

Let's Plant Trees!

I wanted lots of trees on my module, however I ran into a problem of how I was going to store as well as transport my module with trees in excess of 14" tall. Sure you can insert them into the foam board every time but after awhile the foam board becomes like swiss cheese and besides, the wire trunk looks tacky and cheap. Grape vines can yield good results but they tend to look to big where the trunk meets the branches. So here is what I did. First I shaped a trunk out of



balsa wood tapering up to the top. I then used a wire brush to put bark lines in the trunk. After I had made the balsa trunks I made a mold and mixed up some casting resin.



With this mold I can make several trunks to accommodate the many many trees that I will have. Once the resin had hardened I removed the trunks. By now you are asking, "What exactly are you doing? Why are you making tree trunks, why don't you just shove them down into the ground farther?" Well wait and see! I then drilled out the center big enough to easily slide the wire from the bottle brush tree into the trunk. I then Painted



the trunks with several browns until I came up with a color that I liked. I placed the trunks on the module and glued them down with Loctite glue letting them dry over night. The next night I returned to plant my trees. Because the trunks are in place, I can easily place the trees into the trunks for setup and remove when I break down.



This allows me to keep the height of the module to a minimum for storage and transportation. See, there is a reason for my madness! Here is what a finished tree planted on the module looks like. You can see that it gives the impression that the trunk continues up the tree. Easily planted and removed, No Swiss Cheese effect! Some day I will make a transport box for the trees to keep them from shedding.

