

## A walk on the wild side Making a ruined pillar

The whole point of a jungle in Pulp is finding something in it. I thought I would try something different on the jungle front. For this I wanted a part of a ruin. I was going to go for a small temple, but decided against it. Instead I decided on a small ruined pillar, something that hints at something within. Something the heroes come across whilst hacking their way through the heavy undergrowth

As usual I had a good hunt for what I had lying around in the house and shed. This is what I came up with...



I have gone for the fish tank plants again and the assorted lichen.

Once again I am going to use some of my Polyisocyanurate. This was an off cut from a previous project.

I once again will be using my wall filler/grout.

I decided I wanted a bigger base this time so I went for an old CD. I must add a health warning here. 'Borrowing' a

loved ones all time favourite limited edition Black Sabbath CD may lead to violence. Instead choose a scratched or otherwise useless one. (I find the CD ROMs you get free on computer magazines are useful for this). In this case Hercule Poirot bit the dust!

I started off by cutting the insulation board to size. I randomly snapped a bit as I wanted the pillar to be damaged. Once I had the right size I scored the individual blocks into it with a pencil. I then cut a slightly larger bit into a small hill. I then used masking tape to cover the hole and then placed the pieces on the base in a random pattern until I was happy with how they looked. I stuck some trees into the insulation board to see what effect they would have.



Once I was happy with the results I stuck the pieces down with high strength wood glue.

Once the glue was dry I covered the base in the grout, making sure to leave any exposed rock uncovered. Once this was dry I set about painting the base. I still had plenty of the Dark brown paint from the jungle bases earlier so this was liberally spread all over the base. It was here that I found a couple of things going wrong. The CD was a very thin one so flexed, leading to the filler cracking. This was remedied by super-gluing another CD to the bottom of the first. The second problem was a bit more tricky. From the initial idea I had wanted the old pillar to be covered in Aztec or Mayan glyphs. It was only after I had glued everything down that I realised I had forgotten. I did consider leaving them out, but the pillar looked wrong, so a quick hunt on the net gave me a selection of suitable ones which were drawn on in pen.



*These are actual Aztec glyphs (With some artistic licence) which looked right for the piece. The only one I can remember the meaning of is the top left which means 'house'*

I made sure the broken piece also had at least one glyph on to show where it had come from.

Once the designs were finished I covered the rock sections with the grey textured paint. This had to be thinned in the areas covering the glyphs as they were obscured by the sand/paint mix. Unfortunately the flash firing caused the glyphs to almost disappear. You can just about still see them in the photograph. The next thing I did was dealt with dry brushing the rock. This added lighter layers. I also added some darker patches in the small rock too.



Once this paint was dry I got ready to cover the base with flock. In my trawls through Google images the one thing I realised was that the jungle floor is very rarely covered with grass. So instead of using my tubs of flock I raided the kitchen.



Here we have:

Oregano,  
Parsley  
Basil  
Thyme  
and a tea bag

These were mixed together in a pot and the areas to be covered by vegetation were covered in watered down PVA with a ratio of about 1 glue to 2 water. This was

slopped on quite thickly to help glue the larger pieces of the new jungle flock.

I was really happy with the result. It did look a lot more like the jungle photos I had seen. Whilst the glue was still wet I took some of the shop bought flock and sprinkled it lightly in random patterns over the base. I then took the watered down PVA and trailed it over the pillar following the patterns in the pillar, places where creepers could get a hold in reality. Once I had covered the pillar I sprinkled the shop bought flock over the glue. I actually did one small section at a time as I was worried that the glue, being so runny, would spread out and spoil the effect.



I left this to dry before adding the final trees back onto their cocktail stick pegs.



I was really pleased with the effect of this base. Here we have the final shots of the piece. I am still not too struck on the plastic plants, but again en masse mixed with the other pieces it does seem to work.



I haven't varnished this base, but I think the thicker flock could do with a couple of coats of matt varnish to help hold them in place.



Figure from my own collection by Copplestone castings.

If we look at cost again. This build was again very cheap, it was made from stuff I had lying around. The more observant of you will realise that I didn't use any of the lichen on this base. I have had it about 3 years now and still haven't actually got round to opening the bag.

The CD's were junk, as was the insulation board. The match pots were again still being used from previous builds. The flock was made from various kitchen herbs and the bought flock used was miniscule. I used 6 plastic plants, but again I used multiples of one plant type to get a larger plant effect.

I suppose it cost less than £1 to make. The only cost really was my time. That was a couple of hours, if you miss out drying times of paint and grout. This did include trawling the net for pictures, and then drawing them onto the pillar. I also take multiple pictures to show what I am doing which adds a little to each stage.

Signing off for now.  
Beardy Steve