

Portal

an insight into **WAMP**



Alejandra Fernández

**OF ANDREA
MINIATURES
INTERVIEW**

**Fantastic
Redbox
Games
Contest
Gallery
+ The Best of
the Rest**

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March Warden by
**Crookedeye. Winner of
the 2011 Red Box Games
WAMP Contest.**

I was very happy to hear that Red Box Games was sponsoring another WAMP contest. I had a number of these guys on my desk and this contest gave me a good excuse to paint one up. I chose the March Warden because I liked the feel and detail of the sculpt. The mini wasn't too overly complicated so I stuck with a simple palette. To make up for the lack of bright colours I tried to add visual interest on the shield and the cloth patterns. The shield design was one I found on some Norse shields on the web and the cloth pattern was one I had seen a few places before. The large amounts of curved cloth lent itself to a technique that wasn't too overly concerned with evenly spaced freehand elements. For the base I wanted something evoking a winter wind-swept steppe. I stuck with neutrals mostly so I wouldn't overpower the muted colours on most of the mini and this was the first time I tried to use snow effects.

Overall I was pretty happy with the piece and with all the wonderful entries I was surprised and elated to win. Big thanks to everyone who entered and especially Tre from RBG and WAMP for putting it all together.

Zach



welcome to issue 18

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Phew! That's Christmas out of the way, so it's time to get going again and get Wamp back into its usual routine. That starts with the launch of our first 'special' contest of the year with Studio McVey returning as sponsor once again. Should be some cracking entries for that,

I have been juggling the contest dates for the year and have managed to find an extra month for the Wamped contest which means you have until the end of February to get something entered into that. It's open to any miniature, terrain, diorama and everything in between. No restrictions on manufacturers, scale or subject and over £1,000 worth of prizes to boot!! There's plenty of random entry prizes so it's a great excuse to dip your toe in to some competitive painting and the friendly atmosphere of Wamp is the ideal place to do it.

We also have a Portal exclusive giveaway courtesy of Warcast and they are even throwing a hefty 35% discount the way of all Portal readers, I do wonder if I am too nice to you sometimes!!

A couple of requests for all you readers. The first is for the new gallery, we are getting some great work in there but we want more so we would love you to help build it up by uploading some of your work into there. It doesn't have to be new work, whatever you like to show off. It's the fairest miniature rating gallery available and you can even choose not to have your work rated if you prefer.

Also we are trying to push the miniature news section. If you're a company owner and want to tell folks about your latest releases, offer or event then feel free to submit it so we can help spread the word both on Wamp and in Portal (you can do so using this link: <http://www.wamp-forum.com/VB4/misc.php?do=form&fid=1>)

There's a couple of big milestones this month too, one we have passed and one we haven't. Just a few days ago we passed the 1500 members mark which is a great uptake over the last few months (we average around 2 new members per day). This month will also see Portal pass 50,000 total downloads. Not bad for a free magazine!!

A massive thank you to everyone that takes the time to join as a member or downloads Portal. It personally means a lot to me and helps keep my enthusiasm going!

Enjoy

Brett Johnson



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in this issue

Reviews



Starting the reviews for 2012 is Dark Sword Miniatures Ser Loras, Knight of the flowers, Check it to see if it's any good.



Darklord also takes a look at MaxMini's Complete Siege Gun. One to pack a punch on the table but does the model hold up to scrutiny?

Tutorials



Manorhouse Workshop have also provided us with another great tutorial. In this issue they show us how to work High Density Polystyrene.

Articles



In this moths View From The Hill Tim, with a little help from a friend explains about the scourge all miniature collects face and how to combat it LEAD ROT!

Contest



It's contest time again and we start 2012 with the always popular Studio McVey. You have to be in it to win it so check it out here.

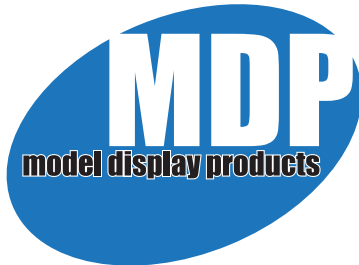
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NEWS

Welcome to 2012 and our first issue of the New Year. As I'm writing this I look out of my window and it's a fresh, clear day and that's what I hope the New Year will bring. Some of you will notice that on the cover we have a new badge, Yep, Portal won gold in the Best Publication category in the 2011 **WAMP** awards ☺. I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate all those who were nominated and thank everyone who voted for us, You can guarantee that we'll not

sit on our laurels but continue to work hard to make Portal the best magazine dedicated to the hobby of Miniature Painting. In issue 18 we have some great articles including one from our friends at Manorhouse Workshop that should help you in building small dioramas and basing your miniature. We also have a new feature where we let people from the miniature making industry tell us what makes them tick. Anyway, we hope you enjoy it.



Here at [Model Display Products](#) we thought we would start off the New Year by adding to our range of Round Lip Gaming Bases with the release of set of 30mm, 40mm and 50mm bases with a Woodland Theme. All bases are designed so that figures can fit on the bases without being ballet dancers or

circus performers and are suitable for the popular skirmish and tabletop wargaming systems on the market. Further details can be found on our website. We would also like to take this opportunity to let you know that our complete range of gaming bases can also be found at [Firestorm Games](#).



www.modeldisplayproducts.co.uk ©2011

 **HASSLEFREE
MINIATURES**


25% OFF

We are running a 25% flash sale across the ranges starting from Monday 16th January and finishing Monday 23rd January. The code to quote at checkout for 25% discount on all goods (before vat and shipping are added) is.

TAXBILL

<http://www.hfminis.co.uk/>

Artemis Black



Quick announcement to say we are now forging ahead with this particular part of our website. Basically the Artemis Black Market page (And yes we already know it's an awesome pun, so no more e-mail please) is where we will be uploading one-offs and sell-offs.

www.artemisblacks.com/index.shtml

It's where you'll find end of line products, products from company overhauls where we can't be bothered to go through and change all the packaging or check and replace all the cards etc. and products from companies that have gone to the big miniatures storage cupboard in the sky.

Now the holidays are over and there's time for unpacking and photography we'll also be starting to upload such stuff as painted miniatures/armies, old and OOP miniatures from various companies including those we don't normally stock and random things like the incredibly rare citadel dragons we buy.

Up at the moment is a load of Warmachine/Hordes stuff at 20-40% off, the very last of our Infinity stock and some random items from the store cupboard or overstock boxes. Plenty more to come soon as we sort through it!

Feel free to have a nose and spend some of that Christmas cash your Nan gave you with the express demand that you don't waste it on those silly toy things.



Miniature Heroes are pleased to announce that I now have a range of the excellent Basecrafts basing kits and weathering pigments now in stock.

Choose from Woodland, Winter, Autumn (Fall), and Desert, and get everything you need to base multiple miniatures in one box. All the materials come in resealable pots, and having used them myself I can honestly say the quality is excellent.

WAMP2012

Wamp's very own event will be returning for its second year. Maelstrom Games will once again be playing host to us. The main event is the painting contest as well as practical painting workshops and more. The date for your diaries is,

**Saturday the 18th
August 2012**

@Maelstrom Games, Mansfield, UK

WAMP Gallery News

We all know about the great new gallery on WAMP and how you can load images and opt in or out of the rating system and also its anonymous rating screen, well it's been so popular we decided to turn off the old gallery all together. So from the end of January all the files will be deleted (apart from Works in Progress and contest galleries) so if you want to save these images now is the time to do it.



Win Tickets to



WAMP has a pair of tickets courtesy of The South London Warlords for Salute 2012 to give away. Salute is one of the main shows on the UK calendar and was voted best event for the past two years in The Wamp Awards. Salute is held at The Excel Centre, London on 21st April 2012. Full details can be found [here](#).

One lucky winner will receive a pair of tickets for the event. All that you have to do is post in [this](#) thread "Give me the Salute tickets because..."

You can enter as many times as you like and the winning post will be picked based on a combination of humour, imagination, pure whimsy and reading tea leaves.

Deadline for entries is 21st January so to be in with a chance of winning the tickets simply complete the following line and post as a reply in [this](#) thread. (you must be logged in to reply)

**Give me the Salute tickets
because.....**

Fire destroys Woodland Scenics Building and displaces local residents

The Linn Creek, Mo. business is considered the world leader in model and model railroad scenery but on Thursday 5th Jan fire broke out in one of its buildings and spread quickly. As clouds of smoke billowed into the air the staff and locals were evacuated safely. It took fire crews over six hours to bring the blaze under control.

This was posted in their facebook page.

Thank you for your support and prayers. We are fortunate to have such caring and loyal customers. Because of our thorough safety procedures and incredible emergency support personnel, we were able to get everyone out safely. Although one of our buildings has been lost we are back at work today assessing what needs to be done and most operations are continuing as usual. Thank you again for your support and encouragement.

The Basement's FigureWorld 2012



Yes, it's on again – Same place, same time of year, same people running it. So, not that we're blowing our own trumpet too much, but it's going to be brilliant.....Just like it was in previous years !

We're already beginning to organise this, and just so you can pencil the date into your diary, it's going to be on Saturday the 7th of July 2012 at Oundle School, Oundle, Near Peterborough. PE8 4GH. Times for the show will be the same as last year – 9:30am until 4:30pm.

Some things never change though – a good amount of free parking, refreshments, traders and displays of models, no competition to worry about and simply loads of figure modellers to chat about your favourite hobby with.

So there you go, early warning and "Reason Number One" for returning to FigureWorld in 2012 – The Basement Team are doing their very best to make it just as enjoyable as it was in 2011!

Oh, Reason One-and-a-half.....Maybe you didn't attend in 2011.....Then all the more reason for making sure you get there in 2012 – see, here at TB, we're just thinking of you!

For more information:-

<http://www.tbfigureworld.co.uk/>

<http://tbforum.co.uk/>

NEW WAMP MODERATOR

As you know I have been on the look out for a replacement for Martyn to join the moderator team. It gives me great pleasure to announce that LOBO has been appointed Moderator on Wamp.

Stats Box

Portal downloads	48214
Memberships	1,529
New members this month	58
WAMP posts	159,225
Wiki Pages	165
Blogs	45

Wamp Ladder

Quite simply it's a fun painting league. You challenge another painter on the ladder to a 'paint off'. Choose a theme and have up to 6 weeks to complete your mini - both your entries are then judged by fellow members - the winner gains points and moves up the ladder. It's free to use and you can challenge people to suit your ability.

The ladder can be found [here](#).

Vern vs Spectral Dragon

Squad

KDLynch vs Darklord

Red Box Games

Vegascat vs Waghorn41

Animal (Voting Now)

MamaGeek vs Krimso

Painting Challenge

Darklord v NeatPete

Rackham Dwarf

Nameless vs Synthet

40K Squad

Endor vs Vegascat

Machine in motion

Rankings

Username	ELO	Streak
Darklord	1149	5
pae	1065	3
Cregan Tur	1063	1
MamaGeek	1052	2
Sparks	1051	2

WAMP

The last 30 days

Newest Members

mimozine	horrid
here2learn	runelord
nettraptor	spittle72
Balefirestorm	HowlingBanshee
erekose	jlamarche
Nuca	Dogday
Isaace	blind pew
Corsair	CoreyHaim8myDog
Janus1004	ONIRIAMINIATURES
ironman777	Alfinim
eveilded	whitehooves
coabeous	andy8668us
Realmdivine	Blackear
Alcidas	kootje
syedialexi	mrsora
Anthraxus	AngryApe
mdivk	SMax
Buster-1968	DTPES
hendybadger	10 ball
Beardybard	Giltharin
Turelio	aidanleer
Natt	src-fineartist
Bob	roidy
mutantsurfer	miloss
raccent	kal91a
Yump	Revandyg
pokka	Citrine
cheaky	Broke n English
Nord	Wröng



Wamped! has returned for its second year and its hard makeover. Gone are the... categories and... be split into genre... giving even... you to bag some

IMPORTANT INFORMATION
New Deadlines:
Non Supporters 4pm 24th February 2012
Supporters 4pm 29th February 2012
IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Deadline

The closing date for e... 2012. Supporter deadline January 2012.

Times quoted are GMT

What can I enter?

Anything! It can be any scale, genre, manufacturer. It can be terrain, duel, diorama, a full blown army even. BUT! Take note it must be new work. That means it must not have been shown completed anywhere. If you have shown WIP elsewhere that's fine but not completed photos!

Categories

- Fantasy
- Sci-Fi
- Historical
- Scenery/Terrain
- Everything Else

There will also be a Best In Show winner.

Prizes

Best In Show

- €150 Credit at Kabuki Models
- La Meridiana: Pyros (75mm)
- Model Display Products Anastacia (54mm)
- Guild of Harmony Set: Phonecia, Vanys, Blagrut and Dorothy

The following categories each have a prize pool. 1st place will get first choice of a prize, then 2nd and so on

Fantasy

- Imbrian Arts Set: Gnoll, Wraith, Necromancer and Dragon Teeth
- Morland Studios 54mm Shar The Traveller
- Relic Knights 'Kiss & Scratch'
- £50 worth of Das Schwarze Auge
- Guild of Harmony Set: Nagrot, Jian Nai, Eilwyn & Qing Long

- 1 fantasy blister (TBC) Ironwind Metals

Sci-Fi

- €150 Credit at Kabuki Models
- Relic Knights 'One Shot & Fritz'
- Gaspex Arts Tatjana
- \$100 gift voucher Ironwind Metals
- 3x battletech New Releases

Historical

- Morland Studios 32mm Hatasu
- Morland Studios 32mm Aria Bust
- MDP Oblong Display Plinth
- MDP 33mm Display Plinth
- Scenery & Terrain
- Foundations of War Village House
- Foundations of War Barrels Set
- MDP 35mm Plinth

'Everything Else'

- Morland Studios 32mm Sybil
- Gaspex Arts Sophie
- \$40 gift voucher Ironwind Metals

introduction of a brand new... we have used in our oldest contest... and it always brings up some fun entries.

The Themed Category!

The Themed Category add a theme element to entries and is a prize awarded in addition to the others. The theme for this year is.....

'OOPS!'

What you do with that theme is entirely up to you but we will be looking for originality and clever use of theme as well as the technical skill of the entry.

Rules

Entries must be placed in the appropriate category here:

[Wamped II Gallery](#)

For a Full copy of the rules click [here](#).

'OOPS!!' Themed Category

- £30 Tor Gaming 'Relics' goodies
- Super Dungeon Explore Limited Edition 'Candy & Cola'
- £50 Demonworld goodies

Random Prizes

- Foundation of War Round Infested Bases (awarded to 1 random entry that hasn't already won a prize)
- 3 x prizes of 1 Battletech new release
- 1 x prize of \$40 gift voucher Ironwind Metals for most entries
- 1 fantasy blister (TBC) from Ironwind Metals - random voter
- MDP 41mm Display Base (awarded to 1 random voter)

Some of these prizes are unavailable or not yet released and there are still more prizes to be confirmed!!!

Total Prize Pot: £1000 worth of Prizes!

REVIEW

Group Review

Dark Sword's Ser Loras

This month we kick off the reviews with Dark Sword Miniatures, Ser Loras - Knight of the Flowers

Cregan Tur

Another "Song of Ice and Fire" miniature to review: this time it's Ser Loras Tyrell, the Knight of the Flowers. He is striking a dashing pose with this shield and sword by his side and cloak softly cascading down his back.

This is a 4 part kit consisting of the body, head, right hand with sword, and base. The armour is very detailed with very fine chain mail work and filigree covering many parts of the plate armour. The details are very fine, so be prepared with a very sharp tipped brush. His cape is supposed to look like it was woven out of flowers. In the 54mm version, the detailing on the cloak is impressive with individual flowers and leaves easily visible. On the 32mm version, which I am reviewing, his cloak just looks fuzzy. The shield is a faceless sheet of metal, but a perfect canvas for freehanding.

His head is very easy to attach to the body, but the right arm is going to give you a bit of a challenge because the wrist is very small. Also, you're going to have to be extra careful not to bend the sword as it is very thin. I was very happy to see that mine was straight when I got it, but if you receive one that is bent you will have a devil of a time straightening it. Attachment to the base is very simple.

I found very little flash, but there was a small mold line on the breastplate very close to the largest section of filigree, which meant I had to be very careful to not damage the details. The hardest place to clean up was on the back of his cloak where a thick gate tag sprouted from inside



Painted by [Jen Haley](#)

a concave fold. Took a while to get it completely removed and smoothed out.

If you love painting metallics or armour, then you are going to love this figure. There are also a lot of details for you to pick out- if you can do it cleanly, it will show your mastery of the brush. Painting the cloak will be a bit awkward if you want to make it look like flowers, but I've seen a number of good looking examples that included some freehand. The shield is a perfect area for freehand... in fact it's really a requirement as it is completely blank.

Shane Rozzell

For those that don't know who Ser Loras is, he's basically a show off. He's young, handsome and a highly skilled knight and deadly in arts of the tournament. He is also in a secret relationship that dare not speak its name with Renly Baratheon, the youngest of two brothers of King Robert Baratheon... Anyway enough about his background, let's have a look at the miniature.

Manufacturer	
Dark Sword Miniatures	
Material	Metal
Price	\$9.99
Contact	
www.darkswordminiatures.com	
Other Information	
Sculpted by Tom Meier	
Ratings	
Quality	9.0 Good Production quality.
Assembly	8.25 Some mould lines and difficult pinning.
Value	8.75 Another good value miniature from Dark Sword
Overall Score	8.6



It comes in four parts if you count the separate base (yay for DS!), his right hand and sword and his head are detached from the rest of his body. This means that some pinning will be needed and like all of Mr Meier's George RR miniatures, Ser Loras is very fine so great care will be needed here. I think the pose is quite static and somewhat of a disappointment considering the subject is very skilled in combat so I would have like that to come through in the pose.

Typical of Dark Sword the Ser Loras miniature is superb quality with only a few small mould lines throughout the whole miniature and the armour has some exquisite detail sculpted into it, such as the flowers and jousting scene, which should make it a favourite with the painters as there is just the right mix of detail and smooth flat areas to really go to town on this guy. His handsome features would also make it a good character miniature for the rpg'er.

In summing up I am in two minds about this miniature. I recognise the skill, craftsmanship and quality of the miniature that would make it very appealing to the miniature figure artist but I feel the static pose makes the miniature somewhat dull and nondescript.



The sculpting detail on this model is redonkulous. It's very detailed armor with cleverly placed ornamentation and creases. This is no soldiers armour, it's noble gear. The chain mail is so fine that I'm amazed how it still holds it's texture. Again this month, props to Dark Sword's caster and QC. Some companies it feels like you have to buy quick and some of the fresh mould runs before they wear out and go to mush, but these continue to impress me. This armour is so finely sculpted; there is a scene of two knights jousting on the breastplate! Looks like one of the dudes is getting knocked off his horse but I can barely see this detail it's so fine. Damn impressive. A cape with fur on the outside drapes over his shoulders and down his back. There is nice, consistent texture to the fur while still showing shape and folds of the fabric. Another thing about this mini is there's no trouble spots on it in those deep corners and crevices. All sharp crisp edges and transitions that sometimes can cause problems out of the mould. Truly a masterwork sculpt if they'd let me say anything in an a mag about it.

NeatPete

Another really fine miniature from Dark Sword's Masterworks George R R Martin range. Sculpted by Tom Meier, and cast in four pieces, it doesn't disappoint.

The four pieces go together nicely but delicately. The head fits down into a "neck hole" and can be supported by his hair on the back of his cape. The sword arm fits at a funny angle for me, but I guess I don't need all swords on my minis drawn and ready to slash someone in half do I? You could pin the sword hand to the arm, I would recommend you do if you will ever be handling the mini. The last join is the feet pegs into the base they provided. There is a tab on the bottom of the pegs that I would cut off versus bend off since you may lose the pegs at the wrong spot. Great to see a perfect compromise of offering the base, but not forcing me to use it. Kudos to you Dark Sword.



The Ratings

Cregan Tur

Quality 8.75 / 10, Very good, crisp details. Plenty of different textures for painting. Base is very plain.

Assembly 8 / 10, Gate tag and mold lines require a lot of work and care to remove without damaging details. Arm assembly is tricky because of thin attachment point and easily bent sword.

Value 9 / 10, Excellent value for the price

Shane Rozzell

Quality: 9/10, the manufacture of Ser Loras is typical of the excellent quality that Dark Sword has on most of it's miniatures.

Assembly: 8.5/10, another thumbs up to DS for making Ser Loras with a separate base. Pinning the head will not cause a problem but some care will be needed when approaching the right hand as the right wrist is very thin.

Value for Money: 8.5/10, at \$9.99 or roughly £6.40 for this quality of miniature is very good value for money. I also feel I would have score VFM higher if the pose was more dynamic.

NeatPete

Quality: 9.5, This really deserves a 10.

Assembly: 8.5, Goes together pretty well, but the sword arm was weird.

Value: 9, \$10 ain't bad at all for this quality.



By Tim Fitch

Lead rot is a term that can strike fear into the heart of any collector of old miniatures. Most have had some experience of it, yet it still has an air of mystery and misinformation.

“ So what is lead rot? Well I think it can be best described as the very metal turning to a dull crumbly powder that slowly destroys the miniature. ”

In a bit of a departure from my more general ramblings about the early miniatures of Games Workshop, I thought I'd explore the subject a bit further, however, I don't feel well qualified to do this alone. So I'd like to introduce my co-author for this article, Martin Stephenson. Now this is not a random choice. Martin owns and runs Vexillia, an online shop for all things of a historical wargaming nature. More importantly he's also a Ph.D chemist. Who better to make sure my words and ponderings are as correct and accurate as possible.

So what is lead rot? Well I think it can be best described as the very metal turning to a dull crumbly powder that slowly destroys the miniature. The picture below shows a Citadel Orc made in 1984. As you can see its primed and it has been in one of my display domes for about 5 years. Now when I put it in, it was perfect and I had no reason to suspect it had the dreaded rot. Over Christmas I had time to rearrange a few things, and this is what I found. The lead rot has eaten away the metal at the base of the axe head and distorted it to the upwards angle you now see.



In some ways this is a fairly classic case. Thin sections like sword blades, staffs, helmet plumes etc seem to attract it more than thicker body areas. Sometimes it attacks the surface of the miniature leaving it rough and pitted.



It's also fond of attacking the underside of a pre-slotta base and causing it to dish upwards. Pictured below is a cross sectional view through an affected base.



The poor chap below is a Citadel fighter of 1985, one of the very first slottas they produced. It started rotting after I kept it in a storage box, and despite heavy priming and varnishing, has deteriorated to this pitiful level.



As its name suggests, lead rot attacks lead. The old miniatures had a high lead content which is why they are more at risk. Back in 1993 the US decided that having lead in miniatures wasn't a good idea on public health grounds and moved to ban its use. Things have been relaxed a bit since, but the initial ban did force manufacturers to look at different alloys and better metals for their castings; all these new alloys had a much lower lead content.

Because of this later miniatures are generally not susceptible to lead rot. However, those from the 70's and 80's certainly are, which isn't good news if, like me, you're a collector. It's also not limited to a specific manufacturer. Citadel, Ral Partha, Grenadier etc are all at risk. If the miniature has a high lead content, then it is susceptible.

So how does it happen? Lead rot is the chemical conversion of metallic lead to a white powdery substance known as White Lead. White Lead is a form of lead carbonate and the process by which it forms is well understood. Until the last century the process was used commercially to produce white lead pigments for use in paints and cosmetics; until the toxic side effects of White Lead were uncovered.

In the presence of oxygen, water and carbon dioxide metallic lead will be oxidised and converted to lead carbonate. The rate at which this happens is normally very slow; after all lead is well known to be a relatively stable, and unreactive metal. However acetic acid acts as a catalyst greatly increasing the speed with which the reaction proceeds.

In all, lead rot occurs in three stages:

- I. A layer of lead oxide forms on the surface of the metal as the metallic lead reacts with oxygen in the air. Under normal circumstance the reaction stops here.
- II. In the presence of acetic acid and water, the layer of lead oxide reacts quickly to form lead acetate.
- III. Finally, the lead acetate reacts further with carbon dioxide to form lead carbonate releasing acetic acid and water in the process.

Overall the reactions above result in the metallic lead eating away at itself and your miniature disappearing before your eyes. It is however not all bad news. For lead to rot you need a source of oxygen, water, carbon dioxide and acetic acid.

Of these four compounds acetic acid is the most important, as it significantly increases the rate at which the lead will rot at room temperature. And only a very small amount is required as it is not usually present in the final lead carbonate.

Under normal circumstances the amount of carbon dioxide required will limit the extent of decay. Carbon dioxide only represents about 0.0387% by volume of the Earth's atmosphere; so not a lot really.

The main problem occurs when the miniature is stored in something that will supply water, acetic acid and carbon dioxide, like a cardboard or wooden box. The slow breakdown of the wood or wood pulp will release carbon dioxide and water; as well as a small amount of acetic acid. Suddenly we have three components of the mix and the air around us provides the fourth, oxygen, in abundance.

Next take the enclosed environment of the display case. Though not generally air tight, they are fairly enclosed to protect their contents from the world outside. In doing so they restrict airflow and so allow a stable environment for lead rot to occur by preventing the dispersal of any carbon dioxide and acetic acid generated. So in providing a nice decorative display for our miniatures we're actually putting them in a lead rot incubator!

So how do you deal with it? Well it's not easy. Lead carbonate is nasty stuff and not something you really want to be playing about without protection. Always wear a mask, hand and eye protection and always wash your hand thoroughly afterwards. Do not use bowls or basins that are used for food preparation.

This method of restoration has been recommended to me:

- Create a clean workspace with old newspaper or similar.
- Wash the miniature in warm soapy water using an old toothbrush.
- Dry on some absorbent cloth.
- Gently scrape away at anything else that might be loose until you get to solid metal.
- If possible, then repair with green stuff or epoxy putty.
- Seal the miniature with paint to help protect it against further chemical ingress.
- Do not re-use anything. Dispose of all tools, scrapings, cloths and paper towels safely.

I've seen it written that cleaning the affected miniature in white vinegar is a good way of removing the powdery deterioration. This is unlikely to help in the long term: the chemical name for vinegar is acetic acid.

However as the process is already in the miniature, and it's self sustaining, it could well flare up again despite all these measures. Indeed if the deterioration is too great you may have to think about doing the unthinkable and discard the figure. The sad truth is lead rot is persistent once it gets a hold.

Which neatly brings me to the subject of prevention. As we have seen from the above, Lead rot needs certain conditions in order to take hold. Prevent these and your miniature will be safer. So for unpainted miniatures I recommend:

- Keep your them away from wood, man made boards, paper and the like.
- Keep them dry and use silica gel desiccant sachets if you are looking at long term storage.
- Keep them in well ventilated storage boxes or alternatively airtight plastic bags.

Enclosed display containers look nice but those with a wooden base may provide a source of carbon dioxide and acetic acid and retain these gases within the case and encourage the rot to start. By allowing, or encouraging air movement through any container you avoid this potential build up. Silica gel bags placed inside the display might look out of place, but they do help to keep the general moisture level down, which is another contributing factor.

I've also read that encasing your as yet unpainted miniatures in natural shellac is a great protector. Having never tried it I can't say about it, but it would keep it sealed away from pretty much everything.

In conclusion I have to admit I have learnt a great deal from writing this article. Being a wood worker in my previous career, it has always been my material of choice when making display cabinets for my collection to live in. Turned hardwood bases look nice, and though lacquered, might well be the worst thing possible when coupled with a glass display dome. Clearly I have some alterations to make, and perhaps after reading this, you do too.

Martin Stephenson & Vexillia Ltd. can be found at:

<http://www.vexillia.ltd.uk>



MEET THE WAMPER

MEET THE WAMPER IS OUR CHANCE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE PEOPLE OF WAMP



Real Name: Jon G

Alias: Vern

Website: another-gaming-blog.blogspot.com/

Wamp member since: 2008 (but joined the ebay group before that)

Bio: Born in Cheshire, but moved north to Durham when I was 13. Was a civil servant for 20+ years, but have just been made redundant - so the future is bit of an open book (happily).

Paint, sculpt or game?

Painting (badly!), and I used to game, which I miss - so thinking of getting back into it.

Favourite mini company?

But there are so many! It changes daily to be honest, but currently I'd say Warfare Miniatures, or maybe Empress Miniatures, or just about anything from Paul Hicks oh, anything with robots.

Favourite sculpt?

Very difficult - If I had to name one, it would probably be Mike Blank's Blenheim Diorama.

How long have you been in the hobby?

Since I was 15 - a mate at school described this ancient galley game he'd be playing the night before, I had this strange thought about a bunch of guys standing on tables throwing cushions & water at each other! Anyhow, went to the club the following week, & was instantly hooked. (The games was Diekplus by the way, with Navwar 1:1200th ships).

How often do you visit Wamp?

Usually daily, occasionally ever other day.

Best thing about Wamp?

The wages, no sorry, the people.

Tell us something interesting about you?

I've been a sound-bite on The Archers, &, while I was in the SK ... no, best not go there.

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February 4th, 2012

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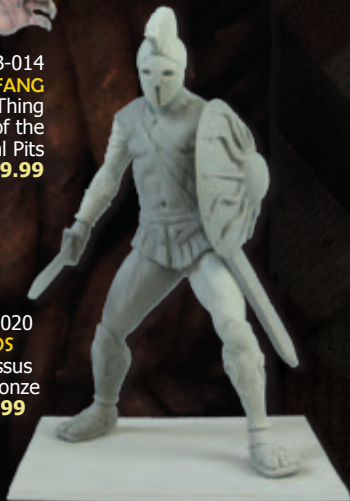


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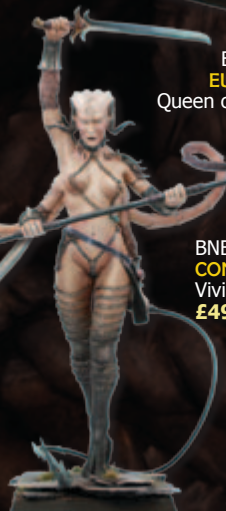
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How to work with high-density polystyrene



This month, those nice folks at Manorhouse Workshop show us how to use High Density Polystyrene, either for making gaming terrain or scenery that helps us better show off our painted miniatures better.

“For us modellers it opens a wide range of possibilities to realise whatever we wish at a very affordable price. You just need an idea ...”

Hi everyone, This month I want to illustrate you the possibilities of the high-density polystyrene and how to work with it.

This material is widely used in the building and delivery sectors and for us, modellers, it opens a wide range of possibilities to realize whatever we wish at a very affordable price. You just need an idea ...

Let's start with all the tools of the trade needed

The first 3 pictures on the next page show us various tools and materials that are often used with polystyrene. Like you can see, those tools and materials are all cheap and simple, easily found and bought in any do-it-yourself shopping centre. The most expensive tools are the jigsaw and the miniature drill with the flexible hand, but even those are nowadays found at accessible prices, around 20-30 \$ a piece.

The tools having been shown, let's speak about this wonderful high-density polystyrene and its thousand uses.

One of the simplest but also greatest things is that it can substitute wood to create a base for your diorama, making the whole a lot whole lighter but still very sturdy. This base has a nice thickness which can, once painted in black or dark brown, act like a natural frame for your diorama, without needing to add anything else.



I often use polystyrene sheets of 2cm thickness for the base, but also for creating the geography (height) of the diorama's landscape. Polystyrene sheets can be used like you would use wooden slabs ... you can screw and nail them together easily, to create your landscape. Also, you can use the classical vinavil (wooden glue) for added reinforcement.

so as long as the vinavil isn't dry, they could exit their position if you continue working on the polystyrene sheets.

How to work with the polystyrene



In the side picture you can see how the 2 sheets of polystyrene have been glued first together, and then fixed with screws. You can also use simple nails, but then, you need to push them into the surface with your fingers, and not by pummelling them with a hammer. When using nails, it is always better to push them into the polystyrene diagonally and in different directions: this will help fixing the panels together. Nails have the added problem of being smooth



Polystyrene can be worked with in various ways. In this article we'll deal with a complex base for buildings.

I always start those bases by selecting and preparing the various parts I need, by cutting them with a sharp and big cutter, which allows me a clean and safe cut on the 2cm of thickness. Then I put the various parts together and if necessary, I continue modifying them as needed.

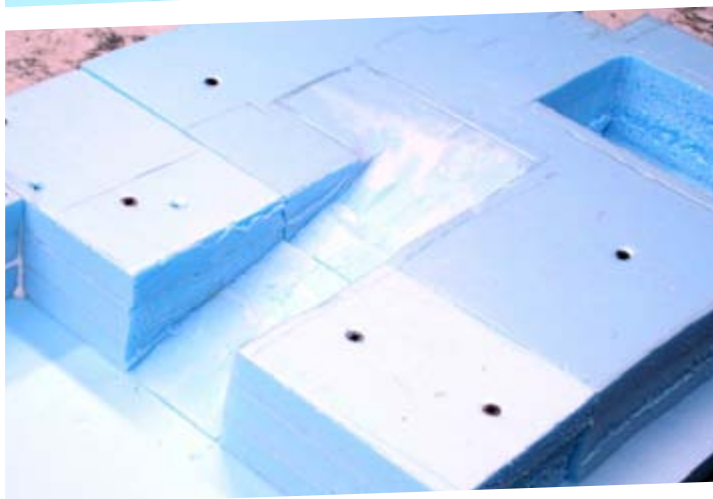


In fact, there are some particular operations that are best to do once all parts are stuck together... As you can see in these pictures, where the already assembled polystyrene is worked with a jigsaw, cutter, and then with sand paper.

The high-density polystyrene can be really worked with a lot of tools and in a lot of ways.

So, like I said in the beginning, the limit is only our own fantasy, as you will be able to see in a soon-to-appear series of articles about this wonderful material.

In the next article, you will see how you can realize a very realistic landscape using polystyrene sheets.



Cheers, Lorenzo "Maniachouse" Marchetto



Yep the Golden Couple of mini's are back again to tempt you with some lovely Studio McVey goodness! Last years contest was a cracker and this year there's a brand new element with the launch of Sediton Wars offering up more choice than ever.

Well if you need an excuse to enter (though I doubt you do!) how about some lovely prizes?

- 1st Place: £75 credit @ Studio McVey and your entry featured on the cover of Portal Magazine
- 2nd Place £40 credit @ Studio McVey
- 3rd Place £25 credit @ Studio McVey

Has that got your interest? Well maybe you're still undecided so how about another apple to tempt you with?

How about this: Place an order with Studio McVey during the contest and quote:

WAMP-SM to receive 10% off your order.

Thought that may interest you!!

Deadline

24th March 2012 4pm GMT

Supporters deadline is: **31st March 2012 4pm GMT** (for details on becoming a supporter [CLICK HERE.](#))

Rules

- You must be a Wamp Member to participate. Membership is free and you may register here.
- You may enter as many times as you like but each entry may only submit one photograph so if you need more angles it **MUST** be a montage. Any additional photographs of that entry will be removed.
- Images must be no larger than 800 pixels wide by 2500 pixels high. (It is your responsibility to check this).

- **All entries must be new work.** New work is defined as any entry not previously displayed on-line in a completed state, you **MAY** enter pieces which have been shown as a Work In Progress (WIP).
- You give WAMP (including Portal Magazine) and Studio McVey permission to use your pictures for publicity (but you do retain ownership).
- You may post pictures of WIP or final shots both here and elsewhere.
- Judging will be conducted by Studio McVey.
- Submissions must be posted to the Contest Gallery (link to follow)
- Credit is eligible at www.studiomcvey.com
- All Studio McVey products are eligible (including Sediton Wars).





Selene

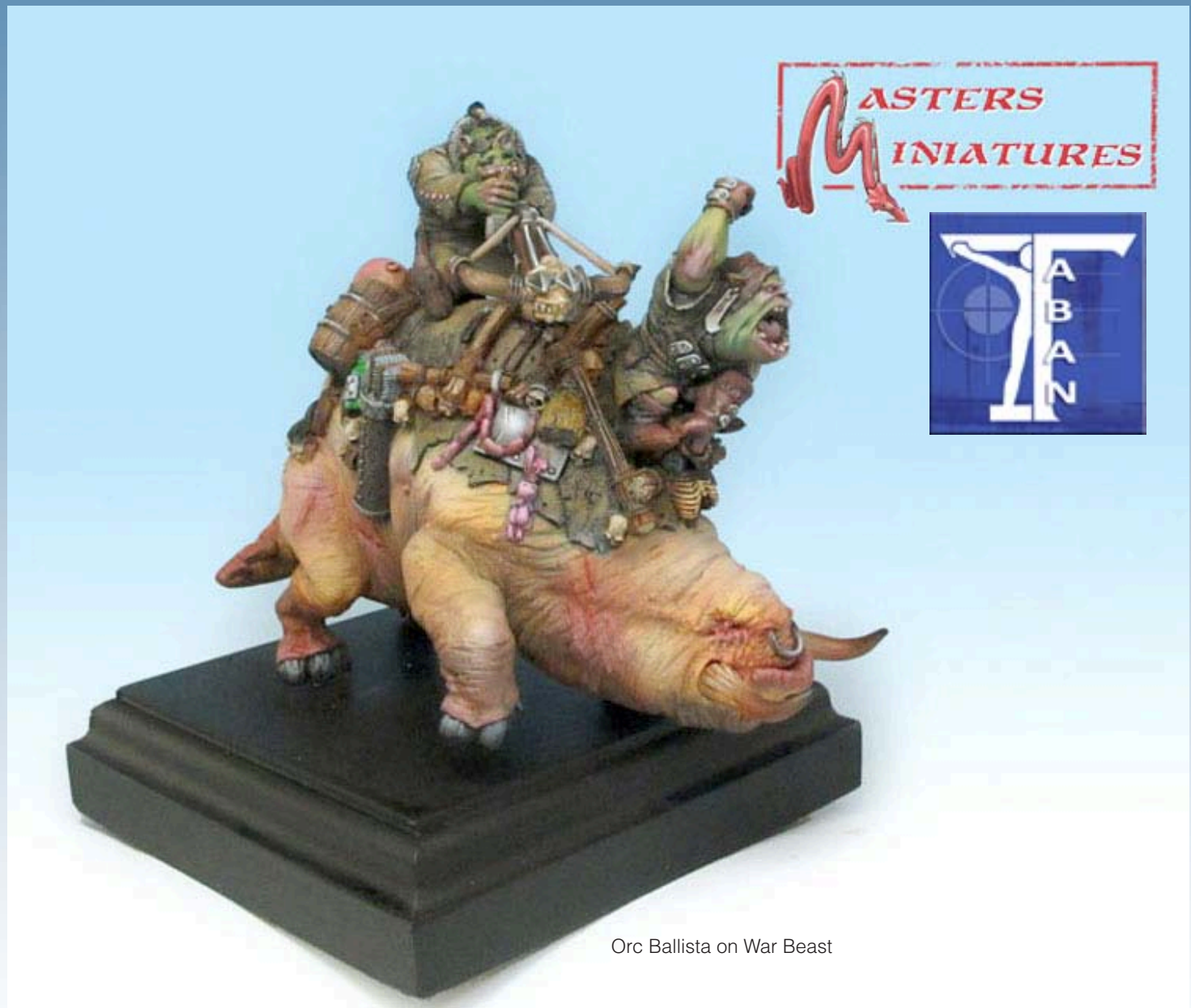
Warploque

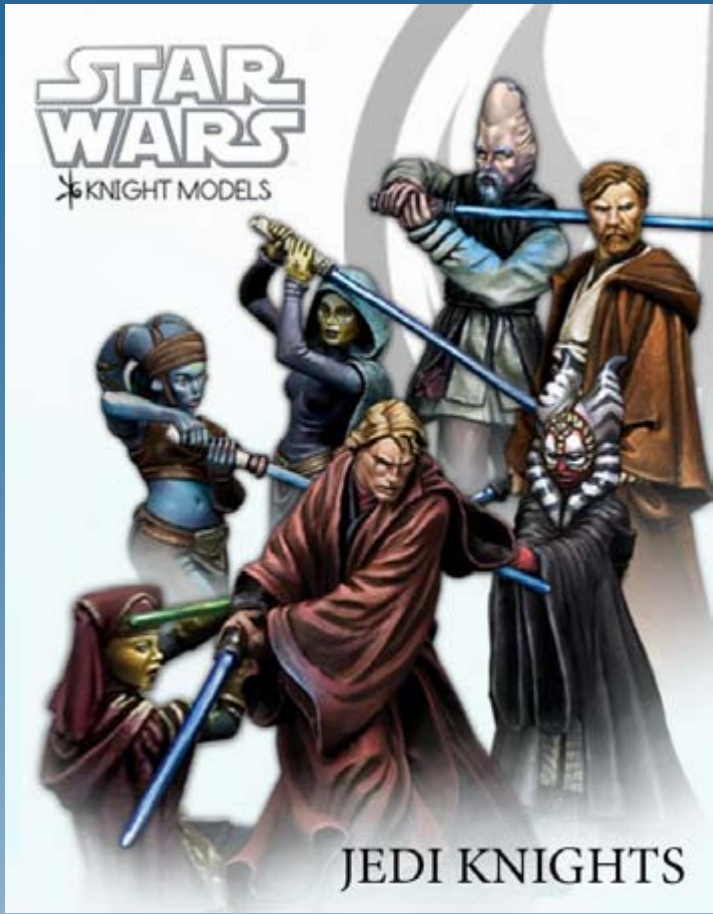
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Giant

SODA POP MINIATURES





PREDASTORE



Spear-Hunter



Bone-Hunter



Jungle-Predette



Chasing-Hunter

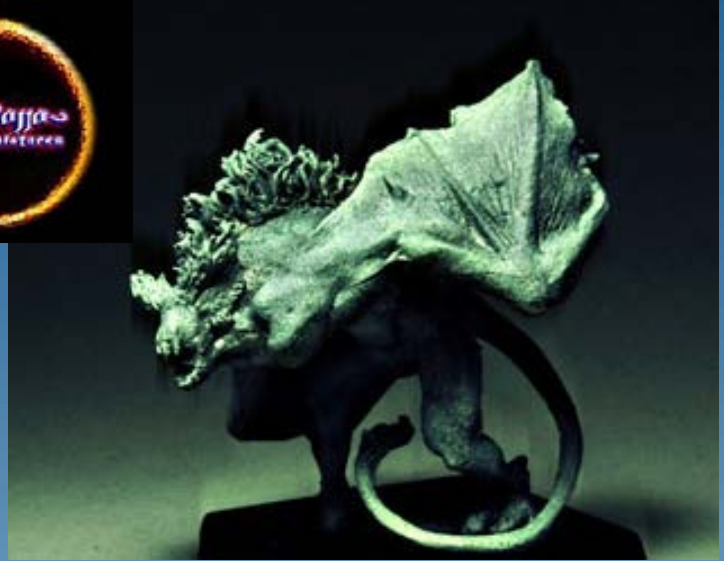


Ninja's





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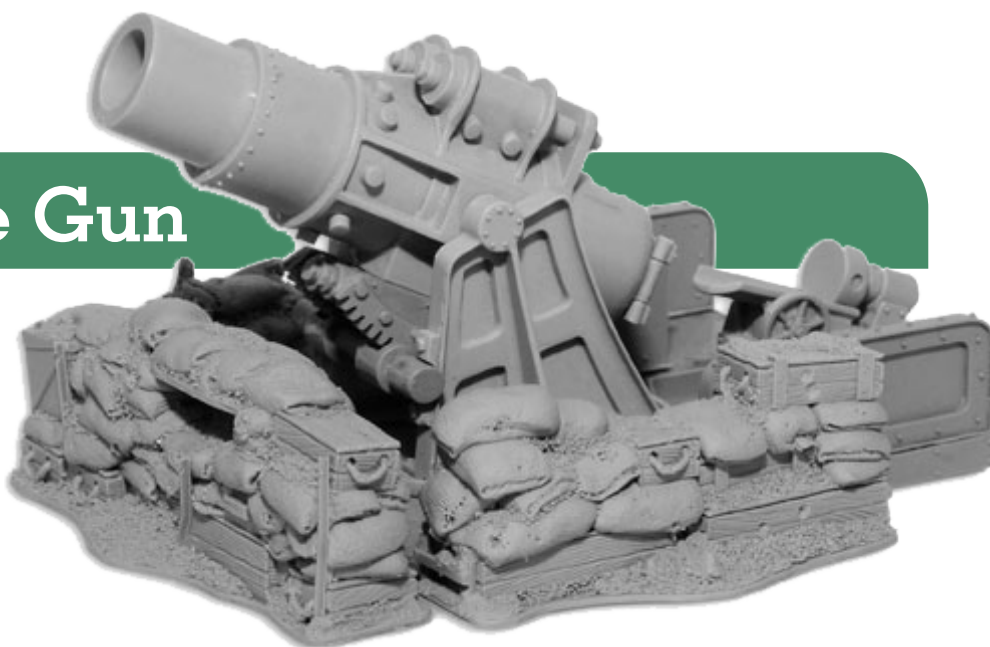
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REVIEW

MaxMini Siege Gun

By Darklord



A little while ago I reviewed the AA Turret from MaxMini and found it to be a great piece. This time I am looking at another piece from their Heavy Weapons range, the Siege Gun, but will it fare so well?

to be adjustable. this gives you a great range of positioning and even the possibility of retaining this movement after assembly if you wished.

There are two versions of the gun available: the complete set or the gun on its own. The difference between the sets is the gun only version doesn't come supplied with the base, shell carriage or barriers. Personally I prefer the version with these as it creates a greater interest in the piece and makes better options for diorama's or battlefield elements.

The gun is priced at €29 (around £24) which I think is a decent price for the amount of resin you're getting here. The gun only version is priced at €18 (around £15) which again is a fair price (though I would personally pay the extra for the additional pieces).

Overall

A great well made piece that won't disappoint..



Manufacturer	
Maxmini	
Material	Resin
Price	€29.00
Contact	
http://www.maxmini.eu	
Other Information	
Sculpted by Marcin "Majster" Szmyt	
Ratings	
Quality	9.0 Good clean sculpting and excellent casting.
Assembly	7.5 Seventeen parts but easy enough to put together.
Value	8.5 Decent value for money - a lot of resin for your money.
Overall Score	8.5

The first thing that strikes you about the Siege Gun is how solid it feels. It is cast in resin of a good quality and it feels strong in your hand. The sculpting of the gun is very nice, good sharp details with straight edges. The casting helps retain these nice details, the casting is good. There are a few mold lines and the odd casting mark but for the size of the pieces I would say they are about average and no more.

The second thing that hits you about the piece is how many parts it comes in, 17 in fact!! This may sound a lot but it's done from necessity. It isn't an issue though as the pieces fit together very well with good tolerances and alignment pins and holes in places. The pieces have been designed to allow the turntable and gun angle



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In this feature we profiling companies associated with our hobby and ask the people behind these company what makes them tick and what role they play in getting a product from the drawing board to our painting table.



ANDREA Miniatures

To open this new feature in Portal we have the greatest pleasure of profiling Alejandra Fernández, Sales Executive with ANDREA MINIATURES.

Tell us a little about your company

Andrea Miniatures today is part of a much larger corporation that produces and distributes everything from modelling accessories and books to large series of commissioned works ranging from military and historical miniatures to vehicles, aeroplanes, medals, etc.

The company's headquarters in Madrid comprises a large group of professionals including moulding engineers, teams of painters, quality controllers, and graphic designers, all of them backed by a new factory.

But even within this industrial complex, the old and new Andrea Miniatures continue to share the same care, passion and hand-made manufacture typical of the legendary pieces whose origins are rooted in a passion born many years ago.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all of you, the enchanting people who make this exciting adventure possible with your support; we will continue to work to produce the kinds of miniatures that you and we dream of.

You are welcome to visit us and see our magnificent showroom. There you will find the entire Andrea Miniatures collection, as well as spectacular dioramas. We are sure that all miniature enthusiasts will thoroughly enjoy themselves.



Picture taken in the Chicago Toy Soldier Show 2011

How did the company come about?

Half a century ago, the world was quite different from nowadays. Childhood was really no exception to this fact, and boy's games were populated by a collection of toys heavily centred on cowboys, Indians and stereotyped objects more or less inspired by war-related topics, whose main representatives were still the old toy soldiers that so many children of earlier generations had cherished so fondly. At difference from today, there were no computers, few television sets, and possibly far more fantasy and imagination.

In the early sixties at the Andrea family home, toy soldiers seemed to monopolize the games of the Andrea brothers. There were some good companies in Spain at that time manufacturing high quality rubber-cast figures. The Andrea passion for miniatures was evident early on, as the brothers spent countless hours playing imaginative children's games with the figures.

This fondness for the charming figures didn't fade as time went by. On the contrary, it continued to grow year after year, up to some time in the late sixties, when the Andrea brothers began to paint the old 1:72 figures from Airfix with Humbrol enamels.

The seventies, an assortment of plastic figures in kit form (such as Airfix's Collector Series, Historex, or the Tamiya 1:35 soldiers) were the delight of the now teenage Andrea brothers. By this time,



Fernando and Carlos Andrea were already producing the first in a series of impressive conversions. Both were students, and they spent a good share of their leisure on modelling. These were long and absorbing evenings -and sometimes whole days- planning and working together as they slowly developed the personal view of model soldier-making, deeply rooted in their early childhood, that was the basis for what later became the Andrea style in figure design.



Also in the seventies, the two brothers reached a turning point when they met Rafael Barreira, who was then managing Barreira Militaria (the only modelling shop in Madrid dedicated exclusively to model soldiers, mostly imported from Britain at the time). Barreira showed interest in the brothers' work and bought some pieces from them for re-sale at the shop. This was the first "commercial operation" for the boys who, encouraged by Barreira's support, increased their production. In addition, they discovered metal cast figures and spent most of their holiday time painting figures on commission or designing conversions and dioramas. Then came the long years at university, military service, their first jobs... Inevitably, the brothers modelling activity decreased, although it never stopped completely.

At the beginning of the eighties, Fernando Andrea was sailing around the world as an officer in the Spanish Merchant Marine and Carlos, who had studied architecture and economics at the University in Madrid, was an executive working for a large English company. They were now making good livings, but something wasn't right. Their modelling activities had been reduced by now to practically nothing, even though both of them still dreamed of figures. They met rarely, but when they did, conversation



always shifted to the same topic: "the next figure we're going to design as soon as we can". But the anxiously longed-for moment never arrived and it seemed as if the good old days were gone forever.

In the winter of 1983, a crucial decision was made. With the support of Carlos' girlfriend (now his wife, Concha), the brothers gave up their respective professions and founded Andrea Miniatures in order to dedicate themselves full-time to their lifelong passion, the art of miniature figures. The company's assets were easy to compute: no money at all, no machinery, no models to be sold, no know-how on how to cast and produce figures, no premises, but tons of hopes and dreams. Although some good friends kindly offered to lend badly-needed money to cover start-up expenses, the brothers refused, since there was no reasonable guarantee for prompt repayment.

The brothers' old room at the family home, where many of the early pieces had been created, happened to be the first Andrea workshop, office and... bedroom. A long struggle then began, with feverish, 16-hour-a-day modelling sessions, no weekends, no holidays. Still, these were joyful times, marked by the appearance of several models that were painstakingly planned, researched and carried out. Some of them may seem a bit on the rough side by today's standards, but any move to drop them from the catalogue is systematically rejected on the basis that all were produced with identical dedication and effort, thus well deserving the honour of appearing in the catalogue.



What's your favourite product you have released?

Uff... this is really difficult! We have a huge catalogue and we have produce some pretty amazing figures during these years. I think my favourite kit is the new horseback figure, it is just incredible. My favourite figure from our "Black Hawk Toy soldier" line is "The overland stagecoach".

Any product you wish you had thought of?

Not really, I think we have done pretty much everything during the years and there is so much more coming soon!

Why should we buy from you?

Everything! Just kidding... I know this is just not possible. You should buy whatever you like or you need, as I have mentioned before, we have a huge catalogue and I think there is something for everybody, it is difficult not to find something you just love there.

What does the future hold for you?

Pretty exciting and amazing projects! We have a lot of things in store for this year and I strongly suggest you to check our website frequently in order to have all the updated information about what is going on here.

Any sneak peeks?

Well, as I have already told you, we have a lot of things in our production schedule for this new year and I don't want to ruin all the surprises to all our followers I just want to say again that you should keep an eye on our website and that there is a new and simply AMAZING Pin Up coming out soon so.... Hold your breath!

How long has it been going?

For more than 25 years.

How many employees?

Now there is around 100 employees working in the company.

What's the hardest part of running the company?

The absolute priority of doing outstanding products. If you don't want to lower the bar you always need to be one step ahead the other companies and work really hard to get a constant feedback from customers and the market.

What makes your company stand out from the rest?

Design, paint, sculpt... everything. We are Andrea, and we produce the best. We are strongly committed with the highest quality.



BANE LORDS

both models released
February 4th, 2012



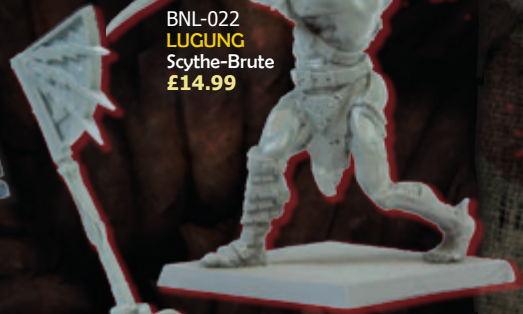
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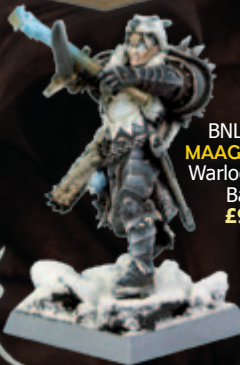
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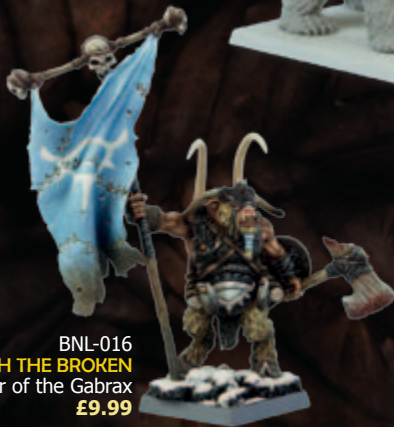
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If you have products relevant to Miniature Painting, Wargaming or Roleplaying then WAMP members are your targeted market. If not, our audience are also interested in related products such as Fantasy, Science Fiction, Historical and Military related media as well as Art and Photography so it is still a good idea to advertise with us because WAMP is a vast community and for a lot of its members the first place to seek advice on books, video games, movies and much, much more.

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Portal
an insight into **WAMP**

WAR CAST STUDIOS™

Portal magazine has teamed up with Warcast Studios to offer you the chance to win a \$50 Warcast Studios gift voucher and it couldn't be simpler to enter!

To enter simply upload to the Wamp Gallery before the 10th February with a miniature on a base no larger than 60mm. Warcast will then pick their favourite base from all the entries and the winner will receive the gift voucher. (We told you it was simple!!) The only restriction is the 60mm base size, other than that anything is allowed, any manufacturer, scale, subject etc..

Rules:

- You must be a wamp member to upload to the gallery Membership is free and you may register [here](#).
- You may enter as many times as you like.
- Images must be no larger than the gallery restrictions (stated on the upload screen).
- Only one upload per miniature, any additional photographs of that entry will be removed.
- You give Wamp (including [Portal](#) Magazine) and Warcast Studios permission to use your pictures for publicity (but you do retain ownership).
- Judging will be conducted by Warcast Studios.
- Submissions must be posted to the Wamp Gallery (www.wamp-forum.com/gallery)
- Images must be rateable.
- Credit is eligible at www.warcaststudios.com.

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Ingrior of Aelfheim, Swordmaiden by countersunk81



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Spring in the mountain by Mochriedh



Hansel and Gretel by Nameless



Red Vanielle by Stubbs



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Madlenka by Daveyboy



Gobbo's last stand by Scottradom



Christia The Chaste by sublimebrushwork



Fat Fergus by Vlado



Winter is coming by super-glue



Ragnar of Utherby by GiraffeX



Red Vanielle by sublimebrushwork



Defiance! by Shades



Fearless Hvitarnor by clevischi



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rate it!
TOP THIS MONTH



STAR WARS



OBI WAN by amon chakai



Rocklobber by Darklord



Akosha Nama by lacton



Misfit - HF Tony by megazord_man



Customized Ultramarine Rhino by odinsgrandson



Brimstone by Tommie Soule



Dragon by Darklord



TREELORD by Nuca



Ferrus by megazord_man



Barnabas Ironbrace by piratemama



OrK Boss in German Helmet by ScottRadom

Threadomancy is where we look at some of the most interesting and helpful post from the recent past. If you wish to contribute to the thread, click on the title.

looking for Chickens miniatures, pls. 30mm scale

Hi guys, I know Reaper got those but I already have a lot of reaper mini so... any other manufacturers doing chickens? pls

vegel

Undave

Their site is an utter mess but Megaminis do some chickens <http://freeboardgamesnow.com/chickensx14.aspx>

Vern

Yep, Mega Minis & if you don't want to trawl through the PDF's - go to there [ebay](#) page.

LOBO

You could try Tamiya 1/35 Livestock set, it has Chickens, Chicks, and Roosters!

frogimus

This [company](#) has different livestock if you can figure your way through the place.

kdlynch

No chickens I see, but plenty of other small animals: http://www.busch-model.com/online/in...3&sprach_id=de (discovered via link on Massive Voodoo).

vegel

Thanks everyone !! :)

Gloss Varnish

Got a small pot of GW Ardcoat (Gloss Varnish) had it for years but its going cloudy now and seems to be drying up? Is it ok to add a little water to rehydrate it like you can the paint?

Darklord

Orki

Yep. Assuming its not actually setting and is just a little thick. It's a piece of string thing, the only way you can tell is to try it out on a test subject and see what happens if you're not sure.

How big is yours? Plinth, that is.

Guys, My neighbour is a keen woodworker and has offered me some offcuts of wood, to use as plinths for my figures. He has asked me for measurements, so he can cut them to size on his band saw. Nice chap he is. I have not used a plinth to date, so I don't know how big it should be. I am guessing that a variety of sizes is probably a good idea. I will be mostly mounting 28mm figures, but I might in the future move up to bigger scales. So, any ideas on those dimensions?

Cheers in advance. Nord

Darklord

Anything from around 1 inch to maybe 3 inches would be a good start (say 1,2 and 3 inch plinths) obviously bigger, different shapes, etc are feasible - sky's the limit really.

Iacton

40 and 50mm are what I use most of the time.

Sister_Lucy

Round : 25, 30, 40, 50mm I've found that 30mm is great for 28mm figures. I used it on my most recent figure X'Stacy. I usually buy 2" blocks from Michaels craft store for 35mm figures from Kingdom Death. I think that is what a lot of modellers use for their small dioramas.

Ulfgrimr

I tend to use 1.5 - 2 inch plinths/bases as I like to put a lot on there and set a scene and I find smaller plinths constrict the figure but that's just a personal thing and depends on the miniature as well as the scene I have in my mind. I'd suggest a variety of sizes that you can offer the figure up to and see what looks best in proportion to the size of the model.



Picture courtesy of Model Display Products



Wamps social groups are a feature where you can join like-minded fellow WAMPERS and shoot the breeze about the things that make you tick. This [link](#) will take you to the social group area where you can see what other groups are currently up and give the choice to join in the conversation. If you have an idea for a social group you can always start your own. Below is a small selection of the current crop.

WAMPs Social Groups



Bald, Beard & Glasses Club

You just have to match at least 2 of the criteria to join:) but rules are to be broken. Not really a serious club I just want to see how many of us fit the stereo type.

Group Maintained By: shanerozell

Members: 21

Group Pictures: 0



Bois and Bits

Necrons, robots, vehicles, and any metal contraptions catch your fancy? This is the place for you! Come here to discuss your love for metal. This includes cyborgs and fleshy things with enhancements.

Group Maintained By: Spectral Dragon

Members: 2

Group Pictures: 0



what's in issue 19



Issue 19 should be a stonker. We'll have the results from the Warcast base contest plus if you have ever wondered what makes WAMP's most adored painter and its Poster Boy tick we have the answers for you. **IN HIS OWN WORDS!**

We'll also have all the usual News, Reviews and Interviews.

... just as long as you keep posting them :-p

Member Pages

Are you a commission painter or sculptor?

If so and you would like a cheap and easy way to get your info out there without the hassle and cost of creating a full site then we may have the answer, maybe you have your own site but want another way to advertise.

Wamp is now offering 'mini sites' for just **£10 a year**.

What you get:

Full setup of your own page within Wamp.

Your own url at Wamp (yournamehere.wamp-forum.com) or link to it from your own domain name of your choice.

Each page can include text, photos, live cmon ranking, live eBay listings as well as links to your gallery, email and blogs and more.

Pages will be linked via a prominent link visible across the whole of Wamp.

For an example page visit:

www.darklordminiatures.com

8 REASONS TO JOIN



While everyone can read the content on Wamp to their hearts desire there are even more benefits to registering on the friendliest mini-painting site around. Registration is simple and FREE!!

1. You can enter and vote on all contests.

2. You can post in the forums, including the Work In Progress and display cabinet sections - great places to get feedback.

3. You get your own personal gallery on the site where people can comment and rate your work if you wish.

4. You can join the Wamp Ladder - a challenge based ranking system for mini-painters.

5. Have your own personal blog space that's fully customisable.

6. Join or create personal social groups with their own 'mini site'.

7. Create articles, reviews or tutorials to help out others in the hobby.

8. Get access to exclusive member only offers.

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- Winner of Avatars of War and Westwind contests at www.wamp-forum.com
- Winner of numerous GW Durham and GW Regional contests
- Finalist Iron Painter 6

For more
information visit

www.darklordminiatures.com

