

Flagstone Floor

by Jill Weisz

Hello ... welcome to the base that contains all the individual mystery classes - as well as the Wizard, Sorceress - and owl.



When finished with all the pieces, these will make an excellent addition to your miniature collection ... as well as a prized example at your local doll club.

Thank you for taking these classes and I look forward to seeing what you come up with. Please note that as soon as you finish your project, email the finished photo to DANA (Dana@MiniatureART.com) and she will upload to the minidollU project page. Contest entries MUST be submitted by October 1st - at midnight.

**Much Magic to you!
JILL**

A little history about the Fieldstone

Flat, irregularly shaped stones are usually called flagstones, but this isn't a geological term.. Flagstones are simply rocks that have been fractured or cleft into, into a reasonably flat profile, usually 1 in. To 2in. Thick and that have uncut, natural edges. Like cut stones, flagstones are available in a wide range of rock varieties, including bluestone, slate, limestone, and granite, While some flagstones—such as slate and bluestone— split cleanly and have a smooth surface other flagstones—such as limestone and quartzite—done split quite so readily. Their surface can be roughly textured, which makes laying them into a relatively smooth path or patio challenging but also lends artistic character to the final design.

Flagstones can also be cleft from fieldstone, a generic term that simply describes stone that is made up of a variety of minerals. These are the kinds of rocks naturally found in a given area—'out in the field' so to speak— and so the geological characteristics of fieldstone vary from region to region. This is what gives fieldstone its character, and some regions are known for their distinctive native varieties.

Creating your Flagstone

Supplies for creating your basic flagstone:

- fimo or sculpy
 - tool with flat edge to use for mortar inbetween stones (ex. Dental pick)
 - tool for creating rough edges like nail file
 - tool for smoothing surface of flag stone
 - acrylic paint colors (basic black, med.brown, light and dark grey) make sure these are in the same color tones
 - matt acrylic sealer spray
 - cardboard - thin
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(Keep the print out of the basic outline — seen later on for shading purposes to get right shape)

Step 1 - Cut a piece of cardboard to desired shape. Remember that you are looking for a puzzle piece (shape). Thickness of cardboard is like index card shape (recipe card).

Step 2 - Condition fimo as directed on package. Make different size balls of fimo, and press into the shape outline on cardboard. (overall thickness of fimo should be ½ cm) Don't be overly concerned about the varying heights of stones (fimo balls) ... use your thumb to squish and combine balls into one floor piece. Your Thumb will naturally add thumb print texture to the stone helping it to look more realistic.

Step 3 - Take your mortar tool (i.e. Dental pick) and define the hairlines between joined balls for outline of individual flagstones for floor. Remember the lines are SUPPOSE to be irregular, rounded, jagged, and no particular size. Make the mortar space between the flagstones irregular also and different widths for a more realistic look.

Step 4 - Once you are satisfied with the overall floor, its time to turn your attention to the individual PIECES (i.e. rocks) that make up the floor. Use your finger to smooth some stones, or surfaces on the rocks, while taking your texture tool to the others. ****REMEMBER** the surface is very porous and uneven looking in real life - these are mostly chiseled by hand).

When satisfied with the floor - bake according to directions on package. Make sure to allow enough time to cool sufficiently before moving on to the painting step (next).

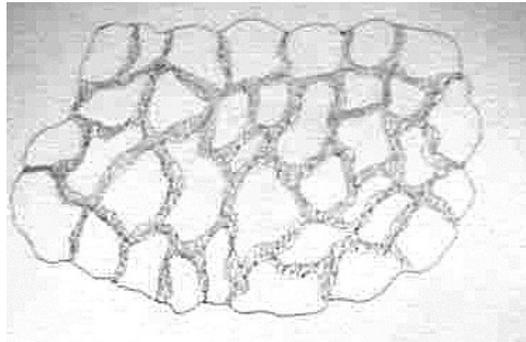
***I use a regular metal oven pan and bake the cardboard and fimo together without a problem**. As always keep an eye on your project - oven temperatures vary, and I can't guarantee your cardboard won't burn ...)*

Painting Directions

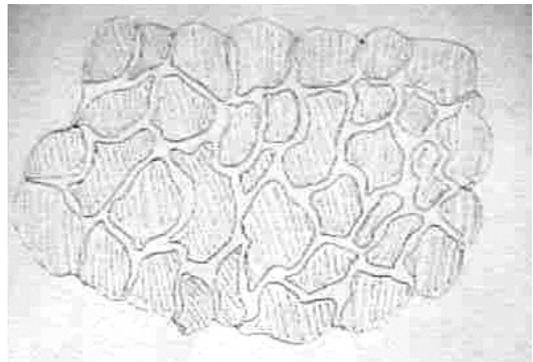
Step 1 - paint entire piece black ... remember to use a flat brush to get into all the surfaces and short quick strokes so paint doesn't dry before you are finished.

BE SURE to LET PAINT DRY thoroughly inbetween each step!

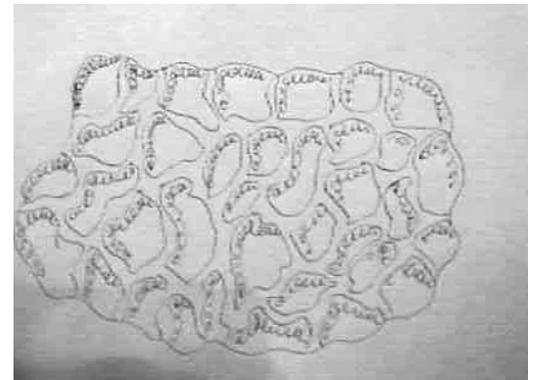
Step 2 - (1st picture to right) .. Use medium grey paint to color in mortar stones. Let a bit of black show through to get a 3-D feel. I use a small round brush for best results.



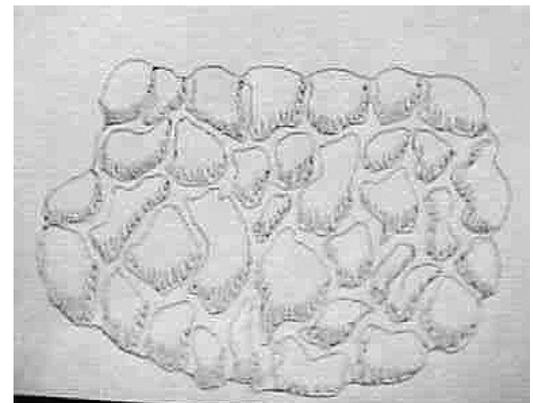
Step 3 - (2nd picture to right) Use dark grey to paint individual stone surfaces. Don't be afraid to let mortar color seep onto stones.



Step 4 - (3rd picture to right) take your brown, and (with the direction of the light source in mind) paint shadows as shown on top of each individual stone in your floor.

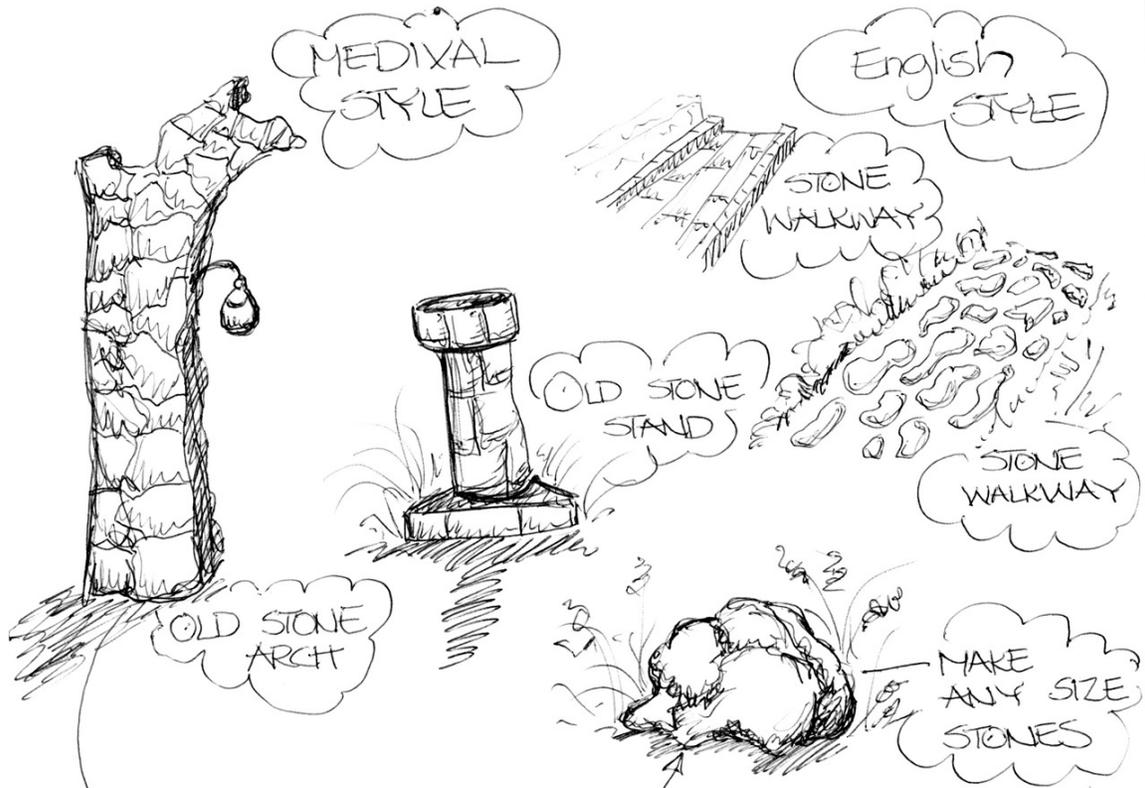


Step 5 - (4th picture on bottom) now take the lightest shade of grey paint, and highlight the opposite side of rock (that you painted brown) with grey. This will give your rock a 3-D appearance. It has dark shadow on one side - and a highlights on the other side. All rocks should have the same directional painting. Then the floor will look uniform.

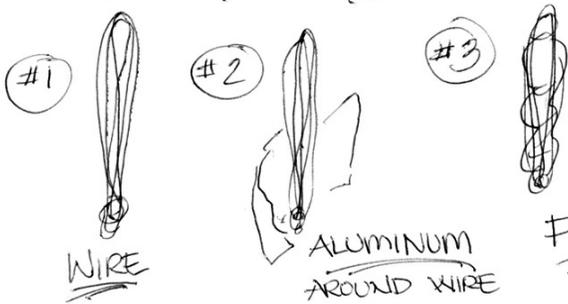


Now take a bit of color of your choice, and dry brush over the top of entire surface. The brush should be a flat brush of a medium width. I used my *dirty* brush ... meaning it had a bit of old brown/grey paint on it ... and dabbed it lightly on papertowel then lightly drag brush across the top of floor. If you are cautious about this step spray seal piece first - and then dry brush. This way if you like it - you can spray seal - if not wipe off quickly with clean damp cloth.

Remember you can go back and add color, lichen, tiny bits of bird grit as desired to decorate before adding objects (cat, dog etc) to floor.



USA WIRE FOR SUPPORT



TIP: USE LARGER WIRE FOR SUPPORT
 - USE ALUMINUM FOIL ON WIRE TO USE LESS FIMO TO MAKE LIGHTER

Bill Weisz