CREATING FOAM ROCK FACES

By

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ADVANTAGES

- **Light weight** – modules, lift outs, dioramas, layouts
- **No plaster mess** – spills, clothing, molds, floor
- **No expensive molds** – of no use when finished
- **Uniqueness** – no repetition of same casting
- **Easy coloring vs. staining** – just repaint mistakes
- **Ease of remodeling scene** – tear out easy and neat

COST & YIELD

FOAM

½”x4’x8’--- $14

1” x4’x8’--- $28

11/2”x “ --- $35

2”x4’x8’ --- $43 AND 7.5lbs

2X4X8= 5.3 cf

$43/ 5.3 = $8.11 @ cf

Glue sticks $0.35 ea

PLASTER

25 lbs --- $23

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70 lbs + 49 lbs water = 1 cu ft

(3-25lb bags @ $23 = $69)

$69 x 5.3 = $365

Rubber molds @ $10 to $13

DISADVANTAGES

- **Sharp tools** – care must be taken
- **Foam “crumbs”** – can cling to clothes
- **Paint** – drying time vs. stain
- **Hot Glue**



HANDY ADDITIONS

- Paper towels
- Anti-static spray
- Dental pick
- Sanding block, drywall sanding mesh
- Can of expanding foam for big gaps
- Hot knife or Hot wire





RESEARCH

Igneous	Sedimentary	Metamorphic
Granite	Shale	Slate
Basalt	Sandstone	Marble
	Limestone	

You don't have to be a geologist

- Study your type and colors of area you're modeling
- Search internet for example photos to work from
- Note the strata and texture
- Details, i.e. mineral deposits, vegetation













LET’S BUILD AN IGNEOUS ROCK FACE





Cut base to desired shape



Cut at angle for non-horizontal strata



A few beads of hot glue & place on base



Cut to different depths and angles



Snapping off pieces creates rough rock shape and texture



Keep adding layers of odd shapes





Hot glue different shapes





Accentuate or modify shapes suggested after snapping off pieces



Creating cracks and texture



Avoid brick-like construction



Cut and fit irregular shapes

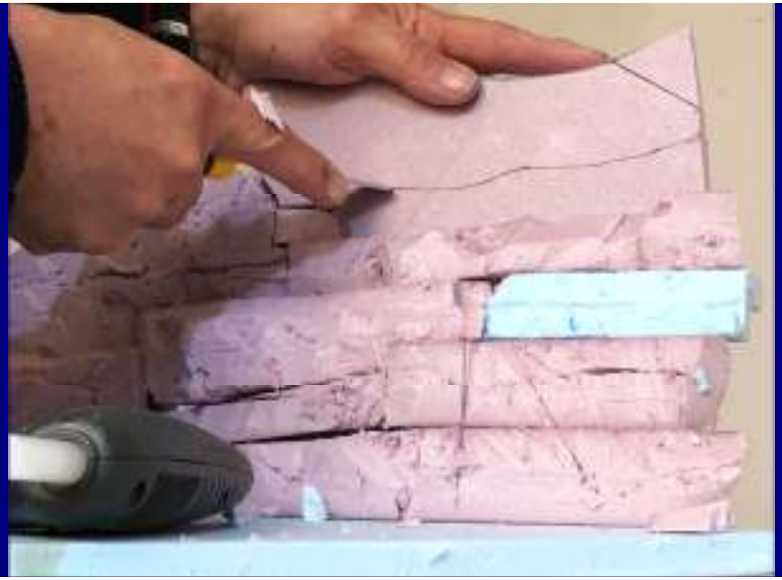




Fill large gaps with pieces cut to size



Add scraps for greater variety







Fill large gaps with pieces cut to size



Use any gouging tool to add more character





Use sanding stick to tune the shape
Now it's time to fill unrealistic cracks



Various super light spackle brands



Filling small gaps & seams



Let dry before painting

Apply base coat of acrylic paint







Apply basic rock colors



Different earth colors for variation & depth





Joining 2 dioramas on the layout (before)



Joining dioramas (after)













Granite

Basalt







Folded strata





Shale



Lower 2/3 plaster, peak is foam



Granite

GET SOME FOAM,
EXPERIMENT & HAVE FUN

NOT “THE END”

JUST THE BEGINNING!