



Building a Castle from Styrofoam





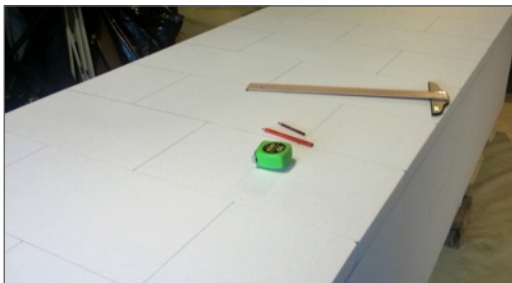
The foam sheets were purchased from Universal Foam Products. Kevin Baker has been great to work with.

The website is www.univfoam.com.

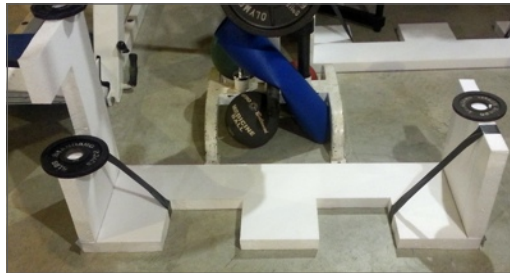
You can reach Kevin at 410.825.8300 ext 228.



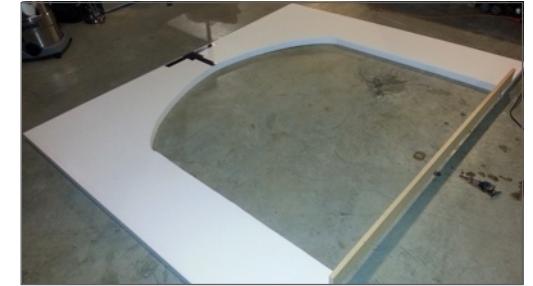
We use a hot knife foam cutter from Demand Products. The sheets are cut and then bonded together with 3M #78 if the fit is perfect (finished edge to finished edge) where a cut edge is bonded, Great Stuff fills the gaps and sets up like a rock. A large T Square works well to lay out the grid for the mortar joints.



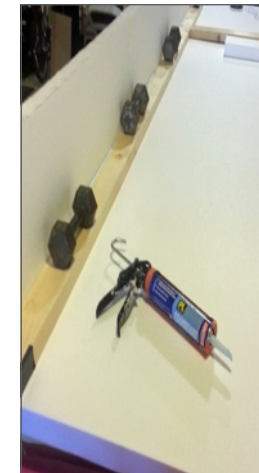
PVC Cement was used to make the mortar joints. You may want to practice on some scrap material to develop your technique. We also did various tests with the adhesives to see how they performed; bond strength, drying time, surface preparation, etc.



We made use of duct tape and weights from our home gym to apply pressure to joints to ensure a good bond.



Our castle was built in four sections. Each section was reinforced with a wood frame made from 2x4s and 1x4s across the bottom of the openings. The wood was bonded to the foam using Loctite Foamboard Adhesive available from Home Depot.

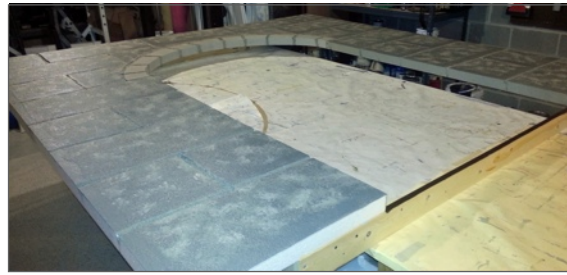




The wooden frames on the towers worked as a stand to do the painting and mortar joint work. Once on the stage, the top frame was removed and the tower stood on the bottom support.



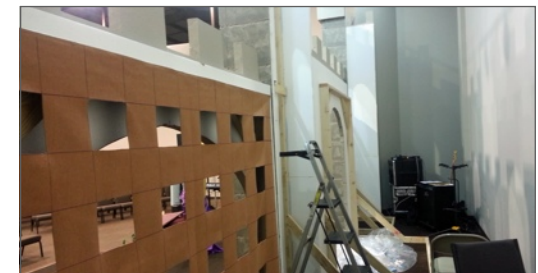
Tami custom mixed the paints based on our church wall color. Three shades were varied to create a base coat and faux finish to shade and give texture to the blocks.



The battlement pieces and stones around the doors and windows were painted to accentuate the structure and set these features off.



Our larger opening was decorated with “fabric” portcullis made from donated upholstery. This was stapled to our wooden frame support structure and hung about 3 inches inside the opening creating some depth.





Once the four sections were butted together on stage, the base frames were attached to the two shorter sections. We made use of duct tape and 3 inch nails inserted at opposing angles thru the adjoining panels to hold them all together in a manner where they could be taken back apart with minimal damage.



Nearing completion, the greenery was added. A Bible Buddy was put in each window using the pieces cut out of the windows to mount the buddies on. A third Buddy was mounted over the portcullis. Our "Stand Strong" banners were also made from upholstery with the lion and the slogan painted on by Tami. Both openings were filled with back panels that were set back to create depth. The opening to the left was used for the actors to enter and exit the stage. Our basic idea came from a variety of sources. Churcheventipedia was very helpful.

I hope you find this helpful. Our VBS went very well. The set was taken down and stored. We will attempt to use it again for our Reformation Celebration in the Fall.

Thank you for looking.

Jeff & Tami

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ"

Colossians 3:23-24 ESV

Supplies

Building a Castle from Styrofoam

Nails/Glue

Great Stuff

PL Loctite FoamBoard Caulk

PVC Cement

3M 78 Spray Adhesive

T Square

Tape Measure

Soft Lead Pencil

Latex Gloves & Mask

Paint

Medium Base Coat

Faux finish Glaze 2 Gallons

Light Glaze & Dark Glaze

Cutting

Hot Knife Straight Blade

Circular Saw

Polystyrene Sheets (18) 4x8x2"

Framing lumber

2x4' & 1x4

Sources

Tami Dalton

www.muralsbytami.com

<https://www.facebook.com/muralsbytami>

Jeff Dalton

FDR Services Inc.

North Clay Baptist Church

www.northclay.org

Universal Foam

www.univfoam.com

Parker Painting Company

<http://www.parkerpaintingcompany.com/>

<http://www.churcheventipedia.com/>