

Once Upon a Diorama

 $\{ {\sf CREATIVE\ INSPIRATIONS\ free\ FROM\ HOBBY\ LOBBY_{m 0}} \}$ 



# · GREEN SCENE ·

No sea-themed display is complete without the straight-from-the-ocean details. For an authentic look, choose a variety of grasses and other greenery. We went with a combination of bushes, cattails and ferns and just glued them into place.





# · TURTLE POWER ·

The Hobbies Department is full of forms and figures that will bring your diorama to life, no matter what your theme is. You'll find plastic figurines, packages of mini toys, and accessories like insects, animals, people and even faux fruit.











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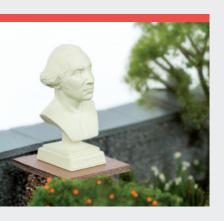
#### HANG TIGHT

Hanging some figurines, rather than gluing them all down, is a great way to add dimension and depth to your diorama. So we used clear thread to suspend this pair of miniature whales from the bottom of the Plexiglas® sheet.

# · WATER WORKS ·

To create realistic-looking choppy water, we brushed artificial water onto a sheet of Plexiglas®. When it was almost dry, we stirred it around with a craft stick to give it texture. Then we laid the Plexiglas® on top of the shaping paper walls.







# · ALL WALLED UP ·

We modeled our design after a traditional knot garden, so all the elements are symmetrical and balanced. For a look like ours, use faux trees, rocks and flowers, sand and grass sheets, and mini presidential busts to embellish your garden.



# • GARDEN VARIETY •

A diorama doesn't have to be built on a ready-to-assemble base and backdrop.
You can get creative and construct your own foundation. We made the walls and archways of this presidential garden from reinforced support panels and mini foam bricks.





- Project base and backdrop
- Shaping pape
- Plaster cloth
- Plaster
- Plaster mixing set
- Artificial water
- Scenery cement

- Spray bottle
- Plaster brush set
- Plastic figurines
- Faux soil, greenery & branches
- Embellishments—gemstones
- E6000® adhesive

- Acrylic pain
- Paint cup
- Craft knife
- Hot glue gun/glue sticks
- Painthrushes
- Scissors



Use craft knife to trim diorama backdrop into mountain shape, as shown. Cover base with shaping paper, and secure with hot glue.



Crumple small sections of shaping paper to forn terrain and rocks as shown, and secure them to landscape with hot glue.

#### · STEP 3



Cover entire structure with plaster cloth according to form cloth to structure's texture. Then prepare and apply a thick coat of wet plaster according to manufacturer's instructions. Let dry.



Paint structure as desired, using various colors and mixtures to achieve shading, highlights and color dimensions. Let dry.

### STEP 5



Position figurines, embellishments and scenic details, and secure with E6000°. Pour a thin layer of artificial water over water area, and let dry. Then spray entire structure with scenery cement to seal.

This is so magical! You've just gotta try it, lovely crafters!

## · OH DRAGON, MY DRAGON ·

