

Tips & Tricks using Part 12

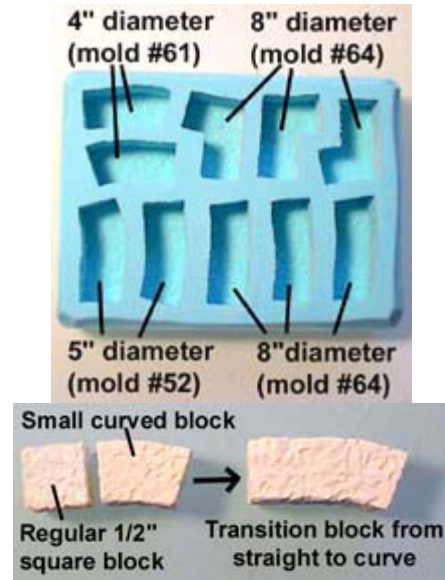
How to Use Mold #164.....	1
Painting Small Parts.....	3
Floor Tile Patterns.....	5

How to Use Mold #164

The round connector block **mold #164** looks **like this**. The pieces it makes fit the circular tower molds **#52, 61 and 64**. These three molds will make circular towers of 5", 4" and 8" outside diameters.

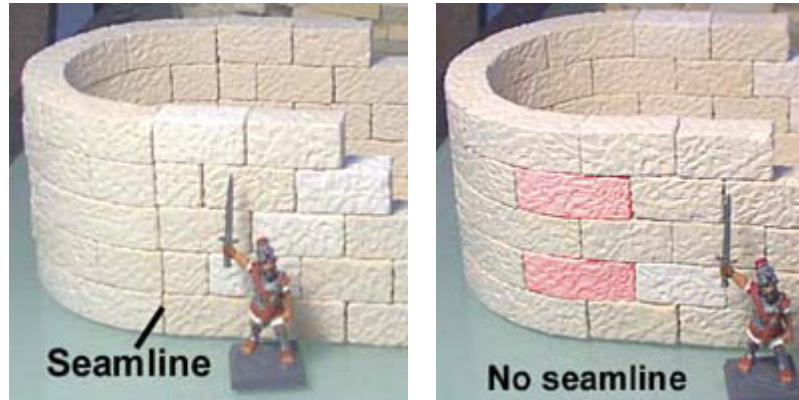
1. The odd shaped blocks that you see are meant to **turn a straight wall into a curved wall** with no obvious seams.

Just imagine that you took a square block and welded it to a curved block.



Without the connector blocks, you can't turn a straight wall into a curved wall without an obvious seam.

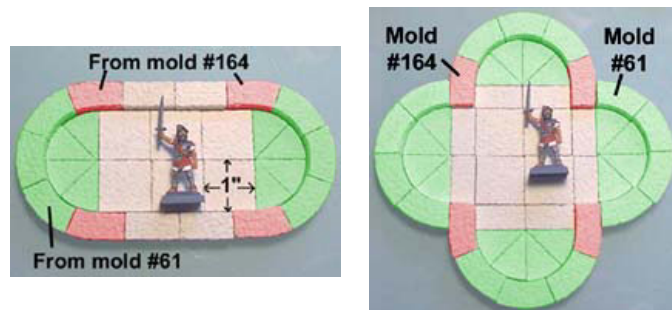
2. **Using the connector blocks** (shown in red), you can now turn a straight wall into a curved wall with no seam showing.



Now I'm going to show a few **floorplan layouts** using these connector blocks.

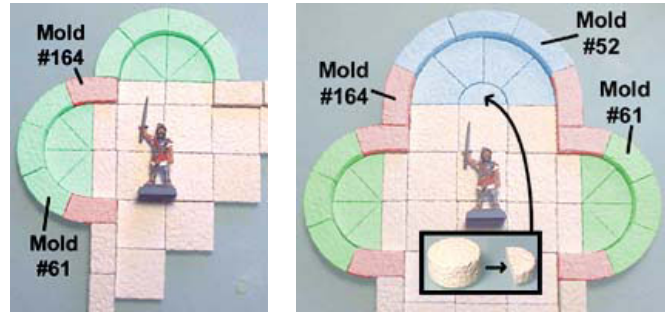
3. The two layouts shown here use **basic blocks and floor tiles** along with pieces from **mold #164** (shown in red) and **mold #61** (shown in green).

The roman soldier is a **25mm** figure and will be used in the remaining photos to give you some idea of scale.

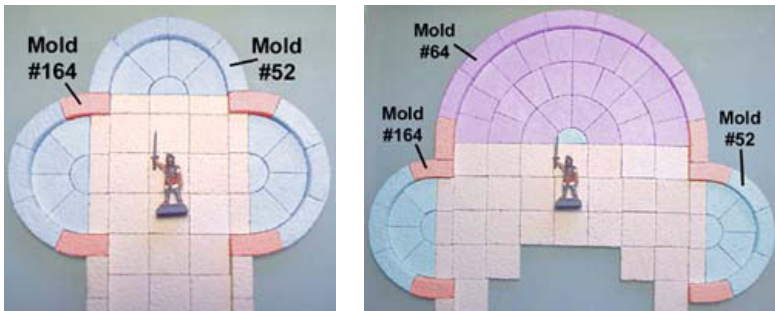


The **first photo** could be a different way to make corner towers or balconies. The **second photo** uses molds **#52, 61 and 164**.

4. Please note that to have to **make the flat half-circle tile** by sanding down the round block on mold #52. I know this isn't fun to do, but since you rarely need a block like this, I thought it would be a waste of good mold space to add it to a mold.

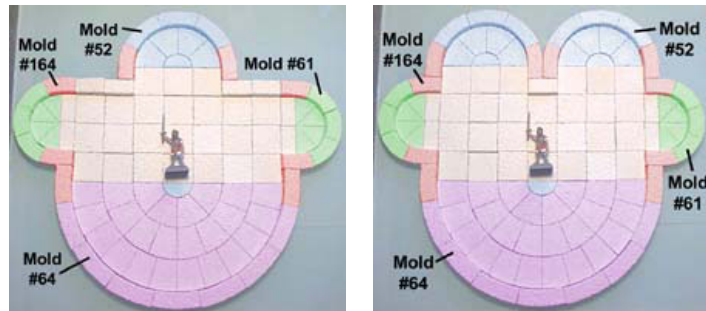


5. The **first photo** uses molds **#164 and #52**. The **second photo** uses the large round mold **#64** along with **#164 and #52**.



6. These last two photos probably wouldn't make a good looking building, but I put them here to show that you can make **almost any arrangement** of straight and curved walls using the connector blocks.

I hope this section has given you a better understanding of what the connector blocks look like and how you can use them in your models.



Painting Small Parts

For this section I wanted to show how to **pre-paint small pieces** and then assemble into different floor patterns. Pre-painting and dry brushing small pieces can be difficult without getting paint all over your fingers and losing small pieces.

For my first attempt, I put several strips of **double sided tape** down onto a sheet of cardboard. I made sure it was the permanent stick kind with the strongest adhesive

1. I stuck down the blocks I wanted to paint with about 1/4" in between blocks. I even turned the cardboard on end to make sure the blocks stuck well. **Several blocks fell off** and had to be repositioned a few times.



The biggest problem with this idea was that the blocks **would not stick down**, either because it had a concave bottom or a bit of loose plaster on it. Then when you go to paint the sides of the pieces, the **pressure of the brush was enough to knock them off** also.

2. **knock them off** also.

While painting the pieces I had to constantly keep pushing them back down with the handle of the paintbrush. Overall I decided that **this was not the way to do it**.



I found that the best way to hold the pieces down was to **use a toothpick** or cabob skewer. I would **hold down the piece with my left hand** and **paint it with my right hand**.

3. **hold down the piece with my left hand** and **paint it with my right hand**.

The point of the toothpick is so small and sharp that you won't leave a bare spot on the block where it touches.



At this point I made an **interesting discovery**. The **dried excess paint** from my first coat **glued the blocks down** well enough for me to do the rest of the painting without a problem.

4. **glued the blocks down** well enough for me to do the rest of the painting without a problem.



In summary, **don't tape the blocks down**. Instead, simply **hold them down while you paint** the first coat and let them dry. Be sure you leave them **at least 1/4" apart** so you can do the remainder of the painting easily.

After they dry, the **dried paint will have secured them** to the cardboard well enough so they won't come off for the dry-brush coats of paint.

5. For the following examples, I painted the floor tiles in **two different colors**. The upper blocks used an undercoat of black and were dry brushed with dark gray. The bottom blocks were undercoated with medium gray and dry-brushed with white.

Make the two shades very different. I had to repaint the dark tiles even darker because the difference between the colors wasn't big enough so see the floor patterns well (shown below).



Floor Tile Patterns

All of the floor tile patterns shown here are made **using mold #201**. The outside dimensions for each pattern will be shown. Hopefully these will give you some ideas for making your own patterns to dress up your dungeons or castles.

