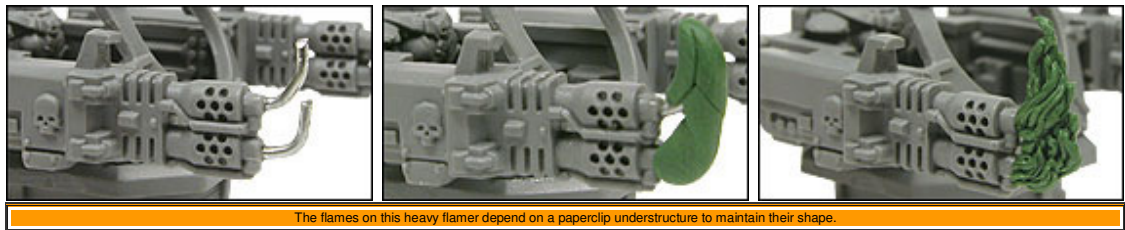
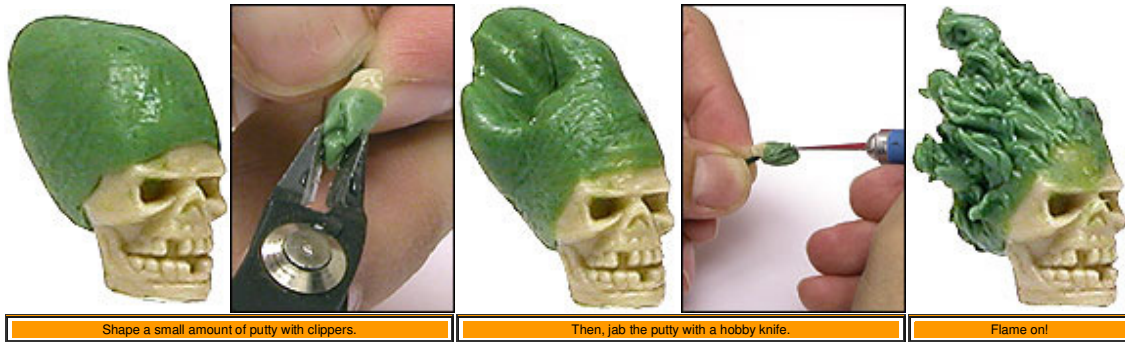


Fire is just one of many ways to add a bit of coolness...er...hotness to your models and scenery projects. This addition could take the form of a flamer burst from a Guardsman, a terrain piece with a burning roof, flames from a wizard's fingertips, or a gout of deadly dragon's breath. Though it may seem like modeling fire would be difficult or require loads of time, the reality is much different. It's pretty simple once you learn the technique.

Rob Hawkins, a member of the US Hobby Team, is an expert modeler, talented painter, and experienced general. You've certainly seen his work somewhere if you've visited this web site or picked up **White Dwarf**. Well, it turns out that he is a pyromaniac of sorts – not in a harmful manner, of course! No, Rob enjoys MODELING fire rather than the real thing. Thus, he has several neat methods for creating this effect. We here at **BG** managed to pin him down and pry some tips from his brain for the good of hobbyists everywhere. Select an item from the links below, and you'll soon become a keeper of the flame!

PUTTY AND FLAME EFFECTS: Putty is the main method Rob uses to create fire. It only took him 5 minutes to sculpt the flaming skull below, and all he used were a pair of clippers and a hobby knife (watch your fingers)!

Check out the images below to see the process and then give sculpting flames a try. After a few attempts, it'll come easily. Once you get the basics of the putty technique for flames, you can try your hand at more elaborate projects like the ones featured at the bottom of this page.



TOPKNOTS ON FIRE: When Rob needs a bit of fire in a hurry, he looks to the clump of hair follicles known as the topknot. This page illustrates how plastic topknots simulate flame quite well, and the conversion is very simple. All you really have to do is find some topknots and glue 'em in place. They are also a great foundation for a larger flame – just add some putty! You can find topknot bits on Warhammer Orc, Goblin, and 40K Ork sprues. Some horses' tails work well, too.



As simple plastic topknot at the end of this warfire thrower makes for a rad conversion.

PLASTICARD AND FLAMES: If you don't trust yourself with putty or sculpting just isn't "your thang," try plasticard instead. As you can see below, a tiny piece of plasticard cut properly can go a long way. If you don't know what plasticard is, then [head here](#) for more info on plasticard.



A tiny bit of plasticard makes this Bretonnian archer's arrow look a bit more potent.

SMOKE MARKERS: Smoke markers aren't exactly flames, but they are certainly related to fire. Smoke markers are great for marking destroyed tanks, keeping track of how a fire is progressing though an Empire Coaching Inn, and a myriad of other uses. It's a good thing then that smoke markers are a snap to make. Below, you'll see how aluminum foil and steel wool can be used to simulate smoke on the tabletop. In addition to these easy-to-find materials, all you really need are some super glue and some spray paint!



40-mm round bases with just aluminum foil, aluminum foil and steel wool, and just steel wool.



Paint any of the three markers above with layers of spray paint to achieve a color gradient.

PAINTING FIRE: There are many ways to paint flames. Heck, which primer you use (Skull White or Chaos Black) is often debated. If you have a technique that works, stick with it. If not, we asked Rob how he went about painting his flame-ridden army so you can get some ideas for your own painting projects. It turns out that he starts off with Skull White in order to get a brighter finish. Below, check out the progression Rob uses for his flame scheme. Most of this paint work is done with rapid drybrushes, so the going is quick and easy. However, towards the final steps, you'll have to put the drybrush down and paint a bit more neatly so as not to obscure your deeper shades of orange.



1:Skull White Undercoat > 2:Blazing Orange > 3:Fiery Orange > 4:Golden Yellow > 5:Sunburst Yellow

GALLERY OF FLAME EFFECTS: In order to help you branch out and appreciate the many uses of modeled flame, we've put together this small gallery. Along with a few more of Rob's sizzling creations, you'll also find some other folks' work for variety.

