

Devin Troy

Ready Grass

Woodland Scenics makes basic layout and diorama projects easy with their heat-to-fit, realistic grass scenicking mat.

My simple layout scenicking project turned out to be very enjoyable, thanks to Woodland Scenics' new Ready Grass Vinyl Mat. The new mat, as well as the new Ready Grass accessories that complement it, are definitely great additions to the diverse lineup of high quality Woodland Scenics products. Ready Grass Vinyl Mat is an ideal alternative to the time-consuming process of conventional scenicking. It provides an easy and successful solution to a grass surface on relatively flat surfaces with no severe contours. I think your customers are going to like this.

Using a heat gun and wearing a glove, I laid an oversize section of Ready Grass down on the underside of my Woodland Scenics Straight Module, then applied



Newspaper "pillows" are taped over the surface to create an underbase for hills or rolling meadows.

heat to draw it tighter over the surface. I had also prepared a few bunched newspaper "hills" in one corner.

Woodland Scenics offers a special Heat Tool (#RG562) for working with Ready Grass Vinyl Mat. It concentrates rather than spreads its heat, so the modeler can shrink the mat in small areas — and the Heat Tool's working temperature doesn't melt the mat. This cylindrical tool is very comfortable to hold, and a simple on/off switch is the tool's only operating control. I worked slowly, shrinking small sections of mat until it conformed to the shape of my layout surface. I taped the mat edges down, although Woodland Scenics offers a special Ready Grass Mat Adhesive (#RG5161) that eliminates having to deal with tape.



Working with the Ready Grass Vinyl Mat Water Kit (#RG5153) was my favorite part of creating this small layout. First, I used a sharp edge to outline the shape of my pond on the vinyl mat, then I brushed water over the grass mat inside the outline. When the grass inside



Woodland's Ready Grass Heat Tool draws the vinyl mat up tight. Protective glove is included.

my outline softened, I scraped it off with the provided tool. I painted the exposed area with Base Paint from the Water Kit, leaving some space around the edge to represent shallow water or sand. My pond came to life when I poured it over with gel-like Realistic Water.



Ready Grass Water Kit comes with Base Paint, Realistic Water, brush, scraper and instructions.



Devin Troy wets and scrapes the grass from the mat to prepare her pond, then paints the bare vinyl with Base Paint from the Ready Grass Water Kit. The final steps are to pour and spread Realistic Water over the area.

I've always enjoyed making Woodland Scenics' trees, and there's a Tree Kit (#RG5154) in the new Ready Grass lineup. Make a tree by bending the plastic branches around to give it that random, natural look, then apply the Hob-E-Tac glue where you want the green foliage.

Wait about 15 minutes or until the glue becomes a clear color, then place random clumps of foliage (both colors) on the branches. This is where creativity comes in to add variety to your trees, even though the Tree Kit already comes with a variety of tree models.

Ready Grass Vinyl Mat really looks great when you use Woodland's Landscape Kit (#RG1552) to add highlights. The kit comes with Coarse Turf, Fine Turf, Underbrush, Scenic Cement and a spray head.

Spray the Scenic Cement over a small area, then stick the Underbrush down to create shrubbery. Add Earth, Yellow Grass, Soil and Coarse Turf to give the layout texture, then spray Scenic Cement over the fine materials to fix them permanently, making sure not to get the adhesive on the water. No matter how many times I do a layout, I am always blown away by how much the different turf texture adds to its appearance. It takes it a layout from just looking good to incredibly realistic.

Structures are also available to complement the new line, and they come already built, painted and weathered, a nice break for the person short on time. These buildings are very detailed, even down to a little dog outside the General Store.



The familiar Woodland Scenics Tree Kit, Water Kit and Landscape Kit have been re-packaged to embellish the new Ready Grass Vinyl Mat line.



I added a small paved road and a sidewalk in front of my two small stores, using the same technique I used for the pond to remove the grass from the mat — and I even used the same Base Paint to make the road. Once the paint dried, I used an awl against a ruler to scrape the lines down the middle of the road. The sidewalk was great because once I scraped the green away from the mat I was done. The leftover bottom layer of the mat is sand colored, perfect for most sidewalks.

My overall opinion of the new Woodland Scenics Ready Grass Vinyl Mat line is very positive. I feel that it significantly cuts back on the amount of time one needs to spend on a basic layout.

That's a definite bonus, yet it doesn't cause a modeler to sacrifice any creativity to get there. I really enjoyed working with every one of these new Ready Grass Vinyl Mat products, and I think that other modelers will, too. We're all ready for something new, and I think that a lot of people will be into the idea of trying this fun and exciting method of building a basic model railroad layout or diorama. It's also just the thing to make short work of a war game, strategy game or fantasy game playing surface.

For more information about Ready Grass Vinyl Mat, the Heat Tool, Water Kit, Landscape Kit, Tree Kit and Mat Adhesive and the entire Woodland Scenics line, see the ads on pages 44 and 48, visit www.woodlandscenics.com or telephone Woodland Scenics at 573-346-5555.



Roadways and sidewalks are easy with a scraper and Base Paint from the Water Kit. Scrape the paint to make lines.

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