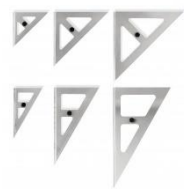




*"Construction tools and Implements"
15 june, 2022 by Peppe Apuleo*

Hello and thanks to everyone who follows me reading my columns. Many villagers often ask me how long it takes to make platforms, stairs, columns, trees, etc. Sometimes we have very different times for this reason I have decided to make a dedicated article. The speed of execution in making something depends on many factors. Tools, equipment and machines are needed, another important component are the materials used and to conclude a little familiarity in the use of tools / materials during the construction phase.

Below we will see a series of very interesting tools.



**In the photo some tools for measuring and marking. Rows, squares, protractor, combined squares, meter, digital caliper.
These tools must be made of steel for a longer life**

In the photos some cutting tools.
Commonly called scalpels or knives.
These tools must be made of steel for a
longer life



In the photo a
rotary cutter for
circular cuts, there
are several models
on the market.

In the photo a
classic cutter for
linear cuts, there
are several models
on the market.





2-piece kit with
spare blades

In the photo a very useful tool for linear cuts and angular cuts, 45 ° cutting angle. Tool made of aluminum treated with a hacksaw with steel blade and structure. on the market there are different models and different brands.

Tool for drilling.



An indispensable tool is the hand drill. In this tool you can insert twist drills with a diameter ranging from 0.5mm to 3mm. The spindle for housing the twist drills may vary according to the brand and model.



Shown below is a series of useful and indispensable tools and implements for those who make and assemble miniature villages but also dioramas or articles for modeling in general.



Set of spatulas for applying putty, plaster, white cement etc.



Precision pliers set. Buy a product of a good brand and above all of steel for a longer life



steel brushes for different uses



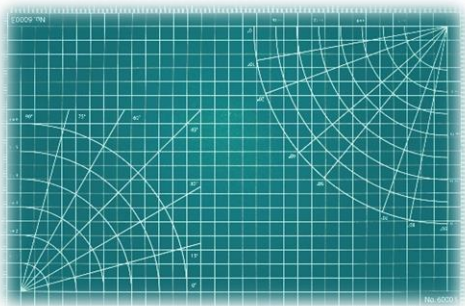
Bench vice.



Clamps of different sizes



Professional igniter for different uses



Professional work mat. Made with material resistant to cuts and adhesives

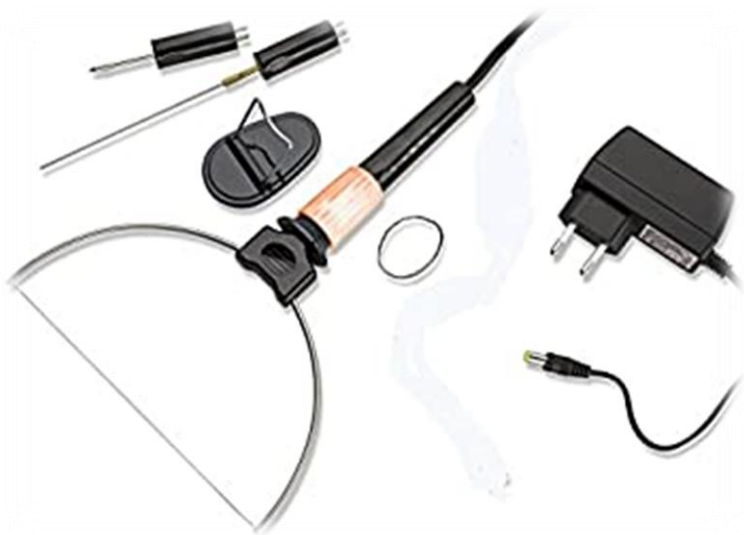


Professional container for solvent. In glass with steel dispenser

Just a few examples of tools and utensils useful in the art of miniature villages or model making



In the columns below I will talk about how to work a material widely used in the construction of miniature villages or dioramas in general. The material in question is called high-density polystyrene (XPS) or (EPS). To work these materials correctly, it is necessary to use hot polystyrene cutters. On the market there are different brands, different models, different sizes, different powers. Here are some models used in the construction of miniature villages or dioramas.



Hot polystyrene size models very popular in the mini Christmas village sector

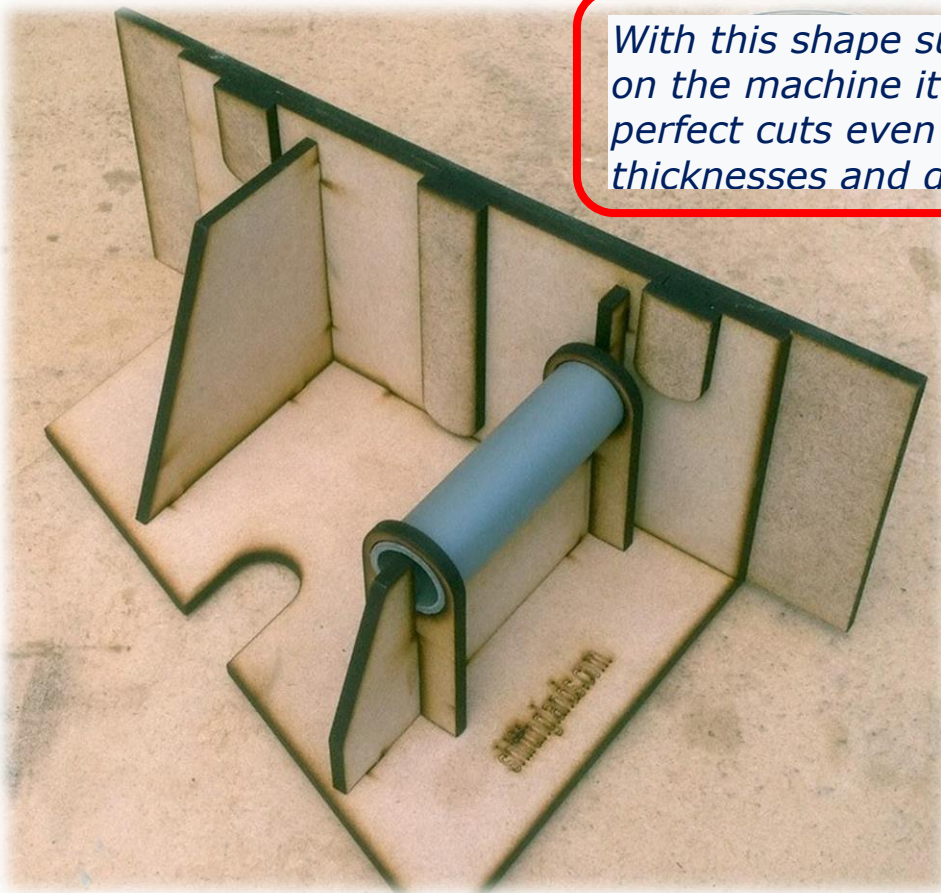


My experience in cutting and processing polystyrene has led me to use tools as indicated above, but currently I also use a thermo cutter from proxxon, a German company that produces many tools for model making in general. With the Proxxon thermo cutter you can perform many processes and a machine that the only limit is the imagination of those who use it.



Proxxon Thermocut 230/e

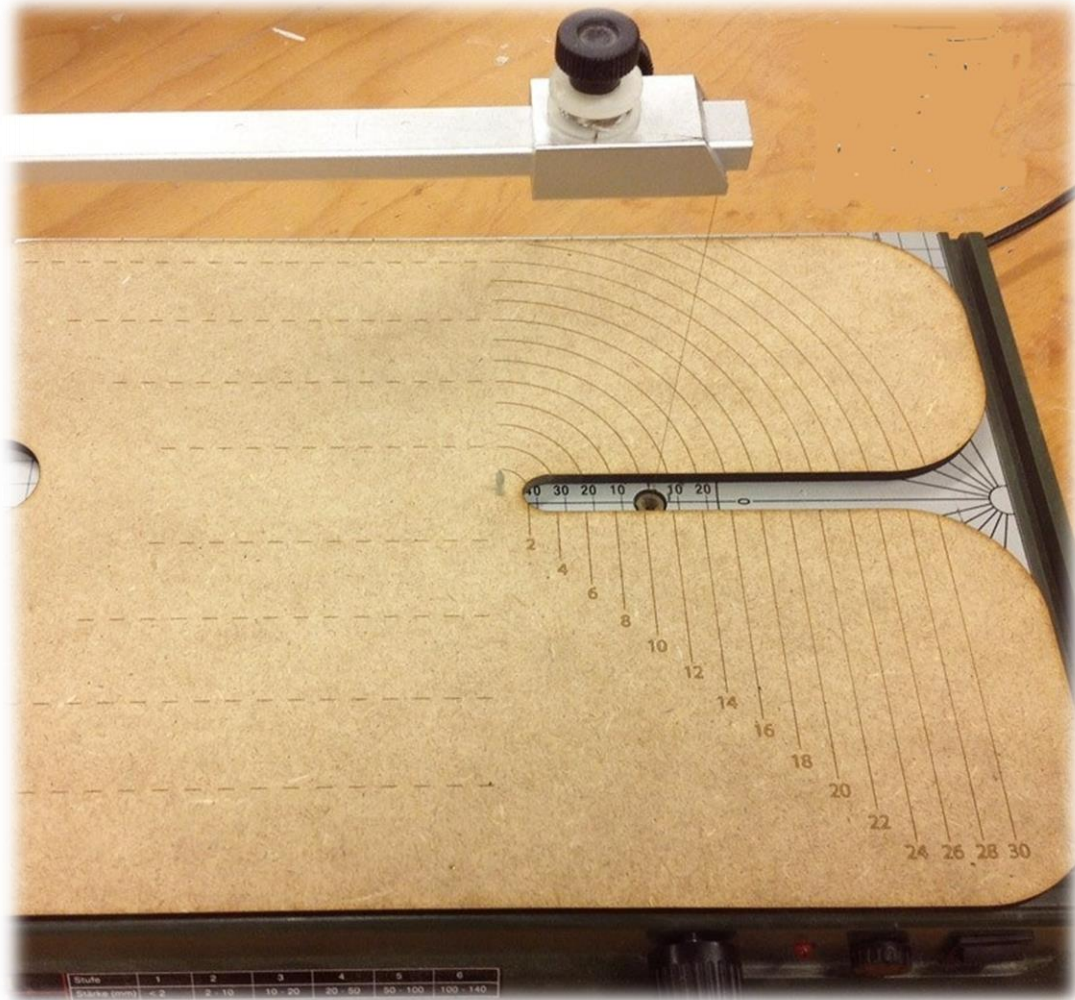
There are lots of both physical and online vendors who sell this type of product. This is a machine that makes very precise cuts, you can get square, rectangular shapes, closed or open circles, cones, etc. With suitable contouring shapes, figures such as columns, linear staircases, spiral staircases and many geometric figures can be obtained for the creation of simple objects to the complex structures of large buildings. Here are some photos of various examples of what can be done with a Proxxon thermo cutter.



With this shape suitably positioned on the machine it is possible to make perfect cuts even of very small thicknesses and dimensions.

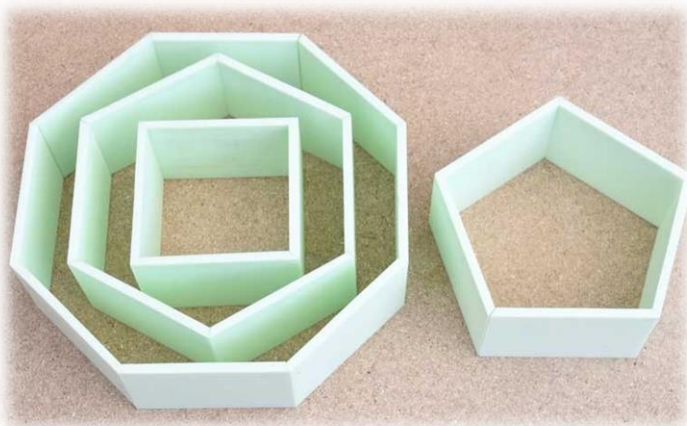
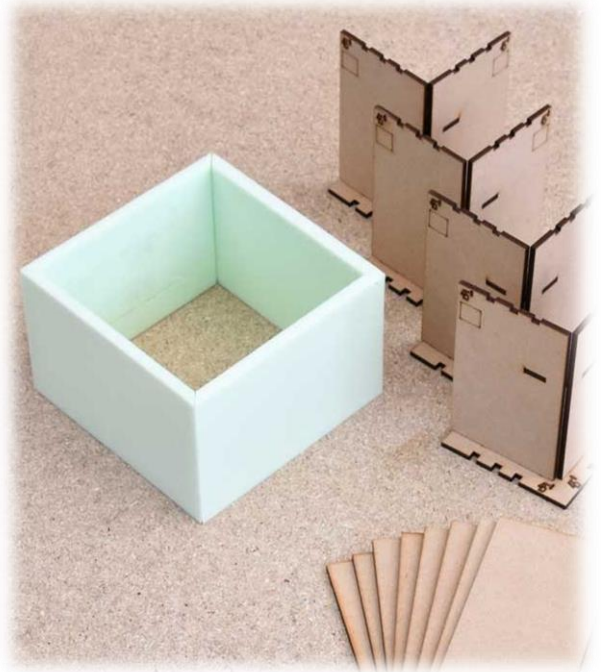
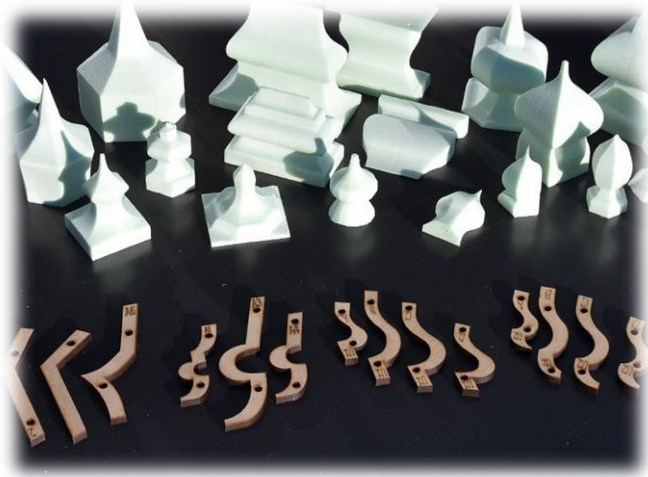
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With this shape suitably positioned on the machine it is possible to make circular cuts of different sizes, both full and empty, moreover, always with the same shape by appropriately moving the cutting wire, conical figures can be obtained.



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with this machine it is possible to obtain different shapes
always having suitable contouring shapes

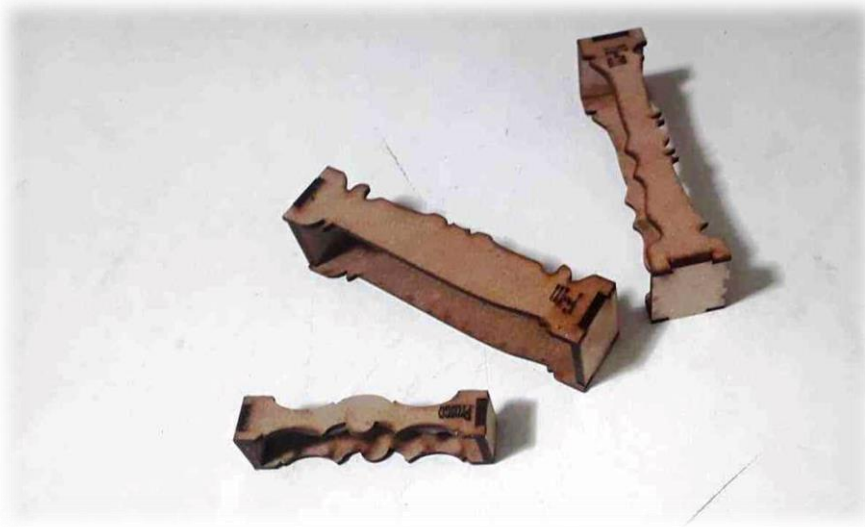


some examples of what can
be done



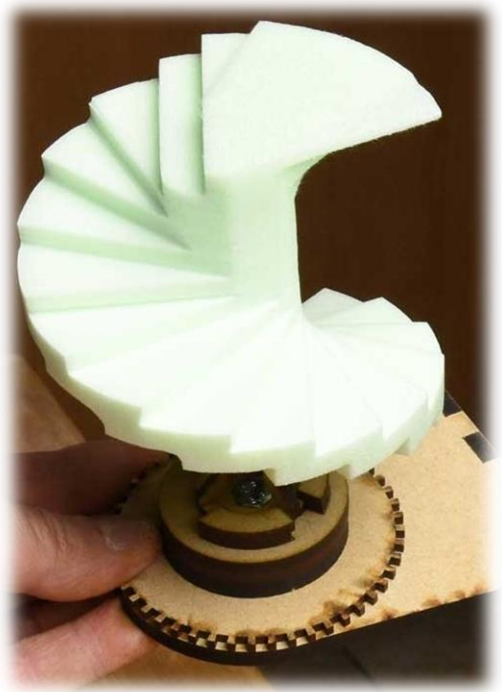
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Having this type of contouring shapes it is possible to obtain columns of different sizes and styles. I have created some models of columns that I will publish in a future article



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Having this type of shape it is possible to obtain spiral staircases of different sizes. Linear stair models can also be created. I have created some models of stairs that I will publish in a future article



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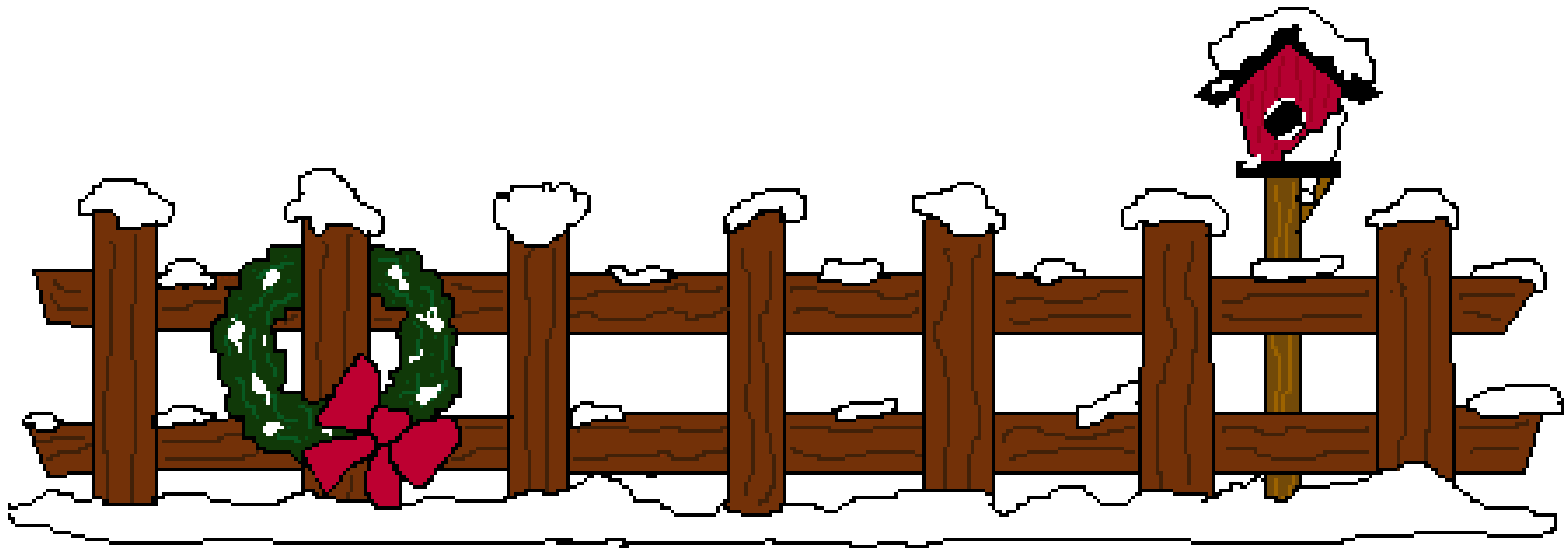


In the photos some examples of contouring templates for the realization of arches of different types and sizes.



In the photos some examples of rollers for engraving flooring or walls on polystyrene or other materials such as plaster or das.





A useful and very important tool is the hot glue gun. The gun model you see in the picture has 2 essential characteristics for a model maker, the variable temperature allows you to have different melting points of the glue avoiding to find yourself with many glue filaments on the objects to be glued, moreover it has the variable length of the nozzles this allows you to get to very narrow and small points without creating damage to the surrounding



interchangeable nozzles of various lengths

temperature regulator for glue



Many villager friends often ask me what I use and what is the best way to make a very realistic lawn. To create a lawn it is necessary to make several steps, create the surfaces where to create the lawn and get as close as possible to reality by creating a background with brown acrylic colors of various shades, after it has dried apply some earth and glue with special glue, then apply the herb. Generally I use electrostatic grass to be installed with a dedicated applicator. Here are some photos of the electrostatic grass applicator that I use for my dioramas / villages.



I like to conclude this article with the tools for painting, in addition to the classic brushes generally when I paint the elements I build I use a double action airbrush this method allows me to have much softer paints with shades that are very close to reality .



Classic brush set



double action airbrush



airbrush compressor



In this article just some examples of what can be a small part of the tools and implements to be used for the construction of a miniature village or a diorama.

In the next articles we will discuss what are the products and materials to be used to obtain support platforms, walls, gates, fences, etc, we will also see what are the products for making lakes or rivers, products that simulate the movement of water, trees etc etc.

Heartfelt thanks to Bill Channell site manager <http://thevillagecollector.com/> who gave me the opportunity to write these columns on his site

Special Thanks to:



Visit of web site: <http://thevillagecollector.com/>

Submit your village photos and video Bill Channell will do the rest.

You can contact me at the following address giuseppeapuleo@gmail.com if you need a suggestio

Visit website - www.TheVillageCollector.com