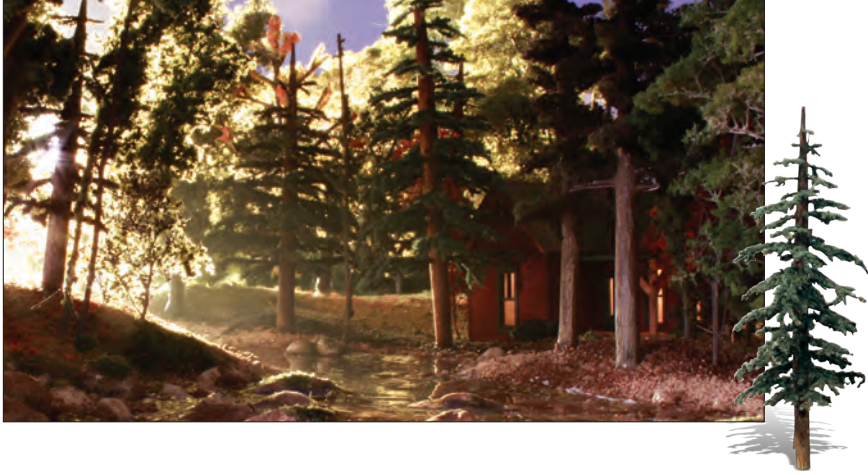


TREES

Trees add life, realism and perspective to dioramas. The more variety in types and colors, the more realistic the scenery will look. Some trees are ready to be placed on a layout as soon as they leave the package, while other options like Tree Kits will require building the trees yourself.



Model Scaler

Free scale conversion app for your smartphone, tablet or PC. Fast and easy Model Scaler instantly converts U.S. Customary and Metric measurements for any scale. Download free at woodlandscenics.com.

READY-MADE TREES™

Ready-Made Trees require no assembly and are available in Premium Trees, Ready Made Realistic Trees, Woodland Classics, and Ready Made Trees Value Packs. These trees vary from 3/4" to 9" in height.

Product Overview

Premium Trees™

Premium Trees are handcrafted works of art that replicate specific trees, such as Evergreen, Sycamore and Aspen. These high-quality trees are available in over 25 different options and range from 1 1/2" to 6" in height. Premium Trees feature distinctive branch and leaf structures that make it easy to identify the species of tree. These trees are great for stand-alone trees on your diorama that will draw attention.



Woodland Classics®

Woodland Classics are handcrafted trees that offer classic appeal and economic pricing. These trees represent a multitude of realistic shapes and branching forms. Woodland Classics are available in 15 different options ranging from 3/4" to 9" in height.



Ready Made Realistic Trees™

Ready Made Realistic Trees are available in 5 different colors and range from 3/4" to 9" in height. The natural colors and realistic textures are perfect for blending with other landscape products. Using more than one color of these trees will give you a varied appearance, which looks great when the trees are planted in clusters.



Ready Made Trees Value Pack

These trees range from 3/4" to 8" in height and you can choose from deciduous or conifer in a variety of natural colors. This is the most economical way to quickly add a group of trees to your layout. clusters.



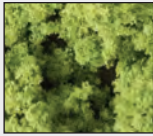
TREE KITS

Tree Kits offer great versatility and a variety of foliage to create trees of any size, shape, color and type. Each kit includes either plastic or lead-free metal tree armatures.

Product Overview

Realistic Tree Kits™

Realistic Tree Kits are an easy way to learn how to make unique Deciduous or Pine Trees. There are 9 options depending on color and number of trees in a package. Each kit includes plenty of foliage and tree armatures of varying height. Tree heights range from 3/4" to 8".



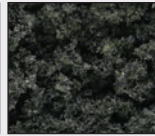
Light Green



Medium Green



Dark Green



Conifer Green



Forest Green

Forest Canopy™

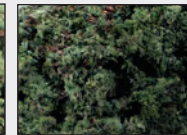
Forest Canopy is a natural product that can have a variety of uses on your layout. Forest Canopy can model trees all the way up to 6" in height. In addition to making shrubs, bushes, dead trees or individual trees, this is also a great product for making a dense forest. Forest Canopy is available in a variety of colors so you can model forests in any season.



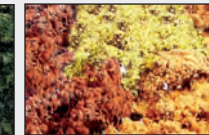
Light Green



Medium Green



Dark Green



Autumn Mix

Large Tree Kits

Large Tree Kits come with foliage and bendable lead-free metal armatures. These armatures are highly detailed and can be painted to suit your needs.

Tree heights range from 6" to 9". There are four options of Large Tree Kits for modeling deciduous, conifer or hedgerow trees.



Forest Kits

Forest Kits are a great economical option for modeling a larger number of trees. These kits create Hardwood or Pine forests with trees ranging from 2" to 4" in height. Each kit contains foliage and 24 white metal tree armatures that you can paint as desired. Forest Kits are perfect for creating vast forest areas because the cost per tree is so inexpensive.



TREE ARMATURES

Tree Armatures

Tree Armatures are a highly customizable option for creating your own trees. They work well for forests as well as one important stand-alone tree. Tree Armatures are available in sizes ranging from 3/4" to 7" in height, and you can choose between Pine and Deciduous trees. These armatures are bendable, realistically textured and come with a planting pin and optional base.



MAKE YOUR OWN ONLINE VIDEO

Tree Kits, Forest Kits, Forest Canopy and Tree Armatures are excellent ways to create custom trees that no one else has on their layout. Each product requires some assembly, which allows the modeler to make their own aesthetic choices. Planting trees will be discussed in the next section on page 151.

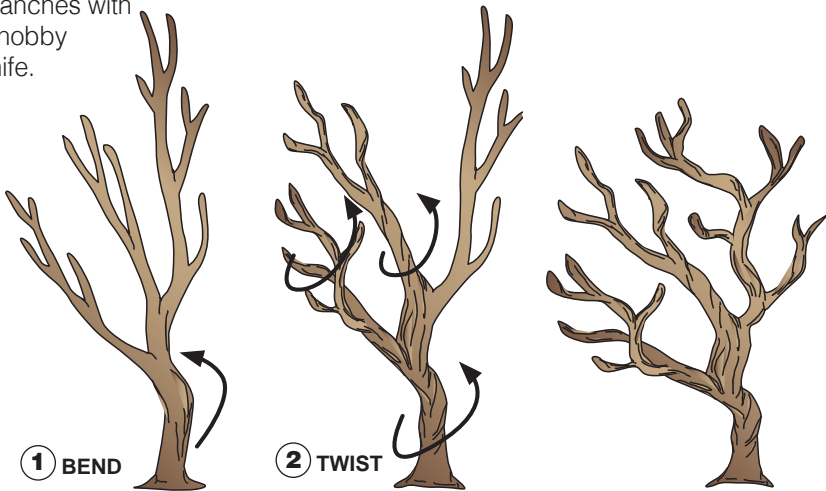
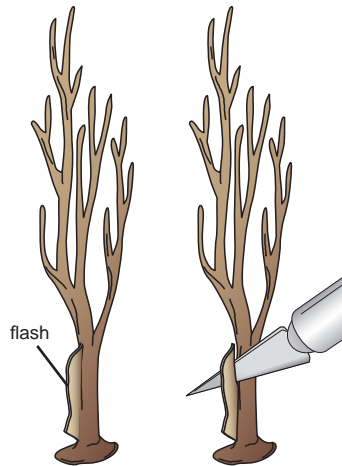
Preparing Forest Canopy

To use Forest Canopy, break or cut the pieces of Forest Canopy to the desired height and density. Shake the Scenic Cement very well and pour it into a bowl. Hold the trunk of the tree and dip each piece into the Scenic Cement. Then sprinkle Coarse Turf onto the tree top. Avoid sprinkling turf on the trunk. If additional accents are desired, mist the tree top with Scenic Cement and sprinkle on the desired color of Coarse Turf. Let Forest Canopy dry before planting.

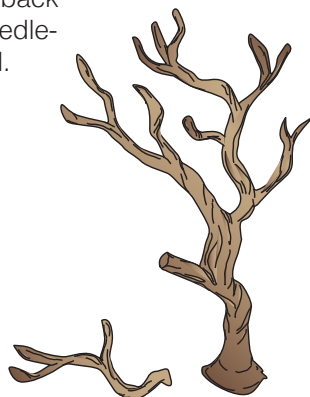
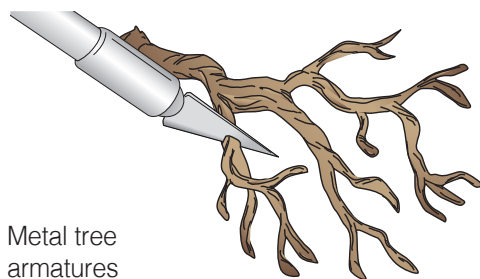
Preparing Tree Armatures

Most plastic tree armatures do not require any preparation and can be used straight from the package, but some may have a small amount of mold flash. Scrape the flash off the armature with a hobby knife before shaping the armature.

Metal armatures require different preparation. They can have a mold release residue that can prevent paint and adhesives from adhering to the armature. Be sure to wash them in warm, soapy water to remove any residual mold release agent. Then scrape any excess mold flash from the branches with a hobby knife.



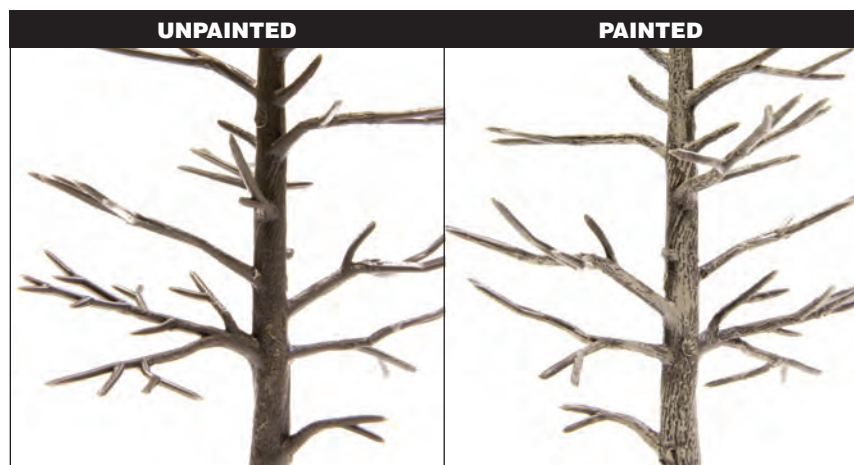
The next step is to shape the tree. Bend and twist the flat armature into a realistic 3-dimensional tree. When you are shaping the tree, remember most trees are not perfectly balanced. Their limbs stretch very low and high. Some limbs are close together and some are far apart. In nature, trees lean precariously, trunks twist and branches break. Use a hobby knife or flush cutting shears to trim branches back to create a freshly cut or broken look. Use needle-nose pliers for trunks that are difficult to bend.



Metal tree armatures must be primed and painted after they

have been twisted into shape. Plastic tree armatures are already a flat brown and do not require painting, but they can be painted if desired. Painting the tree armature is an opportunity to create natural variation and bark textures. Prime and paint the tree armature with a matte acrylic or enamel paint. If using acrylic paint on plastic armatures, wash the armature with soapy water to remove residual mold release agent from the plastic. This will ensure the acrylic bonds with the plastic.

To create realistic bark texture, use the drybrush technique (page 112) with multiple shades of grey or brown to simulate different shades of bark. Start by painting the whole trunk black. Then drybrush a brown shade over the black and a grey shade over the brown, leaving some black and brown showing through. After the paint has dried, the armature is ready for foliage.



Attaching Foliage with Hob-e-Tac

Tree foliage typically grows toward the top of branches. When you look at most trees, you will notice some sky visible between leaves and branches. The foliage on tree armatures should mimic this pattern of growth. Tree Kits and Forest Kits come with foliage products ready to attach to the armature. For Tree Armatures, use Foliage, Underbrush, Bushes, Fine-Leaf Foliage, Lichen, Foliage Clusters, Forest Canopy or Clump-Foliage to create the “leaves” of the tree. Each product will have a slightly different look, so choose based on the effect you want to achieve.

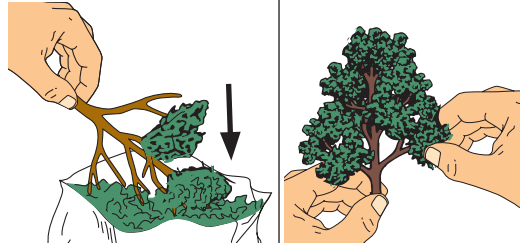
Hob-e-Tac is ideal for attaching foliage to tree armatures because it is very tacky and will pick up any foliage it comes in contact with quickly and easily. Brush Hob-e-Tac on the armature branches where foliage naturally grows. Avoid getting Hob-e-Tac on the trunk. Let Hob-e-Tac dry until it is clear and tacky. Depending on thickness of the application, it will take Hob-e-Tac about 15-20 minutes to dry clear.

Once the Hob-e-Tac has dried clear, attach the foliage of your choice. Each foliage product is attached in a slightly different way, but there are three general methods:



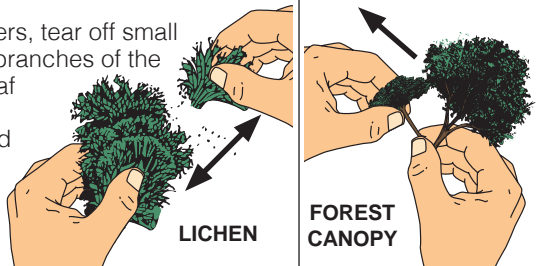
Dip

Dip the armature into Underbrush, Bushes or Clump-Foliage. Shake (or pick) off excess, then pinch foliage firmly on the branches for strong adhesion.



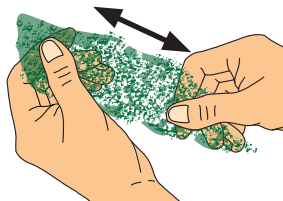
Tear

For Lichen or Foliage Clusters, tear off small pieces and press onto the branches of the armature. To apply Fine-Leaf Foliage or Forest Canopy, strip pieces off the stem and carefully press onto the Armature. Gently squeeze at the glue contact points for the best adhesion.



Stretch

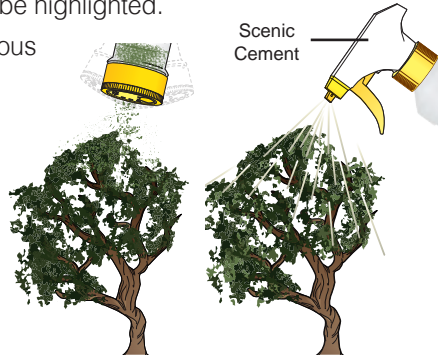
Stretch Foliage until it is very thin and lacy—almost wispy. Stretch the wisps of Foliage over and around the branches. Gently squeeze where the Foliage touches the armature to ensure it makes contact with Hob-e-Tac.



Highlighting Tree Foliage

Highlighting is a modeling trick that creates visual depth in the leaves of the trees. It is an important and simple step in creating realistic tree foliage. All trees, even ready-to-plant trees, can be highlighted.

To highlight tree foliage, sprinkle various colors of Fine Turf, Plant Hues or Flowers over the tree's foliage. Spray the foliage with Scenic Cement to seal the highlight in place. Choose a lighter color to create highlights, and use darker colors for lowlights. Highlighting is highly recommended when using Foliage as the tree foliage material.

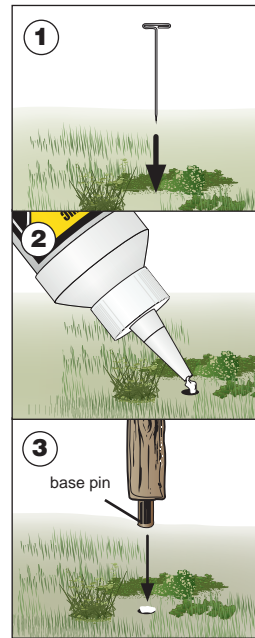


PLANTING TREES

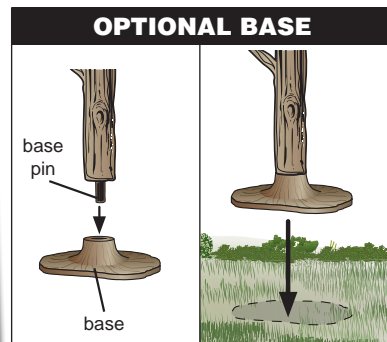
Most pre-made trees come with an optional base that allows for temporary placement. This feature makes it easy to find the right spot on the layout for the tree. Just insert the base pin on the tree into the hole on the base for temporary placement. When the permanent location is chosen, discard the optional base and poke a hole in the terrain shell. Apply a drop of Scenic Glue over the hole and plant the base pin directly into the terrain shell.

You can also glue the base directly to the terrain shell and simply insert the tree in the installed base. Or, if you are building a new project and know where a tree will be located, you can install the tree base in the plaster terrain. Use a toothpick inserted in the base to keep the hole for the pin clear of plaster. For trees without a base, simply poke a hole and plant the pin in the hole.

To plant the trees you've made with Forest Canopy or Fine-Leaf Foliage, simply poke a hole in the terrain shell, apply Scenic Glue over the hole, and insert the tree in the hole.



NOTE: If you are including a water feature, plant trees located near the water feature after the water is cured. This will prevent stray foliage pieces on the tree from falling into the water.



FORESTS

Depending on the location and time period of your diorama, you may want to add forests. Before you begin, you will need to consider several factors like the season, what type of forest you are modeling, how much area your forest will cover, and how tall the forest should be. These decisions will influence which products you should use to create your forest.



TYPES OF FORESTS/SEASONS

There are three types of forests: boreal (taiga), temperate and tropical. These forests contain different mixtures of three main tree types: conifer, evergreen and deciduous.

The type of forest you model will determine which type of trees you should use for a realistic look.



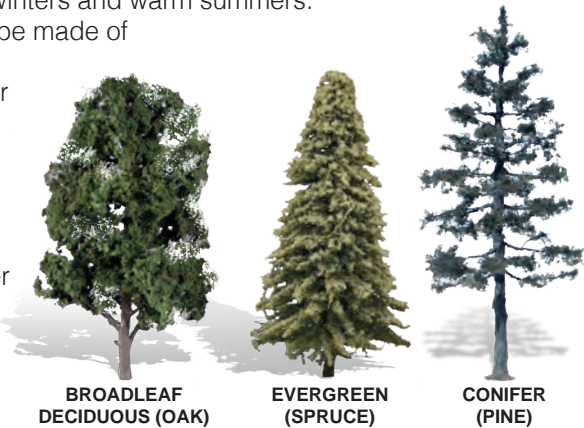
Forests and Tree Types

Tropical forests are abundant in very warm climates that only have wet and dry seasons. They are often located close to the equator and consist primarily of broadleaf and needle evergreen trees, while deciduous trees are rare. Tropical forests are very tall and known for their thick canopies.

Boreal forests are located in cold northern areas like Siberia, Canada and Alaska. Due to the cold winter temperatures and short summers, boreal forests only consist of cold-tolerant conifer and evergreen trees like pine, fir and spruce.

Temperate forests are the dominant forest type for the Northern Hemisphere. They are found in regions with a moderate climate characterized by cold winters and warm summers.

Temperate forests can be made of deciduous, conifer and evergreen trees. Conifer and evergreen trees are more common in dry climates at higher elevations, while deciduous trees are more abundant in wetter and warmer regions at lower elevations.



Tree Foliage

Deciduous trees have broadleaf foliage that is usually various shades of green during warmer months and change colors and drop off during seasonal cool weather changes. Deciduous trees are responsible for the brilliant yellow, orange and red colors that appear in the fall season. If you want to model bright fall colors, pick deciduous trees and colorful foliage to create your forests.

Many people confuse conifers with evergreens because they can both have needle-like foliage, but they are not the same type of tree. Conifer trees reproduce via cones and have needle foliage. They are abundant in temperate and boreal forests. Evergreen trees reproduce via flowers and have either broadleaf foliage (common in tropical forests) or needle foliage (abundant in temperate and boreal forests).

Neither conifers nor evergreens drop their foliage due to seasonal changes, but they do occasionally replenish their needles or broad leaves. When this happens, some color change can be visible but the new growth comes in green while old foliage falls off.

Creating Realistic Variation

The size and amount of detail on your trees will vary based on their location on your layout. The foreground on your layout contains features with the most detail. Anything else, like the mountain behind the town, is considered the background.

Remember no tree is exactly the same height or shape as another. Modeling trees in multiple heights creates realistic variation. Use selective compression, as necessary, to keep key features. For more information, see the Selective Compression section on page 13.

If a group of trees are part of a featured area, select tree products that further the narrative of your layout. Are you planting trees near a water feature? Pick trees that are known for loving a wet environment, such as Sycamore. For deciduous trees high in a mountain village, choose Aspen.

When viewing a forest in real life, very little branch material is visible, and you almost never see tree trunks unless walking in the forest. In modeling, you want to plant trees as close together as possible to make the trees look like a mass in the background of your layout. These trees can be less detailed than foreground trees.

To avoid individually planting multiple trees, use products like Forest Canopy and Foliage Clusters to quickly create a forest. Group these products together in dense clumps in the background of your layout. To make the forest taller, glue shorter pieces of Forest Canopy or stack additional Foliage Clusters to the top of the tree mass.

For continuity between the foreground and the background, you may want to purchase trees with foliage similar to the foreground. Install these throughout the background forest. You can also highlight the forest with Fine and Coarse Turf.



It can be difficult to find models of certain kinds of trees. For unique or rare trees, scratch build the tree with copper wire or any flexible metal wire. A quick way to do this is to cut a wire strand double the length you want, and fold it in half. Twist the two strands together to create the trunk, leaving a loop on one end. When the trunk is how you like it, cut the loop and twist the wires to form branches or roots.

When satisfied with the shape, coat the twisted wiring with Flex Paste and let dry. Then paint the Flex Paste with an acrylic paint (black is recommended). Dry brush some bark onto the tree with appropriate colors for the tree you are making. Finally, attach your choice of foliage as described in the “Attaching Foliage with Hob-e-Tac” section (page 150).

Your forest will not be complete without forest debris, such as dead trees (not yet fallen), decomposing logs and broken limbs. Separate Dead Fall into small and large pieces. Large pieces can be placed in the Turf on the terrain shell like rotting logs. Sprinkle with Fine Turf to create moss. Scatter smaller pieces of Dead Fall around the larger pieces to simulate broken tree limbs. Save the smallest pieces to scatter under trees to model very small, broken branches and twigs. Sprinkle some Coarse Turf around these pieces if the limbs would have fallen recently.

Depending on the season, the trees on your layout may be flowering or fruiting. Sprinkle Flowers on trees in the foreground and background to create a flowering effect. Add Fruit on trees around farms that may have orchards. Sprinkle fallen fruit on the terrain shell. Use different colors of Fine Turf to highlight trees with yellow-green pollen and create variation.

Sunlight makes the foliage on the tops of trees look brighter than the foliage underneath. Replicate this effect by highlighting the tops of trees with Yellow Grass Fine Turf. This simple step will heighten the realism of your trees and forests.

