

Tips on making miniature textured surfaces (like bricks, walls, flagstones, cobble stones, etc.

By Trineke Boer

1. Whatever base you'll want to attach your bricks etc. to, make sure to seal any moisture absorbing surface first. Thin surfaces tend to warp, so seal back and front.
2. Easy ways to have realistic looking brick walls: Buy miniature textured wall paper. Look for free designs online and print off, or buy and use miniature ready made bricks. I also found a suggestion online to look in a carpet/vinyl flooring store because sometimes flooring vinyl has a pattern that matches a miniature scale surface. Ask the store if you can buy a small piece of that particular pattern.
3. Making textured surfaces with a stencil (available in different scales).
It is hard to find brick compound. Instead you can use a spackling compound (available at a hardware store). Make sure your stencil is attached to your surface and doesn't move (stencil glue) and spread a thin layer of spackle over the stencil. Take the stencil carefully away and wait until bricks are dry. If more surface bricks are required, match up the previous made bricks with your stencil and repeat the procedure. For additional texture on your bricks etc. crumple some aluminum foil into a ball or use an old toothbrush and lightly press on them when still wet. You can paint your surfaces any colour, varnish them (2x is best) and when dry spread some regular kitchen/bathroom tiling grout (hardware store) over the bricks to fill the gaps. Wipe off the excess with a damp sponge. The grout comes in several colours or you can mix in a bit of colour yourself. When dry, varnish everything again. You can find several tutorials on Youtube. I looked at a short tutorial of Richard Bromley's "Realistic dollhouse exteriors".
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GPmq9k3iCk4>
4. Making bricks with air dry clay: Flatten clay to the thickness you want and make superficial cuts with a hobby knife in a pattern you'd like your surface to look. If you'd like, add extra texture with a crumpled-up ball of aluminum foil or old toothbrush, by lightly pressing on the clay when still damp. Let dry and glue to your surface. Paint the surfaces and varnish them. If you want to fill up the gaps in between, use regular kitchen/bathroom grout. Remove excess grout with a damp sponge and when dry varnish. Have a look at a short Youtube tutorial by thesquareto spare "Cobblestone walk way tutorial".
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0eJgovV_gTg. She also shows paint techniques for the textured surfaces she makes. She speaks very fast in this tutorial-too fast for me to follow- so I put on Closed Captioning (CC) in the lower bar of the video. If you'd like your bricks in a herring bone pattern you can simply make an impression in your clay with the downside of a 2 knobbed Lego block at an 45 degree angle on opposite(mirror) sites or use the end of a USB (C) computer cable (don't forget to clean it out afterwards). For smaller pattern

impressions, google wargame sites. They have great tips and it's amazing what you can use. I looked at a tutorial by <https://mojosquantentunnel.blogspot.com/search?q=cobblestone> - making cobble stone roads.

5. Making bricks and other textured surfaces from egg cartons: Take , the flat sides from egg cartons and either cut them neatly for bricks or tear them randomly for flagstones and cobble stones. Glue them to your sealed surface in the pattern you'd like. Apply paint and then varnish the bricks etc. Fill up the gaps with regular kitchen/bathroom grout. Remove excess grout with a damp sponge. If you're using egg cartons from foam, before painting, you could give it a structure by pressing on it with a crumpled up aluminium foil ball. I looked at a tutorial of <http://onceuponadollcollection.blogspot.com/2014/07/stonework-tutorial-dollhouse-part-9.html> stonework tutorial. For styrofoam cartons, have a look at <https://suzyssitcom.com/2020/02/miniature-crafts-how-to-make-realistic-miniature-bricks.html> - how to make realistic miniature bricks.
6. Making crooked low stoned walls with cheap aquarium gravel, small pebbles: Take a piece of thin sealed wood in the length of your wall and glue another piece of sealed wood upright at a right angle on it, at the correct height for your wall. Starting at the angle, glue the washed and dried gravel on it in a "jigsaw fashion" so it fits together. Leave to dry for 24 hours, then paint if you wish and then seal. To fill up the gaps use regular kitchen/bathroom grout and remove excess grout with a damp sponge. I looked at a tutorial by crooked staff.co.uk - low stone walls <https://www.crookedstaff.co.uk/search?q=stone+walls>. You can use flocking between the stones to represent moss