color I had 'em mix up at HD sure LOOKS like it! I bought a quart of it 4 years ago, and still have almost a pint left.
One nice thing about the benchwork is that it gave me somewhere to put shelves under the table, and THAT gave me a WHOLE LOT of storage for DF and model kits; storage I wouldn't have had otherwise.
I'll have to take some pics and post them in the Pictures section. It'll explain everything a LOT better than I can (1 pic=1K words).
With the basic green, you can overlay anything else you need - roads, desert, swamp (although swamp can get a little damp), or any other terrain you need. It also works very well with Geo-Hex or similar gaming terrain styrofoam, such as BattleScape. I've got a BattleScape hex-grid set, which isn't the best

for non-hex games, but it WILL function; just ignore the hexes (much the way D&D characters would LIKE to ignore them!).

Happy gaming!

See ya!

Jim

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Gaming Table -- for kids...

Posted by Dante - 2006/01/23 22:31

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Well, we got (pretty much) settled into the new house. Been enjoyin' the new digs, and I finally got the kid's train table up. His grandparents got him that train set I mentioned above. It's pretty cool. The table top has three sectioned boards that are "two-sided". One is done up all fancy with terrain bits (trees, a beach and water, a road, etc.). The other side is plain green. I'm going to use one of the sections as a template to cut out some plywood and paint up some other types of game boards for him. I decided on a jungle theme, a city theme (he loves construction equipment and firetrucks), and a space theme. I need one more theme to go on the other side of the space theme--water maybe?

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Gaming Table -- for kids...

Posted by jkratzer - 2006/01/24 14:16

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Dante -

THAT sounds great! Don't forget an island or two, just little ones. Gives him something to dodge around. Or run aground on, if he's into Gilligan!

How old is Mister Jr.? And when are you going to intro him to serious gaming?

See ya!

Jim

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Gaming Table -- for kids...

Posted by Dante - 2006/01/24 22:02

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That's a cool idea--islands... I'm going back and forth between building some actual foam islands or just painting one or two on the board(s). Probably just go with painted on for the time being.

He's 2 and a half--be 3 in May. He's already taking a fancy to "daddy's toys" (Pirates of the

Flavor-of-the-Month ships, fantasy RPG painted minis, D&D clickies, Dwarven Forge setups, etc. etc. etc.). I'm just able to hold his attention for about 10 - 15 minutes max to play his "Bob the Builder Memory Game" which he loves. He really loves the idea of "playing games with Daddy!" He gets all exited and tells my wife, "I'm going to play my game with DADDY!" Ah... just brings a tear to my eye and a grin to my face.

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Gaming Table -- for kids...

Posted by jkratzer - 2006/01/25 06:35

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To a guy, "Daddy!" is the most wonderful word in the dictionary - especially a child's dictionary.
To a woman, of course, it's "Mommy!"
Either way, unconditional love WILL bring a tear and a smile, to anyone who's human.

See ya!

Jim

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