

Is that Christmas Tat?

By Jonathan Aird

Regular readers of the Lone Warrior Blog will already be aware that I am very keen on forever expanding the amount of scenery I have available for gaming, and that I am also attracted to the cheap and the quick. One such source for what I call “quirky” items and others less able to see the attraction of an item might call “tat” are resin cast houses and scenery which has been given a paint job which ranges between the basic and the really quite good.

Today’s items admittedly come from the more basic paint job end of the range, but they are, I believe, useful purchases. They came from a Bargain store of the Poundland / Poundshop variety and were amongst a number of decorative items being sold as Christmas ornaments. The ones that attracted my attention were a small Middle-Eastern styled castle and what I’m guessing is meant to be the home of an elf who has found employment at Santa’s workshop. The items were on sale for 2 for a £1, so about \$0.60 per item.

The Middle-Eastern style castle measures 10 cm tall, 6.5cm wide and 5cm in depth with a gateway which is just under 2cm tall. It’s pretty solid but doesn’t really have any room to have figures placed on or within the model.



It's obviously a little lacking in depth – it would be nice to have a larger courtyard inside the gate. And it is in desperate need of repainting!



However, given those downsides it looks to be perfect for use with 6mm figures – perhaps most suited to a fantasy setting. I'm going to use it as a Camp for a Hordes of the Things Mythical Arabian army – using figures from the Irregular Miniatures 6mm Fantasy Range mixed with a suitable larger scale figure for giants and Djinn. Another army to plan and buy (and paint!).

The Elf House (or possibly it is a really posh campaign tent!) also suffers a little from being a bit on the thin side. It stands 9cm tall, 7cm wide and has a depth of 5cm. I'm not sure what material the roof is meant to be representing – but I quite like it nonetheless.



The base and the roof are fringed with white, presumably to represent snow. The paint job isn't so terrible but just five minutes with the paint brush can achieve a significant improvement by painting the stone base, making the ground a grass green and making the windows stand out more.



I'm going to do some more with the door and door frame and then possibly some weathering of the main building paintwork which is a bit bright. But then these are Elves who are famous for their housekeeping.

Once it has been based, and the base textured and flocked, I think it will look pretty good. I was enthused enough to return to the shop after Christmas with the intention to pick up a

couple more of these dwellings and found they had been reduced to half price for a quick sale. I bought a few.

My original thought for these had been to use them with my Fighting Fungi figures – it's a range to support a rules expansion of the popular Songs of Blades and Heroes skirmish game. But in fact they look quite good with Games Workshop Middle Earth Elves as well, so they may pop up in my Middle Earth Battles as well. I'm pretty pleased with them.

