Drilling Dwarven Forge
Posted by BrettKing - 2009/04/14 22:27

I recently bought a room set that I'm going to be using just for modifications. I expect to be doing a fair amount of drilling into the pieces. So, for those of you who have done this, how hard is polystone to drill? Will wood-cutting bits work, or do I need carbide, tungsten, diamond-tip, etc.? Any hints or tips?

Thanks,
Brett

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Drilling Dwarven Forge
Posted by jackattack - 2009/04/15 04:50

I have successfully drilled into DF with a standard dremel bit.

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Drilling Dwarven Forge
Posted by jkratzer - 2009/04/18 11:45

Standard High-speed steel - but drill at a slow speed, slow feed. Or you WILL melt the polystone!
After all, it's RESIN, not real stone or plaster.
The polystone resin is one of the most dense of the resin casting compounds available, and therefore resistant to cracking and shrinking during the casting and curing process. It is also one of the more durable resing compounds as far as post-production handling safety - you almost have to WANT to break or chip it in order to damage it in shipping or handling. Not to imply that this stuff is unbreakable; it isn't. I've managed to break a piece - a large piece - by accidentally dropping it on a carpet-tiled concrete basement floor. But I also was able to glue it right back together with CA glue, no problems. And that was the only one I ever broke.
Since I'm a plastic modeler as one of my too-many-hobbies, I'm not afraid to take a saw to the DF pieces. It's gotten to the point that some people around here call major modifications like that "kratzerizing" a DF piece, in my honor. At least, I THINK it's an honor.
But the basic answer is that you can use the same tools on Df that you would use on wood or plaster. Sometimes you might have to feed the stock a little slower; otherwise, the game remains the same.

Have fun!

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Drilling Dwarven Forge
Posted by Stefan - 2009/04/19 00:07

How bout some pics of some of your conversions Jim.....

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Drilling Dwarven Forge

Posted by jkratzer - 2009/04/20 07:02

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How bout some pics of some of your conversions Jim.....
Most of my stuff has been the "Cut it up into smaller pieces to fit smaller holes" and "Make copies to chop up, or to make BIGGER pieces" varieties. About the only true Customized piece I've done was to take a T-Passage and make a 6" passage with a doorway in the middle into a room, by taking the 'T' off it. It allowed me to use the passage piece as a room wall without having all the interference from extra floor and wall pieces in a layout.
The other thing I've learned is that it's impossible to get the colors right in one pass; I've tried to pre-color the resin, then paint it. I've tried using Rust-Oleum Polystone fleck paints. And I've tried dry-brushing over the pre-colored resin.
Eventually, I will stop being lazy and become an artist, and learn to paint like the rest of your students, Stefan. Maybe THEN, I will post some pictures of my work. Until then, I'm embarrassed to show the horrible colors - the construction, I'm proud of - just do all your looking in monochrome!
Maybe if I can post everything in Black & White...

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