

Martin Welberg Studios Working with Bushes & Shrubs



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Martin Welberg Studios has revolutionized the genre of Model Scenery. His creations of scale scenic components have surpassed the accepted norm of modeling. The term "Super Detail" should apply when discussing these materials. First Take Caution!! As you know... These materials can get expensive and are designed to be installed using certain techniques. In order to maintain the delicate nature of their fine structure, please read below and learn properly the first time so you will not waste materials through trial and error as most modelers do.

Do Not Try to "PLUCK" a bush from the backing sheet! These are not grass tufts. You will squish and smash the bush to a point that it is useless. These materials do not like "fat fingers". Always use tweezers to handle the bush until you learn its limitations.

1: You must remove the paper backing sheet from the black cardstock. It is glued at the corners. It's OK if you tear the card as it serves no other purpose. Try to keep the backing sheet in tack however. If it does tear, keep the loose pieces together.

2: With sharp scissors, begin cutting apart the bushes. Cut apart in square bases. Try not to cut too much of the branches. Some of the bushes, especially the shorter shrubs, have branches touching the ground base. Smaller trimming scissors may be a better tool for this purpose.

3: You will see that the base paper has a wonderful ground cover of soil, grasses, deadfall and leaf-litter; this you want to keep. It eventually allows perfect seamless blending into your scene.

4: Very rarely in nature do you see square shapes or even straight edges. What needs to be done next is round-off the straight edges and shape the base to blend more naturally. Try to trim with random shape bases and not all just round. This can be done using trimming scissors or tear small pieces away from the perimeter. Tearing will give the most random edge that really blends nicely with other scenic textures such as grass tufts and foam turfs.

5: Here is a simple round base that can be placed easily and blended well with other bushes or materials. This was rounded by small trimming scissors. The paper base, as you may have already noticed, is a soft porous material that will easily conform to any contour. Use simple white glue to adhere to your scenic base. We recommend that bushes and shrubs be placed first on your scene, and then blend the supporting materials grassy tufts, static grasses and foliages.

Take our advice! You should only cut what you need at the moment. Experience has proven that if bushes are cut off the backing sheet and lay around unprotected... they will become damaged and unusable. Get into the habit of always storing the unused portion back in the plastic box for safety.

6: If you've gotten this far, you probably have a pretty good understanding of the potential and the simplicity of working with Martin Welberg materials. They are fine and delicate... but again, what in fine scale modeling isn't? "Practice makes perfect" they say and with materials like these you are well on your way.

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