

S H E L T E R E D **FLAK**PANZER

"I WANTED TO CREATE A SMALL VIGNETTE DEPICTING THE GREEN AND RICH SOIL OF FRANCE, EVERY TIME I WALK TROUGH NORMANDY, OR ANY PART OF FRANCE I THINK OF THAT RICH LAND AND VEHICLES HIDING AMID THE BUSHES FROM ENEMY FIRE, ALSO THE EFFECT OF GERMAN ARMOUR CAMOUFLAGED UNDER THE TREES IS AMAZING."

38T



**ROBERTO AGUILERA "GEPARD" FRANCE 1944
DRAGON 1:35TH SD.KFZ.140 AUSF.L**





I started the idea with a great looking vehicle from my private collection. The Flakpanzer 38(t) Gepard.

The Flakpanzer 38(t) Sd.Kfz.140 Ausf.L is from Dragon, built pretty much straight from the box, painted with acrylics and a delicate airbrush pattern, plus a fine chipping job, the model was acquired for my personal collection years ago, sold by Bernard Cher from M studio, the artist is Cheflim; the model was awarded a medal at the world expo in 2008. I had the model for some time but I wanted a vignette for it, I wanted to imagine a quiet summer evening hiding under trees from allied airplanes.

I started with a block of Styrofoam cut in a very symmetrical square shape; then I applied a layer of celluclay all mixed with very fine dirt and small stones from Mexican architecture brands "MINIATURAS CON PROYECTO", and "CONMAR", they both create finest rocks ideal for 1/35th scale. The ruined wall is from Royal Model is a very nice piece that I found as part of this Normandy look that I wanted. The wall was assembled and primed, then airbrushed with different tones of grey, using Tamiya acrylics. After it was weathered with Winsor & Newton oils, and MIG pigments, the trick was matching the Gepard's original mud and dust colours.





Filigranbusch fruhling (200-11S) from Mininatur Germany was used for the bushes on the wall, carefully using bits and pieces of the foliage, then airbrushed with Tamiya buff to add dust on them.



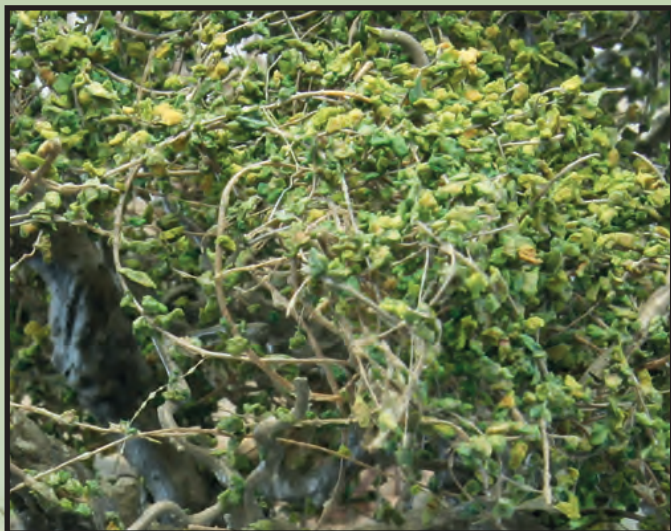
The well interior was painted with a mix of Vallejo Dark green and Tamiya transparent green, once it dried I added bits of very thinned yellow to the center, then it was filled with Vallejo Water effects resin, Plus Model leaves where included floating.



UK Company TREEMENDUS owned by my friend Anthony Reeves pride themselves on supplying top quality scenic Modelling materials to modellers all over the world. They also produce handmade scale model trees. Treemendus trees are built using their own Tree Kits, available from their website shop.

Creating trees like the ones shown in the dioramas is achieved using Very fine wire, which is twisted and bent to form the basic tree shape. The wires are then trimmed to a suitable length and the trees shape is Further refined for winter trees with little or no foliage each Individual wire is crimped using fine pliers to give even more detail To the bare branches summer trees can be given this crimping Treatment but usually once the foliage has been added the branches are less visible so crimping them is not always necessary.

The wire armature is then given a coat Treemendus "Bark Powder" which is mixed into a thick paste using the glue included in the tree kit, This adds all the texture to the trees trunk and branches and when dries Is very durable.



For summer trees the above method of wire and Bark Powder is followed but once the bark has been allowed to dry (usually 24 hours) the canopy is added. The canopy is created using synthetic hair. The hair, included in the tree kit comes in the form of a plait. The hair is pulled away from the plait and shaped into small mounds which are open in structure. These are then sprayed with ordinary hairspray and the scatter is applied by sprinkling it over the hair from above. The hairspray acts as a glue and will hold the scatter in place. This "foliage canopy" is then placed on the tree armature and the process is repeated until the whole tree has been covered.



Once the tree has all its foliage in place it is given a good covering of glue using the atomiser in the kit. This holds the scatter onto the hair and the hair to the branches. Once this has dried the tree canopy must be refined, with any long straggly hairs being removed using scissors. The canopy can also be teased by hand to open up the structure if required. Tree canopies can also be created using rubberised horsehair in place of the synthetic hair. The process is exactly the same as the synthetic hair but Rubberised horsehair is thicker and sets more rigid.





"I LOVED THE VIGNETTE I THINK THE GROUNDWORK LOOKS VERY REALISTIC, AND GAVE THE GEPARD A NICE SETTING THANK YOU TO ALL WHO COOPERATED IN THIS BEAUTIFUL JOB."



