A Dedicated DF Noob Needs Advice

Posted by Dillman - 2011/08/07 23:02

I'm in the process of getting about 15 sets of DF. I would like everyone's advice on mistakes not to make. I'm a D&D player but this will be my first time to be a DM as well. This is why I want DF sets. I want to eventually work up to being one of the best DMs in this area. What does everyone recommend for prebuilding a DF setting? I'd like to find a way to work out all the passages,traps, rooms,etc., before I actually spend the time setting everything up. What advice can you share? What have been some great ideas and decisions you've made? Mistakes made?

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Re:A Dedicated DF Noob Needs Advice

Posted by Arcarius2001 - 2011/08/08 00:08

Don't get everything all at once. Too many sets are out of stock right now. I would start with a couple Rooms and Passages, two Rooms, Wicked Additions 3, and some individual pieces like Red Pillars, Stone Columns, Secret Doors, and Stairs. That will cover you for some good general dungeon crawling. Add some Den of Evil or Realm of the Ancients if they strike your fancy. You should consider Medieval Buildings as well. Those with the aforementioned dungeon sets work well together. Do a YouTube search for Dwarven Forge Village by Tom. That video is amazing! It shows how well different sets integrate with each other.
You should know that some new sets are to be released soon so set some money aside for those. Also, if you haven't already checked it out, the How Do I Use This Stuff section of the Forum has good advice for your situation.
Enjoy the hobby and welcome to the addiction!

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Re:A Dedicated DF Noob Needs Advice

Posted by Dillman - 2011/08/08 00:26

Arcarius,
thanks for reminding me to mention that I have read all of the relevant posts up to the last two years in this forum. I didn't want to ask questions that have been covered somewhat recently. I kinda have already committed to my large order. I will post all the sets I purchased once th order is finalized hopefully on Monday. I will have the cash to buy all the items you mentioned. I like the idea of saving for the eleven set and that gate pictured at Gen Con. A few sets of each of these is a must have! What accessories do you find are needed right away?

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Re:A Dedicated DF Noob Needs Advice

Posted by Arcarius2001 - 2011/08/08 02:11

As an add on to my last post, the Narrow Passage and the Ruins sets are very useful. Look at some of Kronos' pics for awesome examples.
For accessories, obviously the dungeon accessory and tavern accessory sets are must. The treasure set would be awesome but is out of stock or maybe production. I would love to get one or two of those!
Outside of DF, the things made by Grendel are excellent but you have to paint them. I have a backlog of it still needing paint. Or you could hire Yansolo to do your painting. Check his posts, he has excellent ability. Currently his ebay store is not taking orders until end of August, but it is a good option. You will notice lots of us use the Grendel stuff.

Items made from Hirst Arts molds are good too. I prefer to buy those already cast in resin. I just don't have time to cast my own molds. But if you do, all sort of accessory options are available to you.

If you can find them, the DF 4" and 6" floor tiles are gold. Couple those with corners from the room sets or pillars to make dungeons with height.
I am currently grabbing stuff from ebay and other places for general terrain and scenery to help populate my current 14 sets. Bookcases, tables, chairs, barrels, sacks, treasure, boats, just about anything you can imagine in a game.

There is a Winter/Ice set coming out too. You may want some cash in reserve for that.

Which used sets did you end up getting?

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Re:A Dedicated DF Noob Needs Advice
Posted by Arcarius2001 - 2011/08/08 02:36

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Correction to the above, I had 15 sets. Just placed an order for two more.
I just can't help myself.....must have more Dwarven Forge. :)

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Re:A Dedicated DF Noob Needs Advice
Posted by DM-GHOST - 2011/08/08 15:05

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I love My DF but I found starting small was the way to go for me... now two years and 12 sets two ogers dens and a bunch of ebay and inavidual buys later... I have enough DF to cover my entire 11'x4' 1/2 game table ! lol But as a Game Master I very VERY rarely set the entire thing up .. Normaly I will pick out the Key enconters for the upcoming game and lay them out in advance. setting asside the peices for the encounter and setting it up when the players enter the room.. they seem to enjoy watching the rooms come together and often they get more excited and start talking tatics when as Im putting the room down. Other times I have a Table toper that I made that I put on top of my tabe and if i want to set up something larger and I uncover it as they make their way through what I have on that.. My table topper is a hand made 8foot by 4 foot wide table that sits 8 inches high on my table so they can put their books under the tabletoper. I would also say be flexable ! As much as I love my DF some sometimes my players at the end of my long 11 foot table have a hard time seeing if I build more then one level with walls so be mindfull and rember DF is awesome but if the player has to stand up and walk around the table 90% of the night to get a good look at whats going on in the dungon hes not going to have as much fun .. Sometimes I will place my DF down and only place walls on the sides of the room closest to the

players that sit on the sides of my table that can easly look over and on the ends I leave the map wall free and inform my players there are walls on where the maps borders are..it dosent make for as nice of photo work but if i want to post here on the site I can come behind later and put the walls back in before I take my Picks.. hope that helps some!

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Re:A Dedicated DF Noob Needs Advice

Posted by Ghenghis Ska - 2011/08/08 17:24

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Yeah I have access to about 5 Cavern sets, but I am not going to set up the entire Cavern (partly for space and time issues as it is at a game store I run the game at, and Just can't leave it set up.

So I will sketch up 5-6 various locations before hand and just place a number of the cavern bits on the table and then make them on the fly as they enter them by rearranging the locations.

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