

## Episode 3

We are making good progress with our village, but this column proceeds at a more leisurely pace, otherwise I will be spending too much time typing instead of building! We constantly look at all the videos on this website, no matter what their size or design there is often something original in them that appeals to us. Sue likes the idea of real water in the village and the only Lemax option I have seen is the fountain. That is apart from the very skilled folk who actually build waterfalls and streams with their bare hands! We wanted something natural looking rather than ornamental and found, hopefully, something to fit that plan. Its delivery is overdue and is currently holding up construction in that designated area of the village.

Our backdrops are up and sorted!



We have combined the backdrops used in the two previous villages, a big “night sky” looking cloth that is attached to a long piece of 2x2 wood which is sitting conveniently on the tall shelf. Also re-using our photographers back drop vinyls. Sue insists nothing can be stuck to anything that may leave a residue mark afterwards so ingenuity took over and we are happy with the outcome. The backdrops have been stuck to thin sheets of polystyrene and then inserted into a groove made in a good solid block with the foam cutter.



The previously mentioned acquisition and re-branding of the pizza establishment is complete and open for business!



With the basic design sorted we now get all the houses, shops and fairground rides out of their boxes. This inevitably comes with a few pieces having become detached and the superglue is called into action. This first positioning gives us an impression of space required and pieces are shuffled about many times to achieve, in our eyes, the best “look”.

As I have said before there is no advance master plan so we are still evolving our layout on each build session at the moment. As each piece is unboxed it is tested to ensure all still works and lights up as it should. A fairly recent innovation has been the smoking chimney pieces, and these appealed to me and we bought the Chestnut Cabin a few years ago. To be honest I was disappointed with the smoke effect, for me it went too fast to look anything like realistic. Well it doesn't go fast any more! Despite changing the wick it just will not work at all and it now features without a smoking chimney. I guess they are using the central heating instead this year.



Although still in October, when we are building our village we like to create the right ambience so usually we have Christmas tunes on in the background and indulge in a festive tippie!



Cheers!

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