

# Building the Wizards Tower

## Building Instructions

You will need to fill this mold 18 times to have enough blocks to build the tower. Also, the blocks should be **completely dry** before gluing them together. Placing them in front of a fan will speed the process. If they feel cool or look darker than the other blocks, they're still wet.

1. If you order mold #50, I'll send you the floor plan along with a layer by layer drawing so you'll know exactly where each block goes. You can also download the plans from the Building Plans Page and print them out yourself. If you're building something other than this tower, be sure to draw a plan on graph paper.



2. Since these blocks fit exactly on 1/4" graph paper, you can stack them up right on the floor plan. Glue the blocks together to create the floor. Use any glue that works on porous material; Tacky glue, Wood glue, Liquid Nails, etc. You might **test the glue** on a few blocks before gluing the whole thing! For more specific information on glue, check out the FAQs section



3. Continue to lay down and glue the bricks as shown. Where any blocks touch, be sure there's glue between them. Also, be sure the smooth sides of the bricks are down.



4. When laying down the bricks, occasionally press a stiff piece of cardboard (or something flat) up against the walls to keep them in line. Don't worry if your walls aren't perfectly straight, a little wave to them will add character.



5. Here I've added the arrow slits. They come in two halves that fit together to make one window. The inside of the arrow slit is beveled, just like the real thing! The bevel allows an archer to aim easily from the inside.



- If you need a block to fit into an odd sized space, sand it lightly. Plaster is easy to sand and carve. Also, if you glued a block the wrong way (so you can see the smooth bottom), simply chip the edge with a hobby knife to texture it.
- 6.



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- To make a removable section, **mark the walls in red where you don't want to glue them.** It will serve as a reminder not to put glue there. Later you will be able to lift off that section. This will make it easier to paint the inside and also place miniatures in the building when finished.
- 7.



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- For the roof, glue the blocks together and allow them to dry before gluing it onto the walls. I've stacked up blocks in the door to support the top of the doorway. See the red marks on the tower? Remember not to put glue there. When dry, the roof and the top of the wall will lift off.
- 8.



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- Continue building up the small tower. Since I want to paint the inside, I've marked in red where not to glue it. The top of the small tower will lift off.
- 9.



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- Here I've added the crenellations, top caps, and decorative braces around the outside. Now it's starting to look like something!
- 10.



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- The top of the tower is completed, along with the crenellations and decorative braces. Remember, **any design you can imagine you can build!** And your creation can be as simple or complex as you want.
- 11.



## Painting Instructions

Get your materials together. You will need:

- **Latex Paint-** I'm talking about cheap flat latex wall paint. If you're doing this for the first time, you might just buy a quart of white and a quart of black. If you do lots of models and terrain, it's a lot cheaper by the gallon. Before you rush off to the hardware store, ask a neighbor or two if they have some paint in their garage.
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- **Your castle model-** Be sure that it's completely dry. Notice that I made this one in separate sections so the inside can be painted more easily. Lay down some newspaper. It's surprising how much spattering occurs when painting.
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- **A paint brush-** A 3/4" wide soft bristled brush will do the best. Spend a few dollars on this to get a good one. It will make a big difference on how well the paint job will come out. Keep in mind that the dry brushing technique will ruin the brush after a while.
  - **Cheap plastic cups-** I get mine at wal-mart. You will use a bunch of these when mixing and pouring paint
  - **Baby food jars-** Use these to save mixed paint in. It comes in handy for touch-up work later on.
  - A roll of **paper towels.**

## Choosing paint colors

**The trouble free method is to buy some black and white paint, so you can mix all the shades of gray you want for your stone color.**

If you're more selective (like me), you can make your stone color more natural. Stone color is very close to earth color, which range from tannish-gray to reddish brown to greenish brown-gray. Since earth is decomposed rock, most soil colors will work.

One way to pick a stone color is to gather up a couple of rocks and head to the paint department. Find a color sample that matches the rocks and use it as a base color. You'll simply add white or black to lighten or darken the shade.

**Your painting will consist of 3 colors:** A Dark gray that goes on first, a medium gray that is lightly brushed on, and a light gray that is dry-brushed.

**Test your paint colors** by gluing a few blocks together and painting them. Keep track of your colors by painting them on a card (as shown in the picture above).

This is helpful when you need to mix additional paint.

## Various Colors That May Be Used



## Painting Your Model

- Mix your dark color** of paint first. It should be about **4 shades darker** than you want your building to appear when finished. Be sure to test your colors as described above. **You will need to thin the paint** so it will soak down into all of the cracks between the stones. The ratio is about 1 cup of paint to 1/4 cup of water.
- 1.



- Liberalily apply the thinned paint to your model (slop it on). It's almost like pouring paint on and wiping off the excess with the paint brush. **Be careful!** If you used water based glue, the glue will soften until the paint dries. Handle the model carefully!
- 2.



- Do not stack your building back together while wet!** If you do (and it dries that way) it will never come apart again. Since paint turns darker as it dries, you'll probably think "Oh my god, its way too dark!" **Don't worry**, it will come out fine. Be sure to save your left over paint because you'll find spots you missed.
- 3.



- Mix up your medium color** of gray. It should be a shade lighter than the color of the finished building.
4. **Do not thin the paint!** Using a dry brush, dip it in the paint and **try to wipe all of the paint off** onto a paper towel.



- Start painting in the least noticeable place, like the inside of the ceiling. Brush over the surface with a **light to medium pressure**. This is called dry-brushing. The paint will stick to the highlights of the stone and all of the texture will show up. It's works the best if you have **almost no paint in the brush** and use more strokes to cover the area.
- 5.



- When finished, you'll see a big difference between the first and second coat! Some people stop at this point, but I like to **put a third and final highlight coat on**. The last coat is light gray (4 shades lighter than the medium gray). For this coat, wipe the brush completely dry and barely touch the surface when you brush over it.
- 6.



Dark Gray Undercoat



Medium Gray Coat



Light Gray Highlights

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- If you're going to **use the model for war games** and other heavy use, you'll want to **protect it with a coat of flat varnish or lacquer**. The completed model is shown here with a few finishing touches such as doors, grass, bushes and terrain. The base for this model was carved from a block of blue foam. Ground cover was added using railroad scenic materials. The doors were made from matt board.
- 7.
- Keep in mind that **you can build any design you want!** Make it twice as large, or with additional towers. The possibilities are endless!

