

Descent Game Board

This page will show how to use **Mold #281** and **Mold #282** to build a game board the the **Descent** game produced by [Fantasy Flight Games](#).

Hirst Arts is not affiliated with or endorsed by Fantasy Flight Games in any way.

To make this game board, you will **need to cast** mold #281 **34 times** and mold #282 **24 times**. This is a **lot of casting** but there are a lot of floor sections to this game board.

Following these instructions, you will have **board pieces identical** to what comes in the **Descent** game and will be able to build any of the layouts used in their instructions.



What You Will Need.

Rubber Molds

1. If you are new to Hirst Arts and have never cast pieces using our molds, then be sure you look at our [Quick guide for the beginner](#) page. This will give you an overview of what casting is all about.

You will **need molds #281 and #282**. You can find these on our [molds available page](#).



Casting Material

2. For this project, I suggest using **Dark gray Merlin's Magic** dental plaster. You can find out more about this product and where to buy it on our [Dental Plaster](#) page.

You can use regular plaster of Paris if you like but since it is a softer material, the pieces will be more prone to chipping and wear.



Basing Material

- I am going to base the game board pieces onto **cork**. You can find cork tiles at most office supply stores for around **\$15.00** for a package of **four 12" square pieces**.
3. To find cork tiles near you, search the internet for "**Frameless cork panels**" and you should find some. **These are 1/8" thick**.

I liked using cork the best because it's **easy to cut**, it **glues easily** and it **grips the table** nicely so the piece don't slide around.



House Paint

- You will find detailed instructions on how to apply the paint on our [painting instructions](#) page.
4. I also have the formula for the **exact colors** I used on the [painting instructions](#) page, along with detailed instructions on how to brush the paint on the pieces.

You will need a **quart of dark green**, a **quart of medium tan** and a **small bottle** of white craft paint.

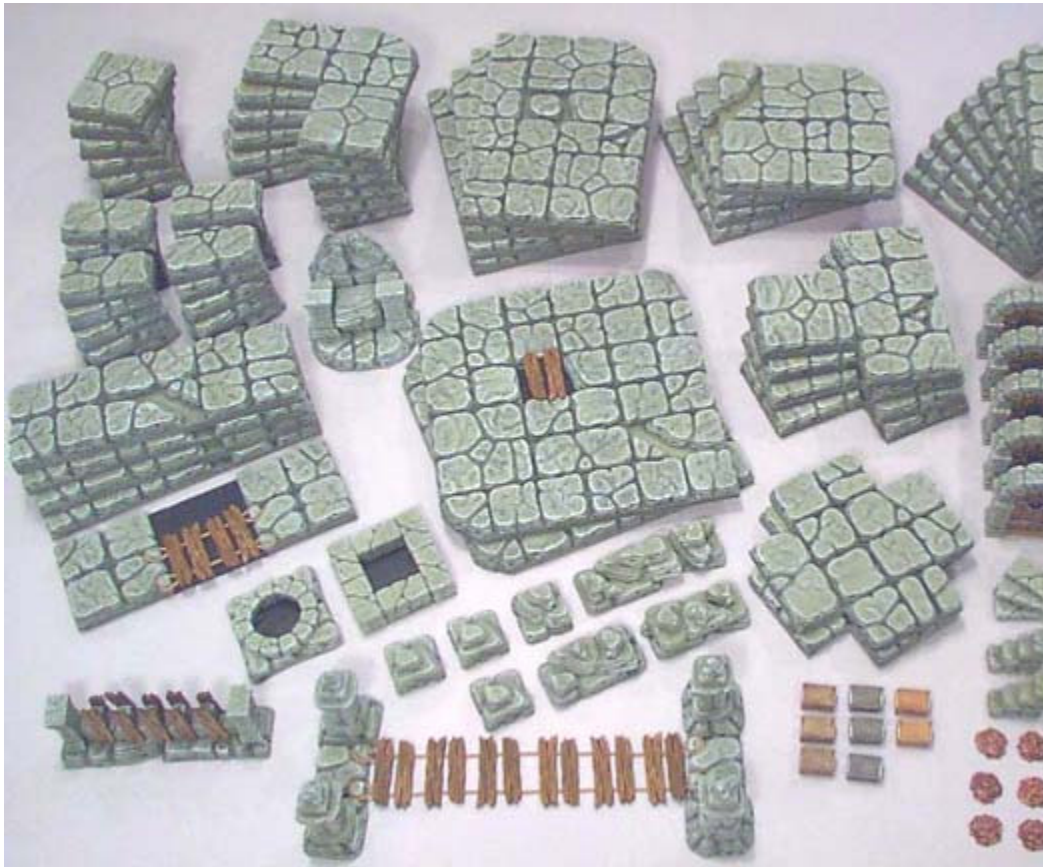


The Complete Set

This photo shows the **complete set** that I'm going to build.

This set has the **same number and type** of board sections found on the original Descent game. Once you make this set, you will be able to **play any game** shown on the Descent missions.

You will need to cast mold #281 **34**

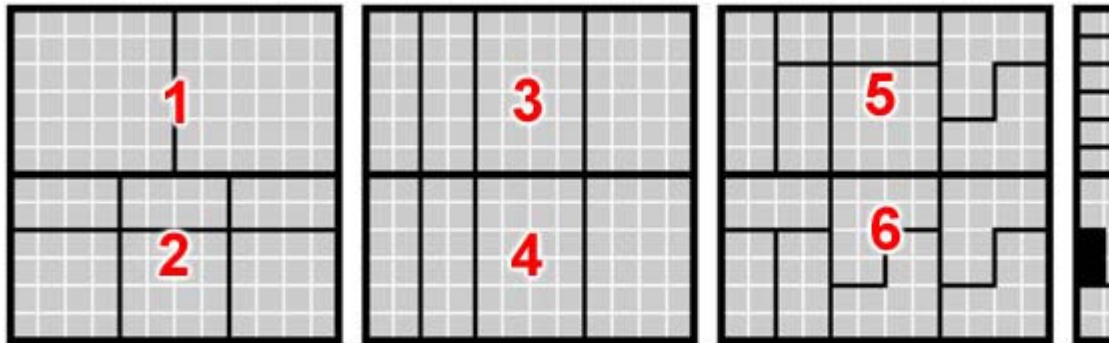


times
and
mold
#282 24
times to
have
enough
tiles to
build it.

Building The Board Sections

The package of **cork** includes **four 12" square pieces**, which is just enough to get all of the board sections out of. What we will do is **cut the cork pieces up first**, then glue the tiles on them. Below is the plan for how the game board pieces will come out of the four square pieces of cork. **Each square on the white grid is 1"**.

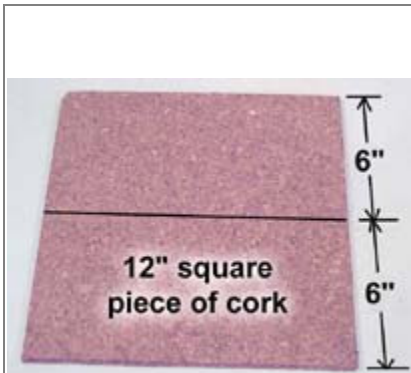
1
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I am going to base the game board pieces onto **cork**. You can find cork tiles at most office supply stores for around **\$15.00** for a package of **four 12" square pieces**. To find cork tiles near you, search the internet for "**Frameless cork panels**" and you should find some. These are 1/8" thick. I liked using cork the best because it's **easy to cut**, it **glues easily** and it **grips the table** nicely so the piece don't slide around on the table.

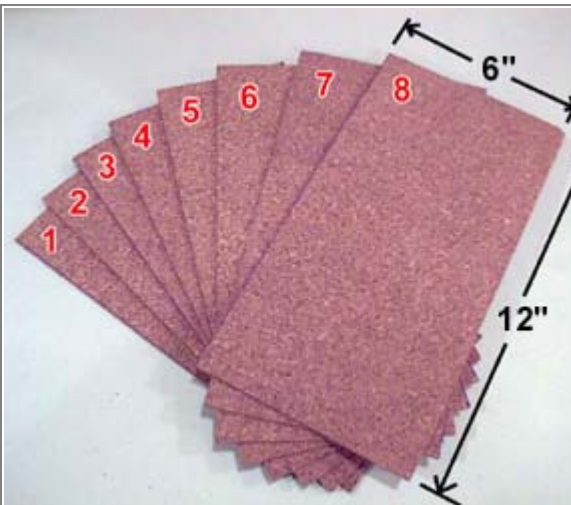
2. Take **each square** and **cut it in half**. The easiest way is to mark it with a ruler and **use a hobby knife** to cut them in half.

When you have finished cutting the pieces in half



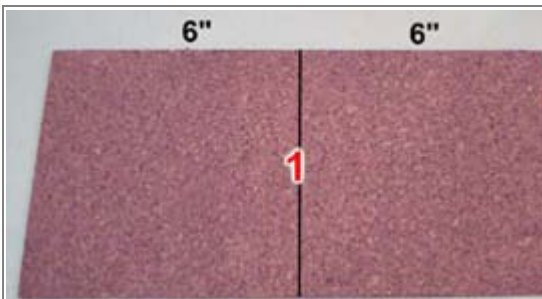
you will have **eight pieces** that measure **12" x 6"** each.

3
.



Notice that the **pieces 1-8** match up to the diagram at the top of this article.

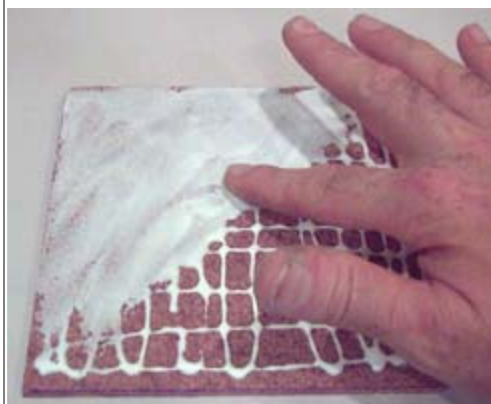
Take the first piece and **cut it in half** to make **two 6" square** pieces.



Take **white glue** (I like Aleen's Tacky glue) and squeeze out a generous amount on the surface. Then take your finger and **spread it out** evenly.

4. You'll need quite a bit of glue because the **cork soaks it up**.

You will also notice when cutting the cork that the 12" pieces can be slightly short sometimes. When you run into a short piece, just try to get as close as you can to the right measurement.



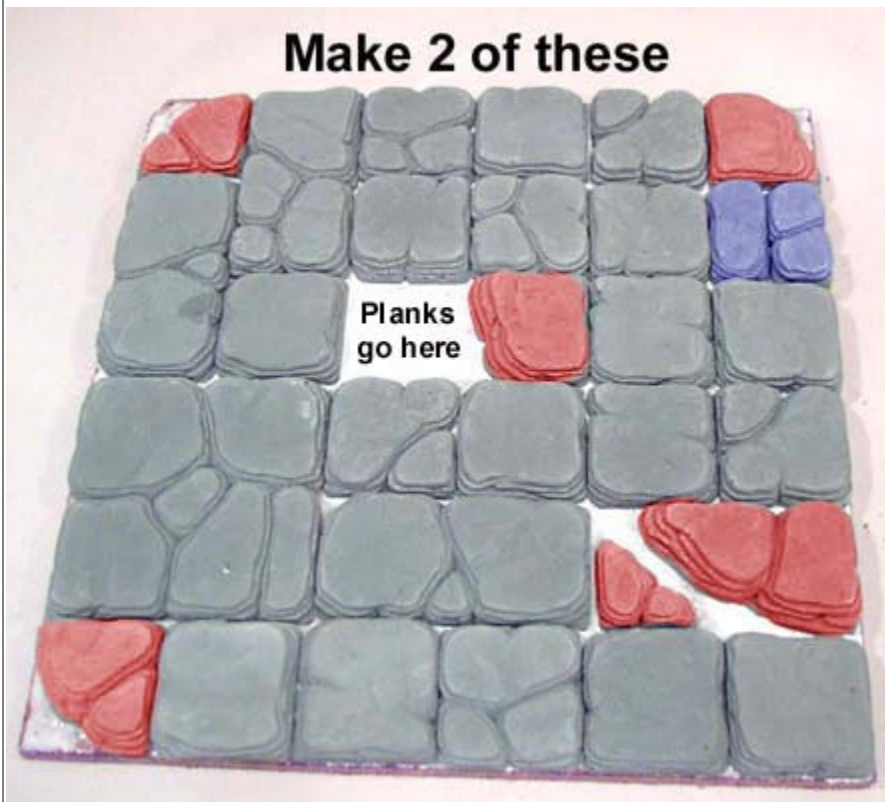
Set the tiles shown on top of the glue. The **tiles shown in red** are odd shaped pieces from **mold #282**.

The **tiles shown in purple** are the **2 small 1" x 1/2"** tiles set together to fill a 1" square.

I have these tiles **counted exactly**, so if you do not want to run out of certain floor tiles then **put down the exact tiles** that I show. Once the glue is dry, **cut off the excess cork** from the corners.

Two wooden planks will go across the hole after the piece is painted. For complete painting instructions, look at our [Painting Instructions](#) page.

Make 2 of



these.

6

- Cut the next piece of cork into the 6 pieces shown and spread glue on them.

The **tiles shown in red** are odd shaped pieces from **mold #282**.

The **tiles shown in purple** are the **2 small 1" x 1/2" tiles** set together to fill a 1" square.

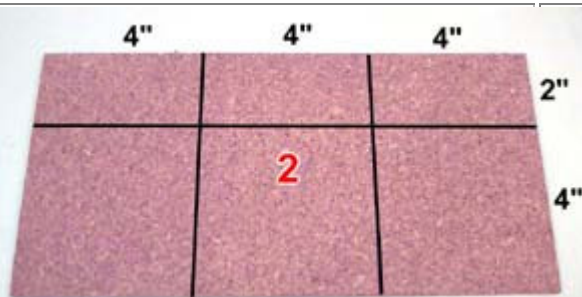
Make 3 of these

7

•

of each

•



Make 3 of these



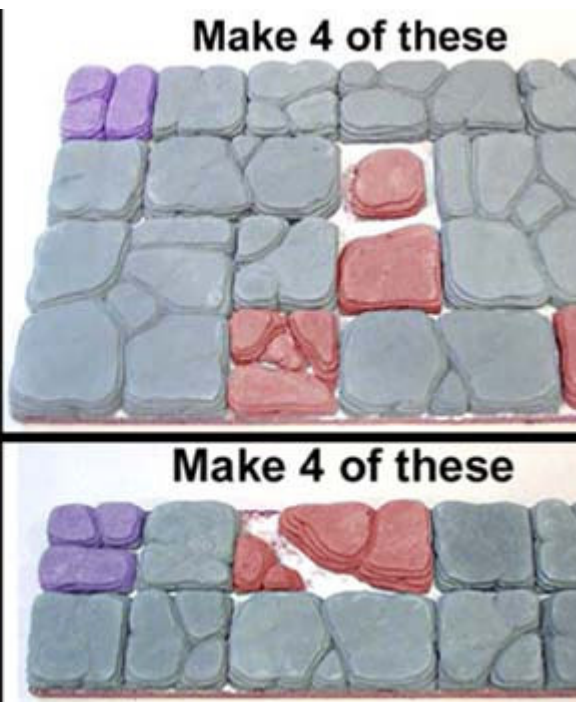
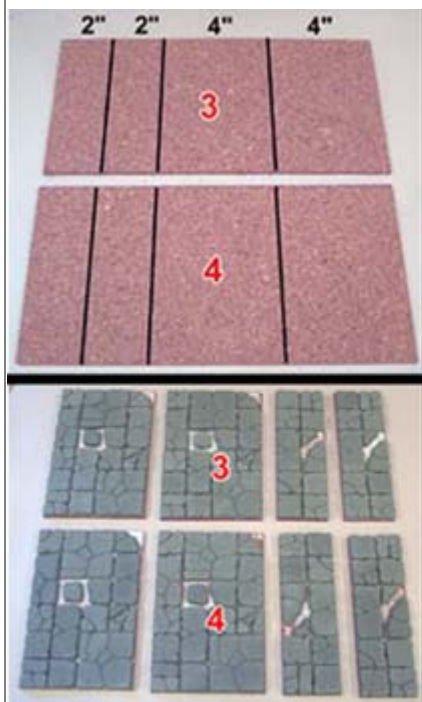
Here is group 3 and 4.

Cut the next 2 pieces of cork as shown and spread glue on them.

The tiles shown in red are odd shaped pieces from mold #282.

The tiles shown in purple are the 2 small 1" x 1/2" tiles set together to fill a 1" square.

Make 4 of



each.

9 Draw the lines on the cork tiles as shown, then cut them apart. To see how to make the bridge visit our [Tips & Tricks 20](#) page.





10.



Make 1 of these



Make 2 of these

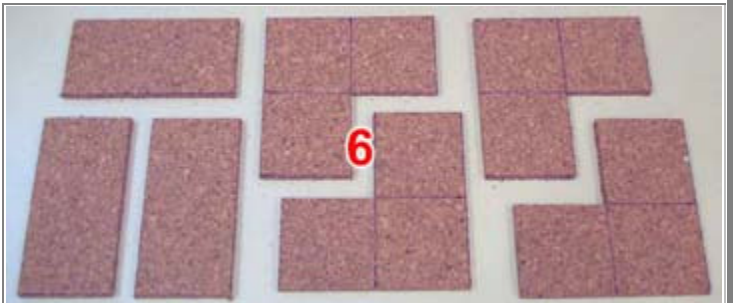
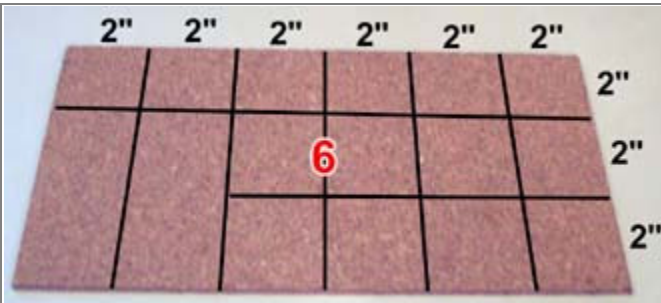


<p>The tiles shown in red are odd shaped pieces from mold #282.</p> <p>The tiles shown in purple are the 2 small 1" x 1/2" tiles set together to fill a 1" square.</p>	<p>Make 1 of these</p> 	<p>Make 2 of these</p> 
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<p>The tiles shown in red are odd shaped pieces from mold #282.</p> <p>The tiles shown in purple are the 2 small 1" x 1/2" tiles set together to fill a 1" square.</p>	<p>Make 1</p> 	
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	<p>tiles set together to fill a 1" square.</p>		
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13.

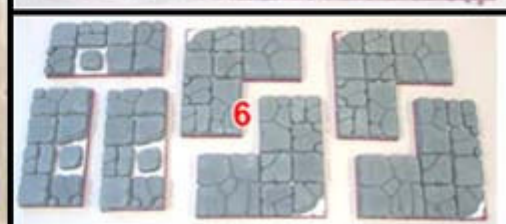


The **tiles shown in red** are odd shaped pieces from **mold #282**.

The **tiles shown in purple** are the **2 small 1" x 1/2"** tiles set together to fill a 1" square.

14.

This will finish group 6.



Here is group 7.

15. The small pieces measure 1" x 2".

For the 1" x 2" pieces we're using the 1 x 2 solid tiles (ten of each).

Once the glue is dry, **cut the corners** out of the "cross" floor sections.

16.

Make 2 of these

Cut out comers

Here is group 8.

17. The measuring here is a little more difficult.

Be careful when cutting out the "T" sections.

18. The small pieces with the "X" are not used.

Make 5

19.



The **tiles shown in red** are odd shaped pieces from **mold #282**.

This concludes all of the board sections you will need for the game. The next section will show how to build doors and other accessories.



Make 4 of these

20.

After all the pieces are glued down and dry, you'll want to **paint them**.

For complete painting instructions, look at our [Painting Instructions](#) page. To see how to make the bridges and other special painting instructions, see our [Tips & Tricks](#) [20](#) page.



Building The Accessories

1.

We will need to make doorways for the game.

Start by gluing together **10 arches** and **10 doors back to back**.

Sometimes the back or scraped side of the door will be a little concave. If you **sand the back of the doors** they will glue together a little better.

Arches glued back-to-back



Doors glued back-to-back

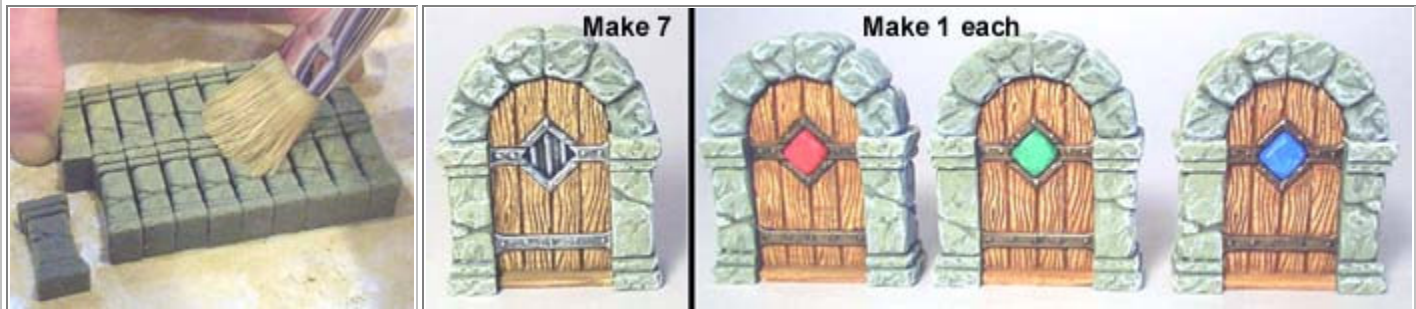


2.

~~You will also need 20 door posts. The pieces will need to be painted before gluing them around the door~~

For complete painting instructions, look at our [Painting Instructions](#) page. To see how to paint the wooden doors, see our [Tips & Tricks 20](#) page.

Once painted, one door post will go on each side of the door with the **flat scraped side** facing the door. The colored diamond on each of the three doors is used for **colored rune doors** in the Descent game.



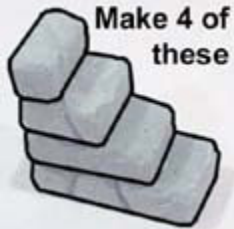
3.

We're going to make **two stair pieces** to show where figures can move from level to level.

4.

For my plans

shown here I have only made two of them. If you have **extra blocks** or castings from mold #282, you can **make more** stair pieces if you like.



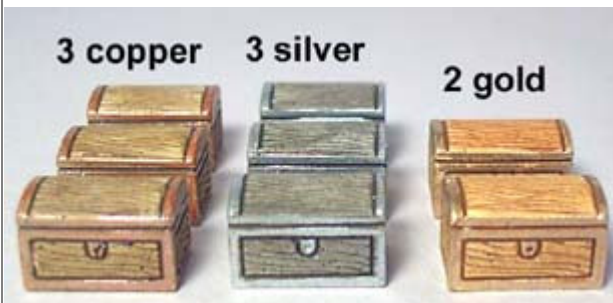
5. **Make 4** of these temporary wall sections.

These are used to separate large floor sections that have a doorway between them.



6. Paint the **chests and coin piles** as shown.

To see how to paint the chests



Paint 9 of these



and coin piles, see our Tips & Tricks 20 page.		
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7. The **round well** is made by placing the **8 irregular** tiles from mold #282 in the pattern shown. I am gluing these to **thin cardboard** or cereal box.

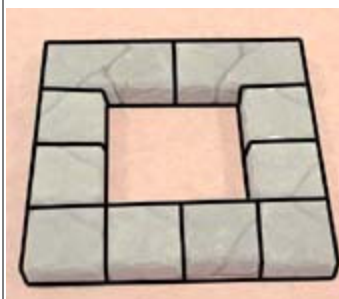
Then glue **2 doorway arches** on top to form a ring. After painting the stone color on it, **paint the hole black**.



Make 1

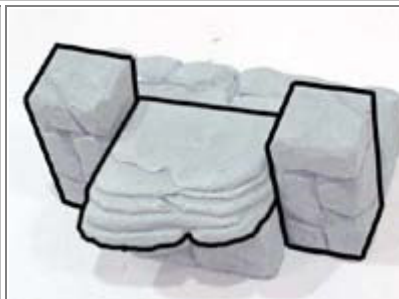
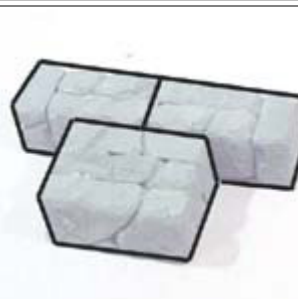
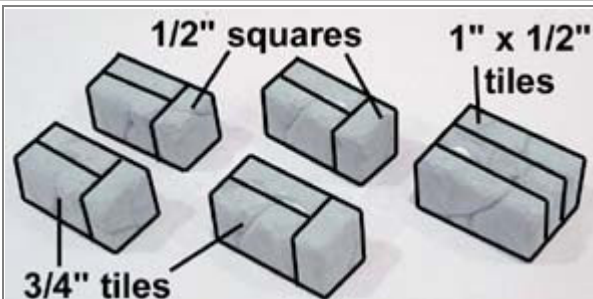
8. The **square pit** is made by placing the **rectangular and square** tiles from mold #282 in the pattern shown. I am gluing these to **thin cardboard** or cereal box.

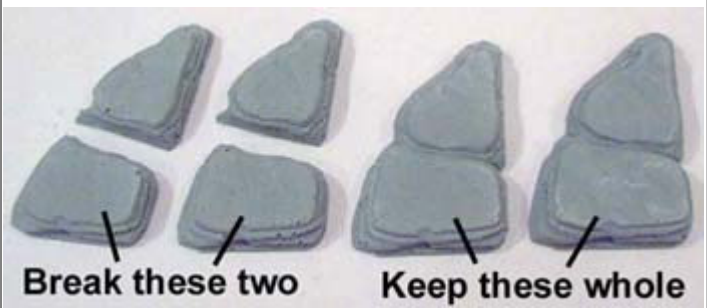
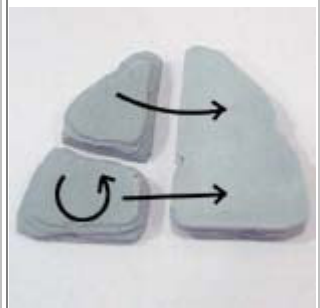

Then glue **second layer** on top using all rectangular blocks. After painting the stone color on it, **paint the hole black**.






Make 1

9. Now for the **giant's throne**.



<p>10. Break 2 pieces. Glue the halves onto the back of another piece. Make 2 of these.</p>	 <p>Break these two Keep these whole</p>		 <p>Make 2</p>
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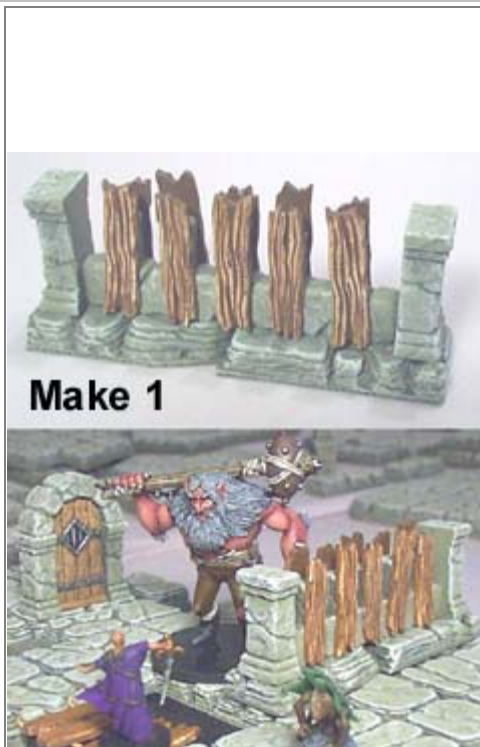
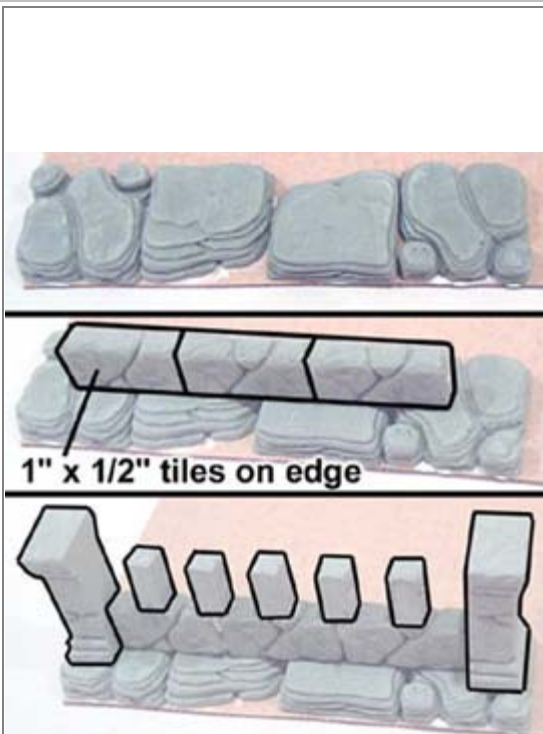
<p>11. Make 2 pieces from above. Glue these two pieces onto the back of the throne. Use lots of glue because these pieces do not have flat edges and will fit very loosely. Add pillar</p>	 <p>Front</p>	 <p>Back</p>	 <p>Add pillar halves</p>
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	halves onto the front of the throne.		
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12. Glue these irregular tiles (and one square tile) to a piece of **thin cardboard** or cereal box.
- Glue the **throne** on **top** of it. For painting instructions, see our [painting instructions](#) page.
- Make 1 of these.**



13. To make the **barricade**, glue the four tiles shown down to a piece of **thin cardboard** or cereal box.
- Glue the three 1" long flat tiles down to the center and **on edge**.
- Add a **pillar on each end**



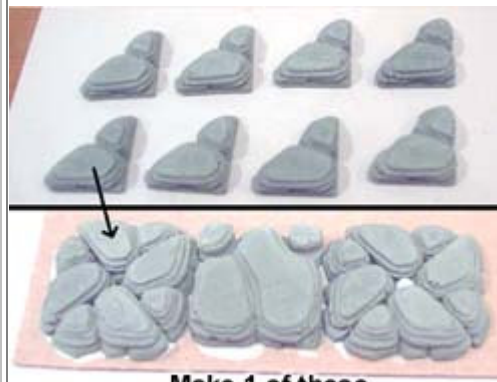
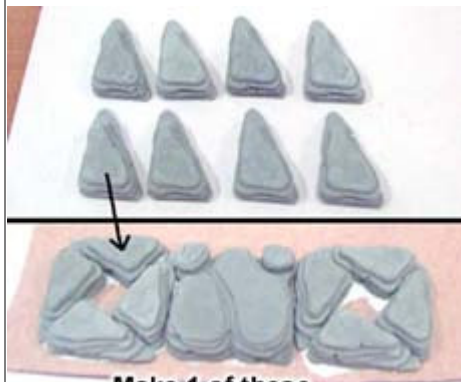
and then evenly space out **5 small bricks** on top.




Add the wooden planks **after the piece has been painted.**


14.

The **bridge** has two ends that we are making here. Arrange the **irregular shaped tiles** in a circle on each side and glue them down to **thin cardboard**.

Since there are not enough irregular pieces for both ends, we're using **different tiles for each end.**



<p>15. We will need 4 posts. Start with the tile shown and glue two 3/4" long tiles back to back on it. Then glue a larger tile upside down on top of it. Cap it off with a square block and the smallest stone.</p>	<p>Pieces used to make 1 post</p> 		<p>Tile upside down</p>  <p>Make 4</p>
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<p>16. Glue the posts on top of the bases. After it's dry, cut the excess cardboard off from around them. For painting instructions, see our painting instructions page. To see how to make the bridges and other special painting instructions, see our Tips & Tricks 20 page. This completes the accessories for the Descent game.</p>	
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The Descent Models

You can find examples of how the Descent models can be painted on our [Tips & Tricks 20](#) page.

There I have detailed photos of each model painted along with the name of each artist who painted them.



Finished Photos

Here are some finished photos of the figures in action. **Click on a photo** to view a larger version of it.

