

Tips & Tricks using Part 5

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Using mold #230 to make a clay tile roof

To cast the best pieces, you really need to use **hydrocal** or hydro-stone. The pieces are fairly thin and delicate, so mixing these products slightly thinner will still result in a fairly tough piece. You can use plaster (actually I used plaster for these photos) but it is more difficult to get rid of the air bubbles and still get good sturdy pieces cast.

- 1.

For this example, I'm going to put a clay tile roof on the Dragon's Inn. When you buy the Dragon's Inn mold I'll send building instructions which includes a roof plan. You can also download these plans from the Building Plans Page.

2. Start by lying the roof plan over a piece of cereal box or card stock (I'm using matt board). **Poke down hard** with an ink pen on the corners which will place a dent on the card stock. **Connect the dots** to form the roof sections.

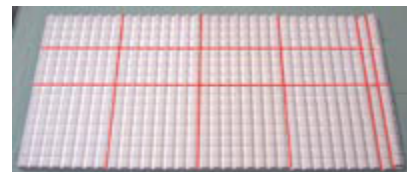


3. The small roof section will have to be trimmed down so it's not as wide. I don't want the small roof piece to overlap the larger piece because the thickness of the roof tiles.



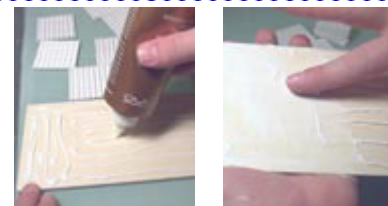
The pieces butt against each other after trimming.

4. Start by laying tile pieces on top of your roof section. I've made a number of different tile shapes to easily fit most roof sizes. The red lines show the separate tile pieces.

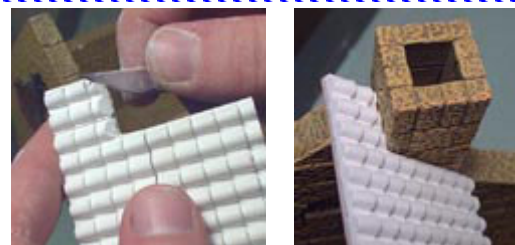


5. Place a bead of glue all over the roof section. Spread the glue around with your finger, and then place the tiles on the roof.

Let the roof section dry completely! Do the same for all of the roof sections.



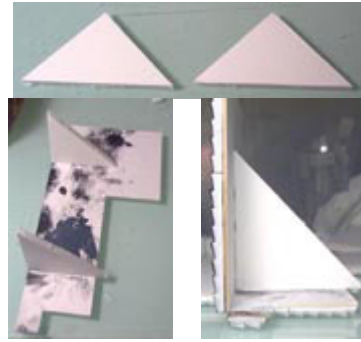
6. Certain parts of the roof will need to be trimmed or sanded. This part of the roof needs to fit up next to the chimney.



Cut a couple of triangles out of cardboard (or foam core board). Make sure at least one angle is 90 degrees for the roof peak.

7. Glue these onto one side of the roof (my roof inside has gray paint on it from another project).

When dry, glue the other half of the roof onto the triangles. These will brace the roof and keep the sides at 90 degree angles.



When the roof is dry, place it on the model. The peak of the roof now has a bevel in it where the two halves meet.

8. The peak tiles are especially made to fill the gap. Place a bead of glue in the groove across the roof peak and start lying in these peak tiles.

When you get to the end, you can sand down the last tile if it sticks out too far.



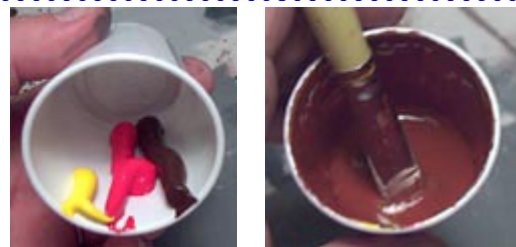
9. Here's the finished roof with the peak tiles on. You can secure the small roof section by gluing a piece of paper under the two roof pieces.

Now all that's left is to paint the roof.



10. I'm going to use acrylic tube paints for the roof. Start with a 2" strip of dark brown paint, a 2" strip of red paint, and a 1" strip of yellow paint.

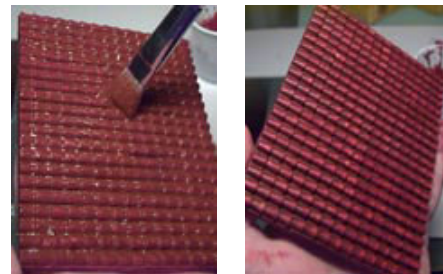
Add water and mix the paint until it's the consistency of milk.



Brush the paint on liberally and jam the brush into all of the cracks.

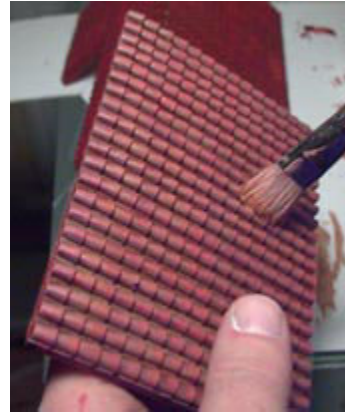
11. **Before the paint dries** take a soft rag and wipe away the excess paint like a stain. With a little practice, you can make it look good without dry brushing it.

Unfortunately I took my time and the paint got too dry. Since I couldn't wipe off the excess I'm going to dry brush a lighter color to pick up the details in the tile.



Mix a 1" strip of white acrylic tube paint with a teaspoon of the dark paint you've used. You might even add a touch of red to it. The paint will be a peach color.

12. Get some paint on your brush and then brush most of it off on a paper towel. Gently brush over the roof in both directions, across and down. A light layer of paint will accumulate on the highlights.



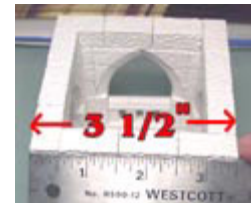
13. Here's the finished inn with the clay tile roof.



Now I'm going to make a roof for a little tower that I built.

I'm going to make a four-sided angled roof for the tower. The tower measures 3 1/2" wide (square) so I'm going to make each roof section 4" at the base so it will overlap the sides of the tower slightly.

1. I've made a roof template that you can find on the Building Plans Page. Feel free to download it and print it out for your own projects.



Lay the template over some thick paper stock and use a ball point pen to press down on the corners of your roof section. The template is marked in inches according to how wide you want the bottom of your roof to be (I've highlighted the section I'm using in red).



Remove the template and connect the dots with a ruler and ink pen.

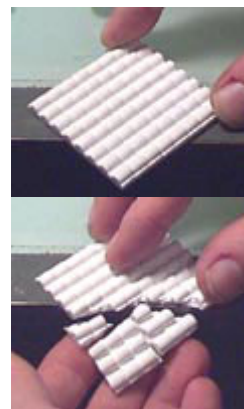
2. Use a hobby knife to cut out four triangles. **Be sure to label** the bottom of the roof sections with a "B".



Now for the tough part. These roof tiles take a bit of cutting and sanding to make angled roof sections. Since they're thin, they also break fairly easily.

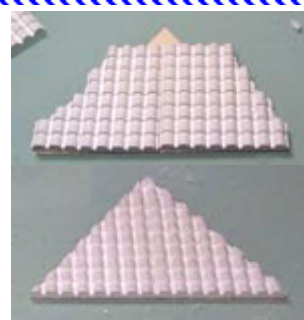
3. I need to bust off a corner of the roof tile so it will fit the section better. Lay the roof tile against the corner of a desk.

Gently snap off the corner. What you break off won't break cleanly. There are times when the whole section may break so be careful.



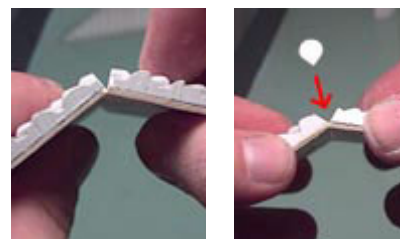
4. Glue the pieces onto the roof section. Line the bottom of the tiles up with the bottom (that you marked with a "B") and let the tiles hang over on the sides.

Let the pieces dry completely! You'll need to sand the excess tile off the edges for all four pieces.



5. Place two roof sections against each other as they would appear on the roof. Most likely there's not enough space to place the peak tile between them (the angle is too steep).

To fix this, sand down the edges of the roof at an angle that will accept the peak tile.



6. Lay the roof pieces against each other face down. Glue a strip of paper onto the backs to act as a hinge. Let this dry.

Pull the roof together and glue the remaining two sides together.

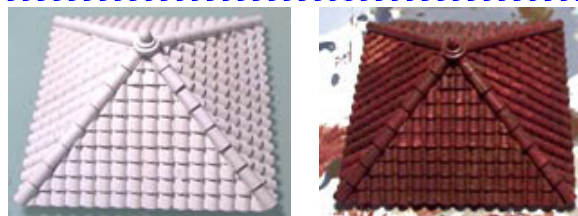


7. When you flip the roof over it should look like this. Glue peak tiles down the seams starting from the bottom and working your way up the roof.



Sand the top peak flat so you can add the decorative knob.

8. Paint with the dark red-brown as described for the Dragon's Inn roof.



9. Dry brush a light red-brown (or peach color) gently on top to finish the coloring.
Here are a couple photos of the tower so you can see the whole thing finished.



10. **I don't have plans available for this tower** (so please don't ask). I stacked it together in about 30 minutes using spare blocks I had laying around. The sole purpose of the tower was to show how to make the tiled roof for it.
I made the top arches removable so it can also be displayed this way (and it also helped me paint the inside of the arches).



Using mold #240 to make a wood shingle roof

To cast the best pieces, you really need to use **hydrocal** or hydro-stone. The pieces are fairly thin and delicate, so mixing these products slightly thinner

1. will still result in a fairly tough piece. You can use plaster (actually I used plaster for these photos) but it is more difficult to get rid of the air bubbles and still get good sturdy pieces cast.

When casting these pieces, **use a small stiff bristled paint brush** to paint around the inside of the mold. There are a lot of small, thin, ridges on the wood texture and not using a paintbrush will result in air bubbles on the cast pieces.



I'm going to make a four-sided angled roof for the tower. The tower measures 3 1/2" wide (square) so I'm going to make each roof section 4" at the base so it will overlap the sides of the tower slightly.



I've made a shingle roof template that you can find on the Building Plans Page. Feel free to download it and print it out for your own projects. **The shingle roof template has a steeper pitch than the clay tile roof.**

Lay the template over some thick paper stock and use a ball point pen to press down on the corners of your roof section. The template is marked in inches according to how wide you want the bottom of your roof to be (I've highlighted the section I'm using in red).



Remove the template and connect the dots with a ruler and ink pen.

4. Use a hobby knife to cut out four triangles. All three sides will be the same length, so it won't matter which side is up.



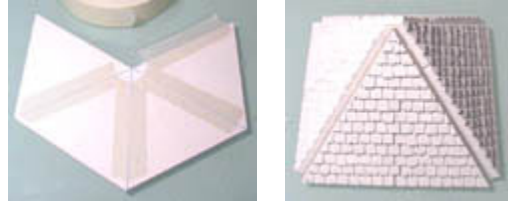
You'll notice that it takes 3 large shingle sections to cover one of the triangles. These triangular roof pieces are difficult because you have to do a lot of trimming and sanding.

5. Glue the sections onto the triangle piece and be sure the shingles line up to the bottom of the piece. **Let the pieces dry completely!**

When dry, trim and/or sand the edges off of the pieces.

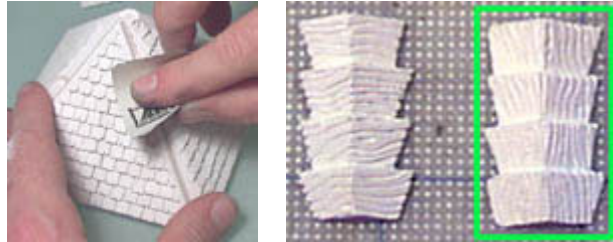


6. Lay the roof pieces against each other face down. Glue a strip of paper onto the backs or use masking tape to act as a hinge. Pull the roof together and glue or tape the remaining two sides together.



Sand down the corners slightly so there's a flat place to glue the edge shingles onto.

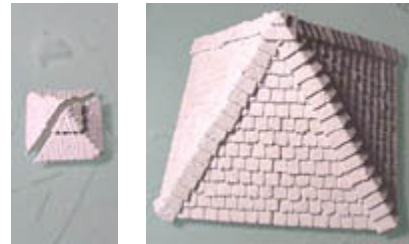
7. There are two kinds of edge shingles on the mold. We'll be using the one with the **vertical grain lines** (shown in the green box).



8. Glue the edge shingles on the corners. You'll have to trim them where they meet at the top. When they're completely dry, **sand the top slightly flat** for the roof cap.



9. The top cap is made in two halves. Glue the halves together and place it on the peak of the roof. You may have to sand the peak down until the top cap looks like it sets on correctly.



Here's the finished painted roof. This time I was able to use the paint like a stain with some really good results.

10. 1) Mix some brown acrylic tube paint with some water to the consistency of milk.
2) Paint it onto one section of the roof liberally.
3) Use a soft cloth to wipe off the excess.

When finished, the shadows and highlights come out really nice. It's better to work on small sections at a time. If the paint dries on the roof before you have a chance to wipe it off, it's won't work.

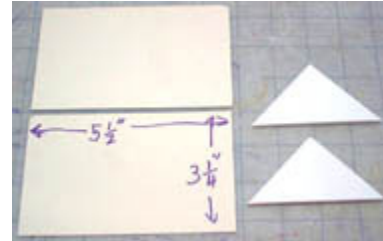


Now I'm going to make a roof for a small crypt.

The building instructions for the crypt are in the next section.

Cut two pieces of cardboard or mattboard for each side of the roof. The sides of this roof are 5 1/2" x 3 1/4".

1. Also cut a couple of triangle shaped pieces to support the roof. Make sure they have a 90 degree angle on one corner.



Lay down and glue the roof tile sections onto these pieces. These take about 6 sections each.

2. **You can easily break off rows** by laying the pieces against the sharp edge of a desk and snapping them off.



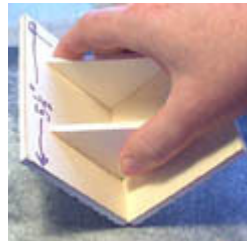
Let the glue dry completely! When dry, trim and sand the extra tile off the ends of the sections.

3. Lay a roof section face down and glue two 90 degree supports along the top edge.

Glue the remaining side onto the supports.



4. To put on the roof peak pieces, you first need to sand the top ridge slightly. Hold the roof upside down onto a piece of sandpaper and lightly sand it. Don't sand too much or the peak pieces won't fit correctly.

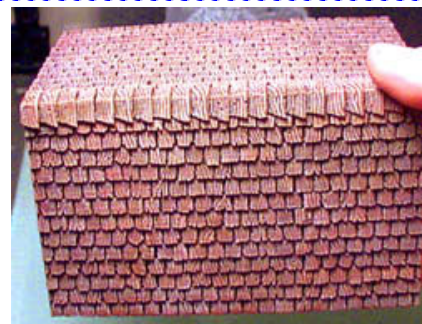


5. There are two types of roof cap pieces. For this type of roof, you'll use the cap pieces with the horizontal wood grain (shown in the green box).



6. Once the cap pieces are on and dry, the only thing left is to paint it. Once again I was able to use the paint like a stain. The roof is finished!

Continued on this page are the instructions of how to build the crypt it goes on.



Making a small crypt

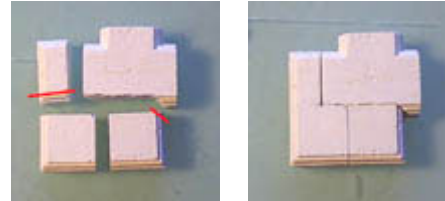
All of the pieces from this crypt are from the gothic molds #54, 55 and 56. **I'm not going to make plans for this model** but you should be able to see

1. which pieces to use by looking at the photos.

This model took me about 4 hours to plan and build out of extra blocks I had left over from the Cathedral.

I'll start off with the base trim pieces (mold#54). You'll need to trim a couple of pieces with a hobby knife as shown on the red lines.

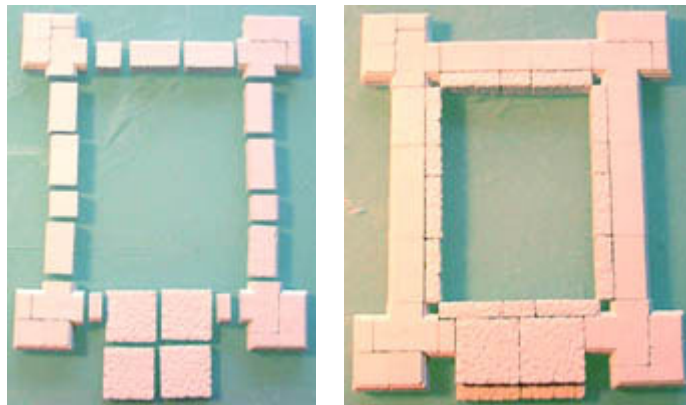
- 2.



Make four of these corner pieces.

Here are the remaining base trim pieces. At the bottom are four flat 1x1 floor tiles for steps.

3. After these are glued together, use some flat floor tile pieces on edge to form the inner ring of blocks shown.



Next lay in the floor tiles from mold #56 (tomb mold). After these are glued in, this finishes the base of the crypt.

4. Now make the two pieces shown on the right. The top photo uses pieces from the tomb mold. The bottom uses pieces from the bell tower.

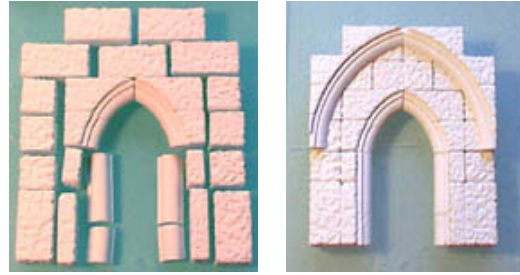


Glue the two pieces shown above on top of the other, aligning the top edges and centering them side to side.

5. Glue a small ball on the end of a small brick. This goes on each side of the section (shown in the red circles). **Make two of these wall sections.**



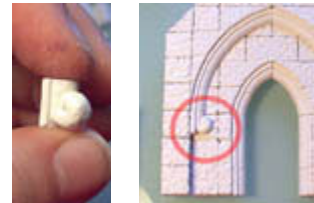
- Now for the doorway. The arch shown here is the large arch on mold #54.
6. Next, glue the flat arch pieces onto this section found on the tomb mold #56.



7. **Flip the door section over.** Now add on the blocks shown and glue them around the edges.
- This will make the door section stick up about 1/4" on the backside.



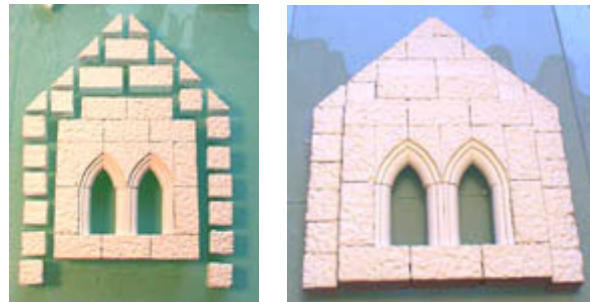
8. Take one of the small decorative pieces from mold #54 and sand one side of it off. Glue it on the front side of the doorway as shown circled in red. Do this for both sides of the large arch.



9. On the other side of the crypt will be a wall with 2 windows. The window arches are the small arches on mold #54.
- Once this section is glued together, add the large flat tomb mold arch on top of it.



10. **Flip the window section over.** Now add on the blocks shown and glue them around the edges.
- This will make the window section stick up about 1/4" on the backside.



11. Flip the piece back over and add the small decorative pieces on the bottom of the large arch (circled in red).
- Now assemble the pieces but **don't glue them together yet!** You need it in separate pieces so it can be painted.



12. I'll use pieces from the tomb mold for the corners. You'll have to cut one in half to go around the corner.

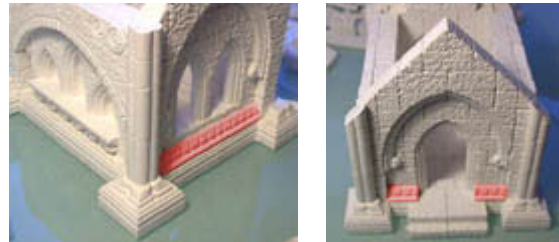


Only glue it down to the base! Don't glue it to the wall or the model won't come apart.

13. Now for the hard part. You have to sand or cut the column pieces in half so it will go around the corner. You also have to have a **bunch** of these pieces cast. I happened to have a bunch left over from the cathedral.

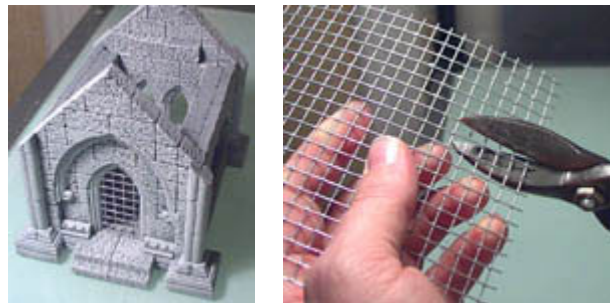


14. Glue the column pieces to the corners **but not to the base**. When dry, sand the columns down to match the roof angle.



Also, add decorative trim from the tomb mold in the area shown in red.

15. Here's the finished crypt painted using the same colors as the Wizard's Tower. For the iron gate, I'm going to use hardware cloth. It's available at most hardware stores and the mesh is 1/4" square.



Here are some pictures of the finished crypt. The hardware cloth was spray painted black and inserted into the doorway and windows.

