

MAKING ROCKY MOUNTAINS WITH MORTAR

(Bob Treat's Process plus a little of Vic Gilbert Method)

Cut 2 pieces of heavy duty aluminum foil about 2' x2'.

Use spray glue on one surface and put 2 pieces of foil together

Cut the foil in sections about 8" x 8"

Wrinkle at random, molding outside edges of foil so they are not square. Mold the edges upward, so the mold can hold about 1" of mortar.

Spray inside foil with liberal amount of WD-40

Mix glass block mortar and daub mortar into form, trying to avoid air bubbles. Glass block mortar is used because it is completely white, so when it's painted it avoids a gray cast. Also, it is very fine and smooth, which gives sharp edges to the "rocks."

Allow to dry about 4 hrs. or until the mortar sets up.

Gently remove the foil and allow the rocks to cure for about 48hrs. If removed too soon, it will crumble. If removed too late, it can stick to the mold.

Make about 20 or so rocks at one time. It's easier to manage the mortar.

A mountain shell can be made using a double layer of chicken wire and shape as desired. I used base coat stucco, making sure it is just moist enough to be spread and yet dry enough to stick to the chicken wire.

To mount rocks on your mountain shell, put on about 1" of finish grade stucco, preferably after coating mountain shell surface with a liquid bonding agent. Then push the rocks into the mortar at different angles. Avoid the square, brick-like effect. Then take a knife, wet it, and blend stucco into rock edges.

Allow to dry for 2-3 days. Paint the lighter areas first, then the darker areas. Use water diluted acrylic paints. The less undiluted, the more intense the color is. Six colors suggested are: yellow ochre, burnt sienna, raw sienna, burnt umber and raw umber.



Vic Gilbert