

DEMONBOARD UPGRADES

All of the following articles were originally published on the blog.
It is now available to you as this pdf collection.

Enjoy!
~Ripley

Demonboard Doors



Time for some Demonboard upgrades!

I've been promising a tutorial for doors since the first issue and here it finally is. First let's meet our tools for the day.



Today we'll be using our old friend the basic modeling clay in the silver package. Available at the dollar store. Air dries over night, And at only \$2 is a pretty good deal.



Here's the other important addition for the day. I got these plastic skeletons at the Dollar store last year but hadn't found a use for them yet. Today I'll just be wanting their heads!



A quick snip of the scissors and I've got some skeleton heads (or skulls, I guess) separated from their body. I'm also cutting off the little plastic circles from the tops of their heads but I'm keeping them for another purpose.

Next lets do some simple clay doors.



Just squash a blob of clay into a vaguely obelisk shape with a big bottom. Half way done!



I have plans for a particularly spooky lair so some of my doors just have the skulls squashed into the front like some eerie sculpture. Sometimes I cut off the jaw or top of the head for variety, all of them have the sides cut off to fit better. These ones are already done, leave them to dry. These could be used as doors, weird statues, lined up to make a wall, or as a pillars or strange altars.



For more standard doors you can just use a pointy stick to make some lines. As you can see, sometimes I just make some lines and be done with it, sometimes I'll draw a square to serve as a frame. Remember the little circles from the tops of the skulls? Here they make some great door handles. But since you're really just modeling some clay you can go pretty nuts.

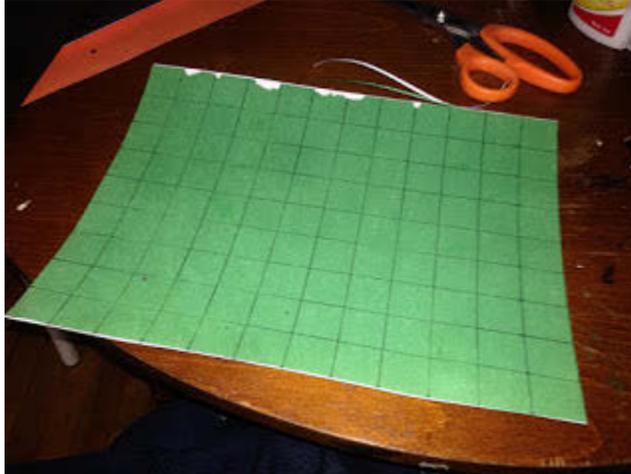
Below are some more pictures to inspire you for your own doors.



Nothing really fancy here but the skulls really dress them up quickly. Halloween is a really great time to stock up on cheap plastic crap to stick to things so get them now before they're gone.

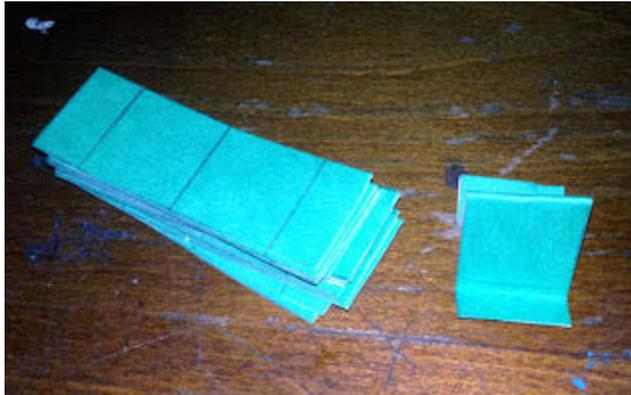
Cardstock Doors

And it wouldn't be LoSS if I didn't have a cardstock option to keep things even cheaper and lighter.



Here I've glued some green construction paper to my thicker Bristol board. Just didn't have any green on hand right now.

Then draw a grid of 1" squares



Next cut them out like the sample above, that's one half square, 2 full squares and another half square on the end. And what comes next?

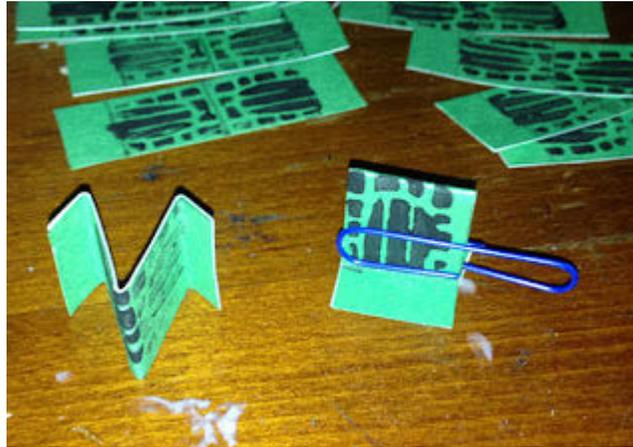


You guessed it, another stamper. This one is 1" by 1" and has a little door and some stone work. Just make one yourself following the pattern above.

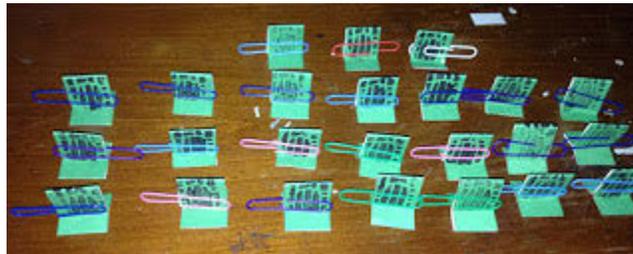
If you haven't learned how to make a stamper yet then head on over to [The LoSS Store](#) and pick up the Demonboard issue.



And Bam! Stamp each side of the door like so. They don't look super photo realistic or anything but they look a heck of a lot better than blank card. These ones kind of remind me of board game art from the 70's with the really cheap black ink on the coloured card chits.



Next fold em all up like above. You can tape the bottom or glue them closed. A paperclip is helpful for keeping them closed till they dry.



Hope this inspires all you Demonboard owners out there to freshen things up a bit. It doesn't take long, I did all of these while watching House of 7 Corpses. So that's not a huge investment of time. So rock on and add a few little touches to your own Demonboards, Make a cool door or centrepiece to really make that next lair of the Necromancer stand out.

~Ripley

Jenga Blocks and the Demonboard



Some of you may have been using the standard Demonboard for a little while now. You may be using it with your games of LoSS (The Lair of Sword and Sorcery Adventure game) or perhaps as a 3d dungeon in your own fantasy roleplaying games.

For those of you already on board with demonboards I present the next great item in your 3d dungeon arsenal. Jenga!. Or in this case the dollar store version "Tumbling Tower". For a mere \$3 you get..

Well a heck of a lot of wooden blocks!





Just look at them all. These ones measure about 3 inches by 1 inch by a half an inch. And just what the heck are we going to use all these blocks for? For EVIL! And making Lairs.



Here we see some basic use of the blocks. While the Demonblocks described in issue 1 are easy to make and look great, you can't get much quicker than instant blocks, and that's just what you get. Here we see the blocks on their side to form walls for our Lair. It looks like our heroes have found an innocent giant spider and are proceeding to give it "the business"!

You see that one block on its side in the picture above? Sometimes your lair walls aren't in lengths easily divided by 3 so you can stick a block in sideways like this to take up just a single square. Not extremely elegant but it gets the job done.



On second thought the spider doesn't look so innocent.



But simple walls are not all you can do! Let your imagination run wild, here you can see the blocks forming an altar surrounded by 3 large creepy looking structures. This can make for a cool looking room without any effort at all.

All these extra features also serve as great tactical terrain for a lair. Allowing heroes to sneak around pillars, jump across an altar, or knock these giant structures over. The more interesting the rooms are, the more interesting the encounter will be if it comes to combat.



Once you start thinking in 3D you can come up with all sorts of interesting areas for the heroes to plunder. Above and below you can see a series of linked platforms with steps leading up to them. This can lead to great multilevel fight scenes that you can set up in an infinite array of different configurations. The only limit is your imagination!



So let your heroes loose in a lair full of adventure. Don't let yourself be limited to plain flat dungeons and lairs. Now your villains can command their minions from stepped platforms with their minions firing at the heroes from one level as other close in with their clubs on another.

Thrill as the heroes actually use their ropes for something other than climbing out a pit trap!

Cheer as they topple a pillar on the fierce monsters.

Wail as the the platform opens to reveal a multileveled chamber of death!

~Ripley

Multilayer Lairs and Ramps



Hail hearty adventurers and Demonlords!

Above we see a major problem which occurs while designing your Lairs. On your map you have a tunnel which goes above or below another tunnel. But since our Demonboards are flat, what you get when you try to lay it out on the Demonboard is shown above. A tunnel apparently going through another tunnel.

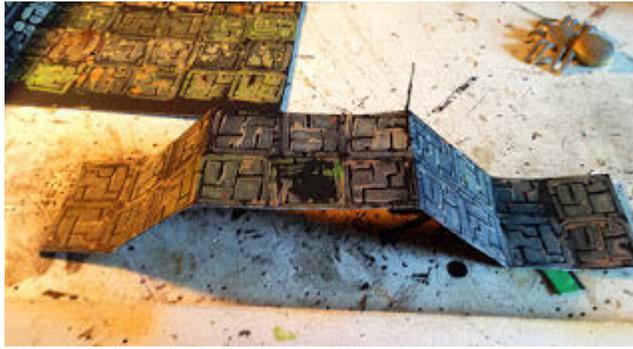
Well we can't have that, so this series is to show you all how to make ramps, so that your tunnels may pass each other without intersecting.



The easiest ramps are made with a sheet of bristol board. paint up a sheet of bristol board like you see below. Use your stamper just like you would while making the floor of your Demonboard.



Next cut out a strip of squares, 2 squares wide by about this long (see above)



Now just fold that bad boy up like you see above. You'll need a platform in the middle, a ramp on each side, and a short flap at the end.



Then just place it over the corridor like so. now it looks like one passage goes over the other. Now miniatures can be placed on top of the ramp so that they can move along the passageway.



But there are other ways as well. You can just cut out a platform. Like the one above.



Stack up a few demonblocks on the sides of the passage.



Just like this.



Now place the platform on. This should be sturdy enough if you only use plastic miniatures or toys.



For something sturdier you can use a couple of jenga blocks, these should support your heaviest lead!



You can place the platform on top if you want it to look a little nicer.



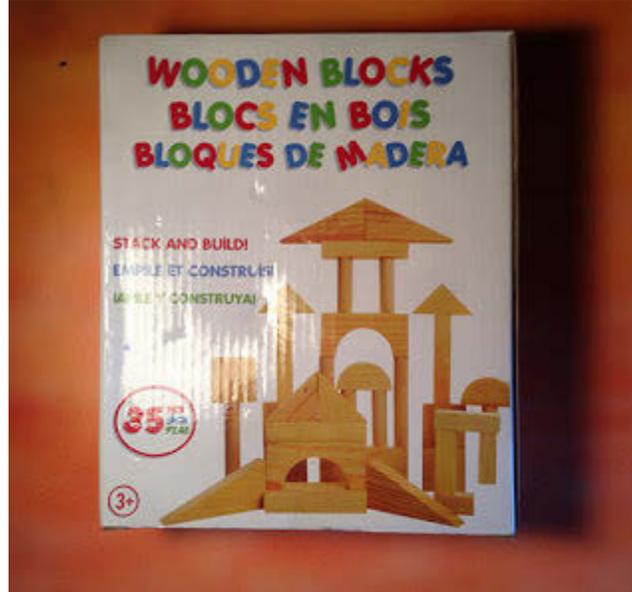
Or if you never got around to making Demonblocks at all you can use all Jenga Steps!

I hope these tips help you in making your Lairs more interesting. With passageways snaking all the way across the board without intersecting each other you have far more freedom in your room placement. In future published Lairs, especially in issue 5, you'll be seeing a lot of these ramps used, they can be used to give great control over how the heroes encounter rooms.

These tips should help you take your Demonboard to even greater heights of adventure than ever before!

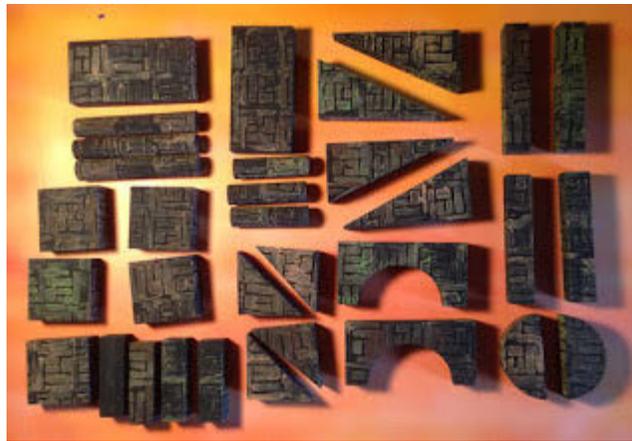
Wooden Blocks

And what fresh wonders do I have for you all? Witness below, the power of "Wooden Blocks". Only \$3 at dollar stores when you can find them. You can usually find more expensive sets fairly easily but these ones are perfectly suited to Lair.



Just look at the front of that box. Just imagine some weird monsters all over that thing and it's already some forgotten ancient city.

I've shown you the jenga blocks before but these are something much much better



Here's what you get inside, see those ones in the middle that seem to be just made for ramps and arches. They are fantastic. What you see above is my own set.

They look great when painted. Just paint them all black to start, then stamp them with the usual demonboard stamper so that they'll blend in with the rest of the board, and so that you'll have a grid to use for moving your heroes and villains.

You can paint your jenga blocks in exactly the same way.



Above you'll see one way to use them as ramps



Here's another one with a taller passageway.



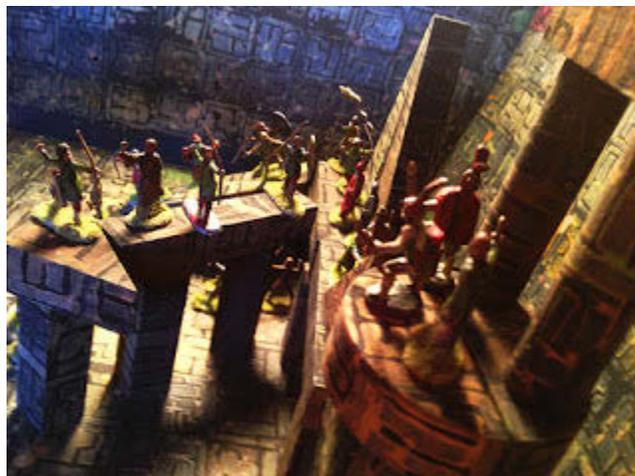
Now combine them with your usual demonbaord elements. Just look at all the ramps platforms, pillars and towers..All of a sudden the demonbaord has completely come to life. with ramps passageways, pillars platforms, everything you can dream of.



Here you can see the minis stand on the ramps quite well without falling over, and an ambush sneaking in from under the platform.



Here you can see a miniature's eye view of the various levels of combat possible with wooden blocks.



This group seems to be unreachable from the top of their pillar, until you notice the archers.



Here's a birds eye view to show how well everything blends together once you paint the blocks.



That's it for now, I hope these pics inspire you to make your own Demonboard. Whether for use in your own games of LoSS, or to use in any game which would be improved with a 3d dungeon.

~Ripley

Quick Trees

Here's something a little different for all you Demonlords.

We're going out into the wilderness now. Outside, away from our dank musty Lairs.

But out in the wilderness we need something other than demonblocks and cardboard walls to define our areas.

Making an outdoor Demonboard for the Winterlands is easy. Just grab a sheet of white bristol board. Draw a grid of 1 inch squares on it with a marker, and you're done.

But all those wide open fields get pretty boring and make combat awful tricky when your heroes are outnumbered (which they usually are).

You can add a few buildings easily using demonblocks or card walls from your demonboard, but what happens when they are out in the wilderness?

So much open space needs to be cut off with something.

And so I present to you...Trees!



Hmmm, that spider looks familiar

In the wilds, trees can be used to form forests, and trails and glades within them. The trees restrict movement in exactly the same way as walls do in an underground Lair. If you just replace the walls with trees you have a forest with trails and glades which work in exactly the same way as they do underground.

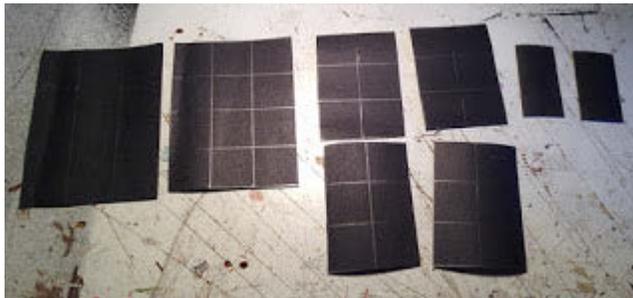
But you'll need a lot of trees for them to be useful. Luckily since this is LoSS I, of course, have a quick and easy way to make them.



First get yourself a sheet of Black Bristol Board. A ruler, and a pencil.



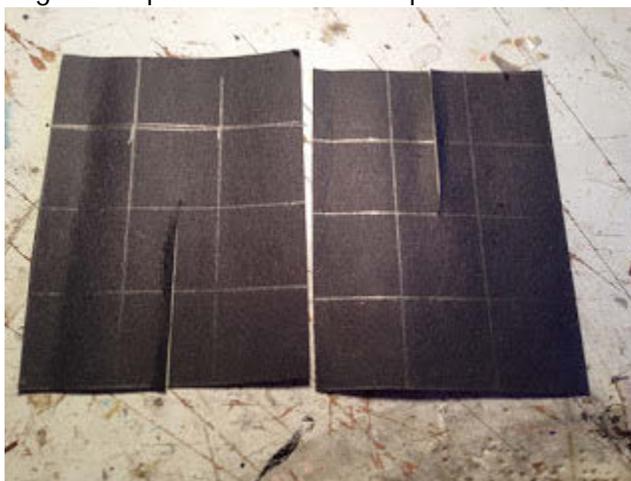
Next mark a 1" grid on it in exactly the same way as when making a demonboard. (for instructions on how to make a demonboard head to [here](#))



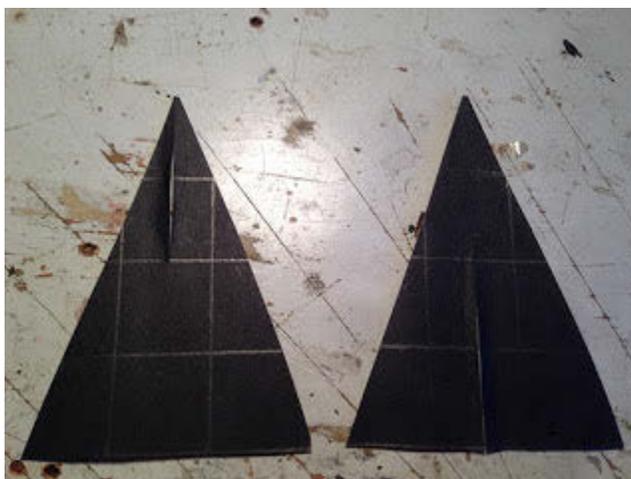
To make trees you'll need to cut out rectangles. You need a set of 2 rectangles for each tree. The largest tree we'll be doing here is 3 squares wide and 4 squares tall. The medium trees are 2 squares wide and 3 squares tall. The smallest trees are 1 square wide and 2 squares tall.

For these instructions I will be working with the largest size, as it's easiest to display.

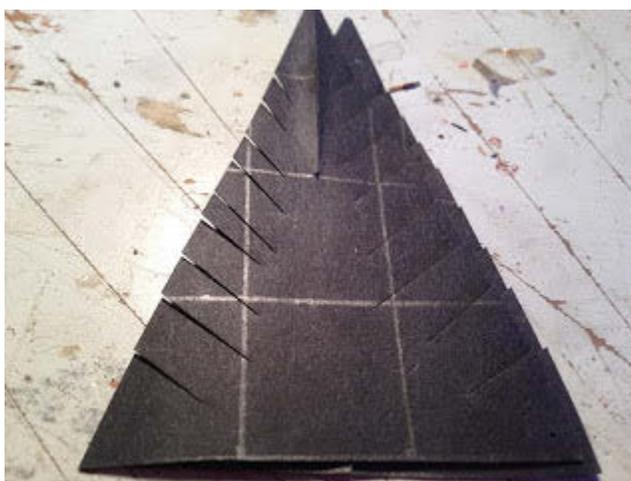
So first we'll need a pair of rectangles 3 squares wide and 4 squares tall.



Next we need to make slits in them right down the middle. The first must go from the bottom to the middle. The second must run from the top to the middle.



Next cut the rectangles into triangles, making sure the slit still runs along the middle.



Next make diagonal slits in the edge on each side. Make sure not to cut into the long vertical slits. This will form a series of "tabs"



Starting at the top fold the first tab towards you. Fold the next one away from you.



See how they alternate?



Now do this to the other triangles.



Insert one half into the other, using the slots. The one with the slot from the top to the middle is inserted into the bottom of the one with the slot running from the bottom to the middle.



And now you have a tree, try making one of each size.





Here you can see the trees next to minis for scale



And now a gratuitous shot of heroes fighting some bugs in a forest.

Now let's get the heroes out of their dank holes and out there in the fresh air, If you're going to die on your quest you might as well do it in the great outdoors.

And be warned demonlords, you're going to need a mess a trees to complete the Blind Burrower story in issue 5. I created enough medium trees using 1 sheet of bristol board to complete the forest but you may want to have a few more on hand.

Crates

I'm currently working on an adventure and realized I need a bunch of crates and furniture for this one. I could just cut out a bunch of squares and rectangles out of card but I thought I'd go all out for these ones since they'll get used a lot.

Crates are super easy to make once you know how.

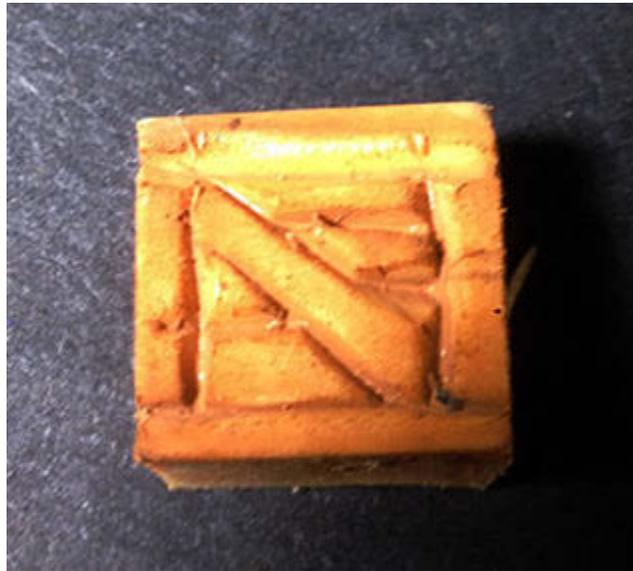
First get yourself a couple of bags of these....



You can get 42 wooden cubes for a dollar at the dollar store! You're already halfway there!

Next paint them all black.

Now you need to make yourself a stamper. You can find out all about making stampers in issue 1 of sword of sorcery.



This is a fairly simple stamper, just a thin rectangle on each edge, a diagonal crossbar and some more planks on the inside.

Now load up your stamper with a light beige to represent your wood color and stamp every side of the crates.



Here's what you get!

I undercoated the cubes, made the stamper and got all the sides stamped while watching a movie so they really don't take long at all. If you do enough of them at a time the first ones are dry by the time you loop back around to them to do their second side.

As you can see they look just fine and are a lot quicker and cheaper than printing off cardstock printables and cutting, folding and gluing them all.

I hope you all can find a use for these guys.