Marney Castle
Blarney Castle was built in 1446 in County Cork, Ireland. It is one of the most famous castles in the world. Kissing the Blarney stone, located in one of the murder holes on the under side of the machicolated battlements, about 80 feet above the ground, is said to bring you good luck and bring you back to Ireland.

It is recommended to photo copy or print the plans onto heavy card stock. The best card stock is gray with pebbled mottling. The pieces can then be cut out and glued together. The door can be cut out and replaced by a piece of brown card stuck glued to the inner surface of the keep. The entire structure can be glued to a cardboard or presentation board base. Add a bit of landscaping and you have a charming little castle. The castle is remarkably rugged. My own (shown in the photo) is over fifteen years old, has been dragged to sixth grade classes all over southeastern Idaho, and has even had other castle fall onto it.

The castle is designed on a very small scale, for 15 mm figures. It can be reproduced on a larger scale for 25 mm figures.
Glue main tower together

Step 1

Fold down pointed supports (machicolations) and glue to main tower

Step 2

Glue floor into top of main tower

Step 3

Glue top and floor onto small tower

Step 4

Glue small tower together and attach to corner of the main tower

Step 5
Finishing the Castle:

Castles were introduced to Britain in 1066 by the Normans. These early Norman castles were mostly constructed of wood, reflecting a design developed in Normandy not long before. A few of the early Norman keeps, such as the Tower of London, were constructed of stone. Construction of wooden castles ended about 1154. The great era of stone castle building began about 1100 and ended about 1300. Most of the great French and British castles date from this 200-year period. Later castles, built in many parts of Europe, were more ornate and less military in design.

Castles were constructed of anything from local stone to stone imported from other areas. Later castles were even constructed of brick. The natural color of castles included gray, red, black, and brown. However, many castles were whitewashed to make them stand out and look larger and more impressive. The Norman keep at the Tower of London is called the White Tower.

The stone pattern varied considerably from castle to castle. Many of the early castles were built of very small, local stone, such as flint. Later castles were constructed of larger, more uniform dressed stones. The pattern in which the stones were laid included random positioning, herringbone, and brickwork. It should be kept in mind that in very few castles were all portions built at the same time. Therefore, there were often a mixture of style, stone pattern, and even color.

The patterns and colors of these castles can be approximated in several ways. Before anything else is done, all clefts and irregularities that you don’t want to see, should be filled with wood filler and the entire castle sanded. At the simplest, the castle can be painted a uniform color: gray, tan, white, or even silver. I have found that artificial stone spray paints give an interesting finish. For an even more interesting effect, a stone pattern may be painted on the castle. This can be done in one of several ways. The castle may be painted with a light undercoat and rocks painted on in a darker color, or the undercoat may be darker with the rocks painted in a lighted color. The castle can also be painted with an undercoat and then rocks can be cut out of thin wood or card stock, painted and glued onto the surface to give the castle a more 3-D effect. Remember the scale of your castle: stone were seldom much larger than a man and often much smaller.