Bowtie-less sets review

Posted by L - 2008/02/18 10:22

Just received my first "bowtie-less" fantasy sets in the mail - a handful of cavern floors, a Narrow Passage set, and a R&P set.

Haven't had a chance to build anything yet, but I did want to make a point of marking down a few things that surprised me when I checked these out.

First, the R&P set includes new doors which are FAR superior to the originals. They appear to have dropped the metal in favor of resin, which makes them sturdier, lighter, and a lot more stable - the old doors (mine, at least) tended to come off the hinges rather easily -- these guys stay in place. Plus, the floor is now painted to match the dungeon floor. That may have been the intent originally, but it was never really executed before. Maybe all post 2000 sets have had these new doors, but they aren't what I've been using for eight years, and I'm REALLY happy with them. Nice, too, because when I saw the doors, I thought "Well, the last thing I need are more doors, but . hey, wait a minute!" Very nice surprise.

Second, the new floor tiles REALLY seem new to me! The design suddenly has new life breathed into it, it's like I never used DF fantasy pieces before! They seem cleaner, they seem sharper, they just create a totally different effect. Stunning!

What I'd really like to see now, of course, is a release of the Deluxe Room Set without the ties. I plan to pick up, eventually, the two Wicked sets, but I may pass on ABS and the Fantasy Floor Set. They're nice and all, but I just feel like I'd go crazy if I tried to replace my entire fantasy collection. Still, the sets without bowties are VERY cool, and worth picking up. Anyone who was on the fence on these because, like me, you already had a ton and weren't sure if it was worth spending any $ to get stuff you already have with a minor cosmetic change... I'd SERIOUSLY consider taking the plunge. It's not just a cosmetic change! It's a vast improvement.

L

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Bowtie-less sets review

Posted by Ghostmage - 2008/02/18 13:01

Thanks for the feedback L ...ordering mine now!

~Cheers

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Bowtie-less sets review

Posted by Harneloot - 2008/02/18 19:42

This is, in some ways, maddening, as I now have the insane urge to re-purchase my 30+ fantasy &

cavern sets to do
away with the bow-tie holes....

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Bowtie-less sets review
Posted by whitewind - 2008/02/19 18:51

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Yeah maddening is one word. I got this feeling that I have 30+ sets of inferior product.

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Bowtie-less sets review
Posted by zoroaster100 - 2008/02/20 21:29

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I don't think my existing sets with bow ties are inferior produduct, as they were superior to anything else that was available and which matched my needs when I bought them. There were always some DF fans that actually preferred the bow ties and argued in favor of them. But I am one of those that championed the bow-tie-less sets, so I look forward to little by little trying to replace my collection with these new and improved sets.

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Bowtie-less sets review
Posted by Swifthand - 2008/02/20 21:49

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The only pieces I would prefer stay bow-tied are the diagonal room pieces. They seem like they want to fall over when I put them up without bow ties. All the other sets I use without the bow ties.

-Swift

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Bowtie-less sets review
Posted by L - 2008/02/21 06:24

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I actually didn't mind the bowties, but I'm a fan of the new sets for several reasons:

1. While the ties were aesthetically cool, and reminded me of the trap floor in the opening sequence in Raiders of the Lost Ark, they do slow things down -- being able to set things up, and move them around, without that extra step... very nice.

2. Because of the slots, the dungeon pieces didn't work as well with the other genres (SF, Medieval,

DoE) that lacked the slots.

3. Even if I loved the ties and missed them terribly, the fact remains that the new stuff is NEW. If the older sets had been sans bowtie and they'd released a bunch of stuff with the ties, I'd probably be just as excited, simply because it's cool to see this stuff in a new light.

I'm really looking forward to seeing what comes next for the fantasy line -- after so much attention on other genres, it feels a bit neglected!

L

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Bowtie-less sets review
Posted by philip - 2008/02/21 08:27

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I really like the bowtieless sets. I HATE bowties!! What really sucks is glueing the 45trillion half bowties into the slots.

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Bowtie-less sets review
Posted by Harneloot - 2008/02/21 08:50

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What glue are you using?

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Bowtie-less sets review
Posted by philip - 2008/02/21 13:03

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I bought a big bottle (2oz) of ZAP-A-GAP ca+ from hobbytown but I am afraid that I have not been able to face the daunting task of filling all of those holes. It is basically superglue gel I think.

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Bowtie-less sets review
Posted by L - 2008/02/27 10:12

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Got my other sets recently - the two Wicked expansions (plus the SF Beta set, which I'd held off on picking up forEVER...)

I'm really happy with them, overall. The large floor pieces, of both varieties, have always been among my favorites. Not only useful for building large rooms quickly, they're great for stacking, and I love the designs etched into them. Having them without bowtie holes is great, since it means I can use them as

a sort of "patio" in a medieval building layout, without having leftover "half-holes" marring the illusion. Some of my favorite decorative elements are in these sets, too -- the demon archway, the mermaid fountain, the spiral staircase, the secret door. Lots and lots of classic, classic stuff. Having it "improved" like this is a trip, I just wish I had time to set up a really nice and proper setup with it all, so I could really see the difference.

A few notes about the reissues generally:

1. As I've said before, I never hated the bowties and I don't consider the older sets "waste" now, but I do really like these new ones.

2. The paint on my new columns is a little less extensive than on the older ones I own -- they didn't get a very thorough drybrush at the end, so they are far redder than the others. That's not really a problem for me -- they still look good, and having four darker red columns can have its advantages....

3. I doubt I'll really feel the need to pick up the bowtieless version of the ABS, or yearn for a traps re-issue, but I would LOVE to see the two basic Room sets reissued (especially Deluxe Room!) and I wouldn't mind seeing some diagonal wall and floor sets done. In fact, a whole new set could be done of just Diagonal Wall and Floor pieces, without the ties. Nice.

These sets are really great ways to breathe new life into the fantasy line, I just hope this decision doesn't prove TOO fracturing for the DF communinity!

L

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Bowtie-less sets review

Posted by whitewind - 2008/03/16 10:58

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I am sure that they look good and you bring up great points about the ability to stack and all. Really if you were to go up with DF " stacking " now you have much you can bury. I just am still really taken aback by this and can't seem to shake it. I am sure that if I wanted to get more bowtie sets that there will be plenty out there. Your right though. These are new sets:)

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Bowtie-less sets review

Posted by brvheart - 2008/06/14 11:03

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I for one don't see the point of getting new sets just to replace them with ones without bow ties. I would have much prefered an investment in new sets for greater variety, especially in the cavern and cavernous passageways. They are all based on 20' squares and 10' wide passways and not all passages are 10' wide. Would like to see some 5', 15' and 20' wide passage sections. How about a real t-intersection that doesn't have a pit in it. The new sets are great, but would rather see new stuff than redoing old stuff just to get rid of bowties.

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Bowtie-less sets review
Posted by L - 2008/06/14 11:32

I can see how that makes sense from an "old customer" perspective -- but, despite the way this was hyped and sold to us, I do think it was largely done for the sake of new customers. All the new lines -- DoE, MBS, SF -- don't use the bowties, and to make the whole series consistent, the bowties were making less sense. Plus, tons of people didn't like them, almost nobody came to their defense -- they had to go. Sure, hyping it up and making it seem "cool" that we could all buy sets we already had with a minor cosmetic difference is gonna rub some people the wrong way, and they could have done this more quietly, simply phased out old sets and started making it so that any older sets you bought would be bowtieless, but they went the other way. Either way, it felt like they'd been wrestling with this for years -- people don't like the bowties but all the old sets use them -- and it was only a matter of time before they bit the bullet and just made the switch.

Just my two cents...

L

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Bowtie-less sets review
Posted by thenorthman - 2008/06/14 14:57

I would second the 5', 10', and 20' wide passage ways.

I love the new bow-tie-less sets (even though mine have only been ordered and not actually received in my grubby hands yet I just know I'll love them.

I have been working on my own extra wide passage ways for the Classic line of DF out of HA pieces that have space for statues or what not along the way. Plus a small brick line that is compatible with DF but as I have stated in other post if DF made them the quality would I am sure be much better than what I can do.

Really looking forward to the Realm of the ANcients to come out as I am sure everyone else is as well.

Sean

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Bowtie-less sets review
Posted by brvheart - 2008/06/14 20:48

What can I say? I haven't been on the boards much of late. I for one hate when my set ups get knocked about by the players so I use the bow ties when I set up for an extended period of time. I can see them converting to them if that is what they feel the market wants, but I prefer the ties myself. BTW, long time no type L :)

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Bowtie-less sets review
Posted by L - 2008/06/14 20:52

BTW, long time no type L :)
Heh heh heh - well, I started law school and my wife had our first child, so last year has been REALLY busy for me... great, but busy.

Now I'm just "regular working" for the summer, so it's like being on vacation by comparison....

L

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Bowtie-less sets review
Posted by MyLordVoid - 2008/06/15 07:47

I love that DF has re-released some classic MM fantasy w/o bow-ties. I will probably never buy them.

This is not because I think that they are a waste or anything, it's just a matter of money, I have to be aware of what cash is going where, so re-purchaseing sets that I already have is not productive, as I'd much rather purchase new product...

Were I single and without children, eh... Maybe I'd consider replacing my legacy DF. As is I will not, and I'll suck it up and pretend that there are no bow-ties. "Bow-ties? What bow-ties"?...*Grin*...

Were I a new DF collector I might even feel a little jealous of the "Old-timers" who have the Alphas, "You can tell the Alphas" one might hear the newbie tell a friend, "by those little diamond shaped holes in the edges".

Anyway, love my DF, I'll not sweat the disconnect with the older sets and the later releases... With or without bow-ies DF simply IS superior...

maj!

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