A beautiful & cheap forest

Posted by biowizard - 2011/09/10 18:23

After sadly reading that a few of you spent as much as $25 per tree, I felt that I needed to tell of my solution for having a relatively cheap and stunningly beautiful outdoor setup. Buy yourself plenty of trees from http://www.samtrees.com/ (Product, Railway/Wargame Model supplies, Plastic Trees). They are cheap and of very good quality! They are pre-flocked plastic trunks with roots that makes basing them very easy. For about $120, I got around 50 trees of several colors, shapes, heights and species... enough to have my very own forest! They only accept orders of $50 & more (which is ok, since you would want a forest anyway). Also, I would guess that your order would take some time reaching you since they are located in China (but the Woodland set will also come late anyway...). I think I learned of this company when I ordered a couple of trees from http://www.themodeltreeshop.co.uk and later found out that they are distributors of SAMtrees.

As an example, you can have four of the following birch trees for $8, which in my mind are very elvish and amazing.

http://www.dwarvenforge.com/images/fbfiles/images/3021103.jpg

Also, you can have a very tall (190mm/7.5 inches) Chestnut tree for only $3.63!!!

http://www.dwarvenforge.com/images/fbfiles/images/30261010.jpg

To have those trees firmly standing up on the game table, I bought a few metallic washers in a hardware store which I painted brown and onto which I glued the plastic root system of the trees; no need for fancy art & crafts skills here. I keep all my trees in a plastic box into which I glued magnetic sheets at the bottom to hold the trees in place. I hope you like my solution!

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Re:A beautiful & cheap forest

Posted by biowizard - 2011/09/10 18:43

I forgot to say that I recently expanded my forest with many pine trees from http://www.mrtrain.com/proddetail.asp?prod=model-railroad-g-gauge-pinetrees-set35.

http://www.dwarvenforge.com/images/fbfiles/images/pine_trees_35_pack__lg.jpg

This company is based in the US and you can have their products also on ebay (just do a "pine trees" search). You can have a bundle of 35 pine trees of several heights for just $32. The only down side is that you somehow need to find a solution for basing them to have them conveniently free-standing on the game table. For that purpose, I have used once again metallic washers but this time I had to form little mounts on top of the washers with a little hole at the top using Super Sculpey (followed by cooking). Thinking back upon the work involved, it might have been a better idea to buy my pine trees also from SAMtrees, even if I think they are not as nice as those from MrTrain...

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Re:A beautiful & cheap forest
Posted by sbrndf11 - 2011/09/10 19:17

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Do you have photos of the trees in use?

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Re:A beautiful & cheap forest
Posted by biowizard - 2011/09/10 19:56

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Sorry sbrndf11, I don't have pictures I can show you as I live right now in Boston MA, doing research in molecular biology at Harvard Medical School (hence biowizard), and all my D&D stuff is still in Montreal, Canada. I can tell you though that the picture of the trees on the SAMtrees web site represent precisely what you actually get from them. Also, the effect you get on the game table is very similar to what is being shown on Sorn & HeroQuestFrance's beautiful setups:

http://www.dwarvenforge.com/forum?func=view&catid=3&id=42263
http://www.dwarvenforge.com/forum?func=view&catid=21&id=40495#40496

In my mind, the final effect is even better when you combine trees from several different species/height/colors, as an actual forest is.

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Re:A beautiful & cheap forest
Posted by dndgamer - 2011/09/10 19:59

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Bio,
Nice info and great find! Got one question for anyone who might know: What's the right scale ratio between 25mm Minis and the trees 1:75/1:100/1:150, etc.

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Re:A beautiful & cheap forest
Posted by biowizard - 2011/09/10 20:17

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dndgamer, in short, it is 1:75.

... but this is an incomplete answer. In the 25mm/28mm scale, the height of an adult human male (which could be around 5 feet 10 inches/1.80 meter/1800 mm) becomes 25 or 28 mm (around 1 inch). 25 mm scale is then technically 1:72 (72*25=1800) and with the same calculation, the 28mm scale is 1:64. The HO scale is officially 1:87, which is a little too small for 25/28mm minis. This is why most HO accessories

are too small for 25/28 mm minis. Regarding trees, it does not really matter which scale they are. There are small, medium and big trees and they all have very similar shapes! Just take note of the actual height of the trees you're about to buy and see if it would fit the height you imagine the forest you want your minis to be in!

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