Welcome to my Sepp Kitbash Page.

This my method of making a 1/6th scale figure and a groundwork base. Using the Barry Pippen uniform, DML Sepp Kiefer head and DML Graham body. With some help from the forum members from The 1/6th Collectors Club and the OneSixScale forum.

The figure is a DML Sepp Kiefer head on a DML Graham figure, and I decided on the pose that I wanted. Because, I did not have a charging figure and I wanted to add some impact to the whole kitbash. As I was also going to be using one of the 140mm round bases I have, I was limited as to how far apart I could get the feet. So, I set the pose so that it looks like he was running through the base, as when I secured the figure, the boots are partly of the edges of the base. Once I had the position set to the way I wanted him to be. I then set about fixing the body into the pose I wanted by using silver Duct Tape (as shown) this was applied in small strips, so I could get it to mould into the waist, leg and ankle joints to hold them firmer.
Once that had been done, I then washed the jacket and trousers from the excellent Barry Pippen uniform. This is where I had an accident with the trousers, as I ended up washing them slightly longer than the jacket.

Uniform Washing

I did this by using some non-biological clothes liquid in a jug with some hot tap water, and I then scrunched the jacket up in it a couple of times. Took it out, wrung it out, and then rinsed it out under the cold water tap. The trousers were washed in exactly the same way, but this time I repeated the washing and scrunching three times, before I rinsed them out. This is where the trousers ended up lighter than the jacket, this was an accident because of the longer washing time. I am not sure of the amount of liquid I used in this process, but be careful with using too much, as it could end up completely bleaching the uniform.

Once I had finished with the washing I then put the uniform on the figure still wet, as this will allow the folds to set in position as it dries. Then I set the figure aside overnight so that the uniform could dry. I then dressed it with the laced boots and the DML puttees. The bottom of the trousers were gathered and tucked slightly into the boot tops, the puttees were then pulled tight around the boot tops.

Remembering that the last part of the wide puttee must end up with the pointed part in the centre of the ankle as in the picture, then the thin webbing was then wound around tight. I found then the only way to keep the tightness, was to use some tweezers to push the thin end of the webbing behind the wide part, pull it tight, repeat this until you run out of strap and then just tuck it in. Remembering that the last part of the wide puttee must end up with the pointed part in the centre of the ankle as in the picture, then the thin webbing was then wound around tight. I found then the only way to keep the tightness, was to use some tweezers to push the thin end of the webbing behind the wide part, pull it tight, repeat this until you run out of strap and then just tuck it in.

The jacket cuffs were tightened and bloused out over the Velcro straps, and I put some paper in the pockets so that they looked as if they had something in them. The hood and collar were adjusted so that they sat down properly, and I fitted the webbing set with the ammo pouches, respirator case, kidney pouches and poncho holder I also fitted a poncho from a spare Graham webbing set, a bayonet scabbard and a spare pick head. One thing that is better with the Barry Pippen set than the Dragon webbing set is the water bottle and holder, because the Dragon one will not hold the water bottle that comes with the figure. Two things that I found that needs adjusting on the webbing set before doing up the belt buckle. These are the straps that link from the poncho pouch to the ammo pouches, there is one on each side, and once adjusted it will give you some slack so that the ammo pouches and webbing hang more naturally. I filled each of the pouches with paper to bulk them out.

I have since then been informed of a better method by Fatbear from the 1/6th Collectors Club, this is to use either modelling clay or plasticine in the pouches. This method is better than mine in two ways, as it not only bulks out the pouches. It also adds some weight to the webbing so that it hangs better on the figure. Once I had fastened up all the pouches again, and moved them around to sit right, I pulled the webbing straps tight so it all sits tighter on the figure. The Graham helmet was fitted with some of the scrim material and fitted to the figure. So at the moment I have a Sepp head on a Graham body, with the uniform as bought from Barry Pippen through the 1/6th Collectors Club. (http://onesixthcollectors.co.uk/)

Base and Groundwork

To make the groundwork on the base I used ready mixed Polyfilla on the base for the ground. But, to make that stick to the wood I had to paint the base with a white PVA glue and water mix, as this bonds the base and the Polyfilla together. This is because the Polyfilla has a tendency to crack while drying on the base. And when I have placed the Polyfilla onto the base, I paint it with the diluted PVA glue mix, this also bonds it again, and it also gives me the chance to sculpt the terrain to what I want. And while this is drying, I added some base material for the ground. For this I used some sand/small stone mix from a model shop, some small stones from the garden to represent rocks and I also added some green model railway scatter onto the wet PVA.

I then pressed down on the scatter and stones to make sure that it would stick. And while this mix for the ground is still tacky. I then placed the figure onto the base, and pressed down on each boot. This will leave an imprint in the ground, and it also causes the groundwork to squish out of the sides of the boot. And as a bonus, I found that it will leave some of the groundwork on the sides of the boots. I took the figure off the base, and cleaned up the underneath of the boots, but I left the mix on the sides to dry. As I wanted to use this to represent mud on the boots once it is painted the same colour as the ground mud.

These pictures show the different ways that I have pressed the boots into the ground, on the first one. I have only just placed the boot on the tacky groundwork, and then tightened up the screws that hold the figure in place this helped to pull the heel into the ground.

Detailing the figure

On this figure I just wanted the boots to be dusty rather than covered in mud. So while the ground mix was drying, I put the screws thorough the base into the boots. Again because of the pose of this figure, I had to put two screws into the flat right foot and one screw into the toes of the left foot. This had the benefit of securing the figure and they stopped it from wobbling, and creasing up the toe on the left boot as above right. The figure and the base were then set aside for about 24 hours for the ground mix and cover to dry. Once that had dried I then touched up the parts that were still showing through the ground cover as white with paint. This also allowed me to add different colours to the base such as light/dark green and brown for mud. The pictures above show the base with the figure on it. On the above right picture, the boot was pressed down into the groundwork, to simulate the weight of the figure on the ground.

Finishing the figure

After leaving the whole thing to dry off totally overnight, I then started on the detailing of the figure and the uniform. The rear of the Graham SLR rifle scope was painted in matt black acrylic to represent the rubber eyepiece, and in the slots on the muzzle. On the boots I then used some black Acrylic paint mixed with some white paint to lighten it, and then I drybrushed the boots to bring out the highlights. This had the advantage of showing up the actual laces on the boots.

While I had this colour of paint out, I then did the same again to the black parts of the rifle and the gloves on the hands; this again helped to bring out the grain effect on the plastic parts of the SLR rifle and the rubber of the scope. The rest of the metal parts of the rifle and bayonet were drybrushed with an acrylic Gunmetal colour, again to bring out the highlights.

The uniform was given a very light drybrushing with a light brown acrylic colour, on the seams of the trousers, puttees, jacket edges, collar and creases. I also drybrushed the pocket edges to highlight those, and on some creases on both the jacket and trousers.
I held the crease in position and drybrushed the edge of it, this works when it is released of leaving a faint straight line of colour against the DPM uniform. The webbing was given the same treatment to add some colour to it, especially on the canvas ties
That really covers how I made this model. Many thanks to all at both the 1/6th Collectors Club for helping to make the uniform, and to the forum members for their help with my questions.

Another method of using figures with bases

Another method I have also learned about regarding making the figures stand on the base came from a forum member called Gooseman.
He said that he uses the clear Dragon foot stands on his bases, and then builds the groundwork up around them. This can be very useful if you want to show the figure in deep mud or snow.

And his method is described below:

The base was made from a piece of MDF which I then edged and sealed with spray paint. I then posed the figure and marked where I wanted him to stand.
I got a DML foot stand and glued it to the MDF, then another bit of MDF where the "mound" is. Again I glued that in. Then covered it with two coats of plaster - thinking about a shallow around the foot bed to a) disguise it and b) make it look like a puddle. Then came two coats of artists acrylic - two dark colours mixed while wet on the base. Finally, model train flock - it's the fine foam grass stuff - two shades, dark first then light added. This is fixed using PVA glue where you want it and dusting and add a real rock or two.

Also his method of dirtying up uniforms:

The uniform was dirtied with two shades of Tamiya acrylic paint, thinned on the first coats and dry brushed on, then straight out of the pot dry brushed for "highlights". Thinking about where there is an edge or fold and would it rub etc... You can wash, iron, bleach, dye etc..
But to date I have found painting to colour is the best way to weather with control so to speak. All of the other methods are risky and require testing. With acrylic, if you don't like it, thin it away.