

TERRAIN BUILDING

GREATER SPAWNING VESSEL

By Leo Carson-DePasquale

The Greater Spawning Vessels were an innovation of Vayl Hallyr created to increase the rate at which the larger dragonspawn could be produced by the warlocks of Everblight. Such spawning requires a large supply of organic material to mix with the blood of a warlock. These vessels are normally secured behind friendly lines, but warfare sometimes threatens these holdings. Too massive and weighty to be easily or quickly moved, these sorcerous artifacts must be protected and recovered whenever possible and serve as rallying points for blighted Nyss and ogrun who fight to ensure they are not stolen or destroyed by the enemy.

I will take you through the process of how I built this terrain feature, which is sure to demoralize your opponent on the battlefield. The Greater Spawning Vessel follows the rules for structures or obstructions and transforms any tabletop into Legion of Everblight home territory.

A note before you get started: PLAN AHEAD. Do some preliminary sketches. This will give you a good idea of where everything will fit and can easily save you some headaches down the road. It is also important to do mock-ups and scale reference throughout the project. Making hobby scenery is an organic process and it helps to be open to your own ideas. If you think something will look better one way, and I'm telling you something different, chances are your way will look better for you. Press your comfort level, but use what you know.

MATERIALS & TOOLS

Basswood beams and sheets
Epoxy glue
Extendable box cutter
Formula P3 Hobby Knife
Formula P3 Modeling Putty
Formula P3 Super Glue
Heat gun
Liquid nails
Modeling chain
Pink insulation foam (1/2" and 2" thick)
Plasticard (two thicknesses)
Pushpins
Rotary hand-sewing tool
Sand (varying grits)
Sandpaper (very fine)
Wood filler putty

MODEL PARTS

Acolyte Gaffs (3)
Berserker Spikes (9)
Large Carnivean Spikes (6)
Ravagore (optional)
Scythean Claws (3)
Small Carnivean Spikes (6)



THE CAULDRON

The cauldron forms the main body of the Greater Spawning Vessel and is constructed primarily from insulation foam. Note, the armored sides, spines, and chains are constructed separately and added throughout the process (see the **Metal Plates, Chains, and Spines** tutorials below).



1



Start with two blocks of pink insulation foam: one cut to a 2" thickness and the other cut to a 1/2" thickness. A dense grade is best because it responds well to the beaten metal technique used later.

2



Mark a circle on one side of the 2" foam piece using a CD. Find a slightly smaller circle to mark the bottom. Be sure your circles line up. If they are off center, this will skew the shape of the cauldron and you may have to start over from scratch. It is critical to be as exact as possible in these first steps because they are the foundation for the whole piece. Repeat the process above for the 1/2" foam; however, the larger circle should be on the bottom.

3

Begin slowly shaving layers off the thick foam block with a fresh utility knife blade until you reach the desired shape. Be sure to always use a fresh blade; a dull blade will rip the surface of the foam. You will likely need to change the blade a couple of times during this process. (Save slightly dull blades for less-precise projects.)

When cutting out the circles, cut straight lines around the perimeter. Curved lines cause stress on the blade and are more difficult to control. The resulting slight corners can be corrected with fine sand paper.

Cut the thin foam block into a ring using the same process detailed above. This will become the lip of the cauldron. Pay particular attention to how this piece fits onto the main cauldron body. To achieve a flush transition, use tape to position the cauldron lip on the body and then sand them together.

