

INSTRUCTION MANUAL

SuperTrees



Professional Modeler's First Choice!

The Truth About Trees

Trees are the largest and most conspicuous part of nearly every landscape. Learning to identify certain characteristics of trees will not only add to your appreciation of the variety of nature but will also serve as a good understanding of their true size in relationship to other scale objects. People often see trees, but never really look at how large they truly are. This guide featuring a few popular North American trees should help.

*Actual sizes are in feet; Scale sizes in inches.



Black Oak A common tree found in most American hardwood forests. Often used in ornamental landscaping. The large leaves are dark shiny green 4-9" long 5" wide.

Scale*	Tree Height	Diameter	Trunk
Actual	50-80 ft.	40-60 ft.	3-4 ft.
N-Scale	4½-6 in.	3-4½ in.	¼ in.
HO-Scale	8½-11 in.	5½-8½ in.	¼-½"
O-Scale	12½-20 in.	10-15 in.	¾-1"



Cottonwood A relative of the aspen and birch. A popular residential shade tree. Favors rugged dry terrain. Small light green triangular leaves. Turns bright yellow in fall.

Scale*	Height	Diameter	Trunk
Actual	100 ft.	50-70 ft.	2-3½'
N-Scale	7½ in.	3¾-5¼"	¼ in.
HO-Scale	13¼ in.	7-9¾ in.	¼-½"
O-Scale	25 in.	12-17½"	¾-1"



Hickory A species widespread in the Northeast and southern Appalachians. Prized for its strong wood. The compound leaves are dark dull green 6-8" long 2" wide.

Scale*	Height	Diameter	Trunk
Actual	60-80 ft.	40-50 ft.	1-2½'
N-Scale	4¼-6 in.	3-3¾ in.	¼ in.
HO-Scale	8¾-11 in.	5½-7 in.	¼-½"
O-Scale	15-20 in.	10-15 in.	¾-1"



Dogwood Their beautiful blossoms are a welcome sign of spring. Often used in yards and ornamental landscaping. The oval leaves are medium shiny green 5-7" long 2" wide.

Scale*	Height	Diameter	Trunk
Actual	30 ft.	30 ft.	1 ft.
N-Scale	2¼ in.	2¼ in.	¼ in.
HO-Scale	4¼ in.	4¼ in.	¼ in.
O-Scale	7½ in.	7½ in.	½ in.



Silver Maple Part of a large family of trees found in Northern U.S. and Canadian forests. Leaves are medium shiny green with silvery white under. 4-6" long 4" wide.

Scale*	Height	Diameter	Trunk
Actual	100 ft.	50-70 ft.	3-4 ft.
N-Scale	7½ in.	3¾-5¼"	¼ in.
HO-Scale	13¼ in.	7-9¾ in.	¼-½"
O-Scale	25 in.	12-17½"	¾-1"

SuperTrees

Not only do **SuperTrees** make wonderful deciduous hardwoods, but they also produce a vast array of Eastern Hemlocks or Scotch Pines. The techniques are all the same, only different needle type foliage is needed.

One other advantage to **SuperTrees** is that there is NO WASTE! All the small pieces and scraps make perfect ground cover and hedge row bushes. Simply use the same methods as described in this manual and you will find the **SuperTree** material to be the greatest scale model material ever discovered.

Check our web site for more ideas and techniques.

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To Order Toll-Free: 1-800-234-9995



The Basic Process SuperTrees

SuperTrees are natural scale tree forms indigenous to the Arctic tundra of Scandinavia. A distant cousin to our western sagebrush, their intricate detail and perfect branch structure produce an incredible scale tree unsurpassed in realism.

Read carefully these simple instructions. By following the procedures closely, you will produce the most realistic and perhaps the easiest tree yet available. The results are nearly *goof-proof... you'll agree!*

Leaf Flake Flock

Necessary Materials

- **Matte Medium** (Prepared 1:7 dilution)
- **SPRAYMISTER** Spray bottle
- Long-nose self-closing tweezers
- Mixing bowl or deep wash basin
- Clothes line and clothes pins
- Foliage of your choice (foam or leaf flake)



Leaf Flake from NOCH - Packaged in 6-oz. pouch. Shaker dispenser optional.



Examples of Self-Closing Tweezers

Step #1 BASIC Preparation

Break the clumps into individual trees and sort according to the size and styles desired. It is best to do all the breaking while dry because the material will be very supple and will not snap throughout the remaining processes.

Immerse the selected trees in a basin of **Prepared Matte Medium**. (Use **Prepared Matte Medium** or dilute concentrate to 1:7 ratio - 1 part **Matte Medium** to 7 parts water **mixed well!**) Several trees may be immersed at the same time. Be sure that the entire tree, trunk and all the limbs are immersed.

Soaking the tree in **Matte Medium** serves two purposes: one, to apply adhesive for the foliage, and two, to preserve the tree. The soft spongy membrane of the **SUPERTREE** will absorb the **Matte Medium**, encapsulating the tree in acrylic, preserving the tree.

Soak for a minimum of 30 seconds. (Thicker stalks may require additional time.) Let the tree remain in the **Matte Medium** until you're ready to begin the flocking process.



Break at the 'Y'. Sort and trim tree forms to desired shapes. Remember to save the scraps, for they make perfect scrub brush and small trees.

Use ONLY Matte Medium!

DO NOT use thinned white glue or hair spray.



MATTE MEDIUM

It is often asked "Why use **ONLY Matte Medium**? ... Why not thinned white glue or hair spray?" For years **Matte Medium** has been used extensively by professional model designers as a general all-purpose adhesive for foams, ground covers, ballast and scenic textures. Consider its many qualities:

- 1: **Matte Medium** is a synthetic acrylic-based adhesive. Acrylics are very flexible and transparent air-curing polymers. Unlike hair spray, **Matte Medium** will never dry out or deteriorate, will never yellow and will always remain flexible.
- 2: As its name implies, it has a matte or flat finish when dry. When diluted to the proper consistency, it is nearly invisible unlike white glue which leaves a stiff 'waxy' appearance over the tree.
- 3: **Matte Medium** has greater holding strength and flexibility for scenic purposes than white glue.



Web Site: www.scenicexpress.com

Step #2: Foliage Application

Have Suggested Materials Ready:

- Choice of Foliage: Ground Foam or Leaf Flake
- Several Pairs of Self-Closing Tweezers
- Long Clothes Line and Lots of Clothes Pins



Flock&Turf
Solid Foam and Real Textures

NOCH

Leaf Flake Flock



Remove a **SuperTree** that has been soaking in the **Matte Medium**. Shape and manipulate the tree to desired dimension. With the tweezers, pinch the trunk somewhere in the center. The tweezers will be a handle during the flocking process.

Select a flock (foam or flake) and color which best suits your preference. While the tree is still saturated with **Matte Medium**, gently sprinkle flocking so that foliage adheres only to the top of the tree limbs where leaves naturally grow.

To keep from wasting your flock, place a collection pan or tray under your work space to collect the flock that does not adhere.



Always apply foliage from the TOP!

CHOICE OF FOLIAGE: Flake or Foam

Leaf Flake Flock A premiere leaf canopy by **NOCH**. Most realistic, simulating a scale leaf glistening in the wind. Excellent for HO and O-Scale foreground trees. Available in 6 NEW and realistic colors

Flock&Turf **Ground Foam** - An inexpensive foliage for large and quick coverage. Many colors and textures available. We recommend a **COARSE** grade for standard foliage. A **FINE** grade is good for highlighting and for flocking N and Z-Scale trees.

Leaves ONLY grow on the tops of branches! On real trees, leaves appear on the top side of the branches where sunlight strikes the tree. Foliage NEVER grows under or inside the branches and rarely on the trunk.

Step #3: Drying The Trees

Now you must dry your perfect tree so you won't spoil its natural appearance. With the tweezers still clipped to the stalk, gently turn the tree upside down, allowing the loose foliage to fall off into the collection tray. Have a clothes line strung nearby. While the tree is still upside down, clip the base of the trunk to the clothes line. Remove your tweezer handle and allow the tree to dry hanging upside down.

In approximately 20 minutes after the **Matte Medium** has started to set, it is recommended that another coating of **Matte Medium** be misted over the entire canopy. This second coating will permanently fix the foliage and add strength and durability to the tree.

Work Outside

Working in the warm sunlight speeds drying time up to 50%



Save Time! When the line is full, mist the entire row at the same time with an additional coating of **Matte Medium** to permanently secure foliage. (A drop cloth or old newspapers on the floor is suggested too!)

Adding Additional Foliage & Highlights

More foliage may be added at any time by misting the tree with **Matte Medium** and applying desired highlight flock. It is recommended that the **Matte Medium** be misted on instead of dipping. The additional foliage may even be applied after the tree has been planted on the layout.

Highlights are effective in foreground applications where high contrasts are required. Generally a lighter tone is lightly applied to the top of the branches indicating a strong bright sunlight. The effect is also useful when highlighting autumn trees.

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TROUBLE SHOOTING: Crooked & Bent Trees

IT'S BEST TO STRAIGHTEN THE TREE WHILE WET

Crooked and bent trees are easily straightened. Most bends are remedied by soaking the tree structure in **Matte Medium** and hand straightening the trunks. Use gravity to straighten the more resilient trees. Hang the wet tree upside down on a clothes line. In most cases, the weight of the moisture-laden branches and wet flocking provide ample force to pull the tree straight.

Another method (illustrated to the right) is to clip a small weight on the tip of the tree pulling the tree straight. A one-ounce fishing weight or self-closing tweezers works well. Leave the weight hanging on the tree until dry.



Straightening Downright Stubborn Trees

A more radical but dependable way of getting them straight:

Finish the flocking procedure and allow the tree to dry completely. Place the tree in the palm of the hand. Bend with force, fracturing the tree at the center of the curved trunk. Several fractures along the trunk may be needed. Attempt to break with a hairline fracture versus a compound fracture. Continue to hold the tree in the palm so you won't separate the portions of the trunk. Arrange tree in a straightened position. Using quick-setting 'Super Glue' or **Zap-a-Gap**, apply a small drop at each fracture point. Set glue with **ZIP Kicker** accelerator. Brace the tree on a flat surface to dry.

SuperTrees

Step #4: Planting Instructions

The Basic: SuperTrees may be planted in various ways. The easiest is to simply drill a pilot hole a little larger than the tree trunk. Drop a small amount of white glue in the hole and insert the tree. Brace or hold tree until glue has set.

The FAST High Tech Method: Super ZAP & ZiP your trees to the layout!! Hold the tree in the desired position, touching the trunk to the platform. Drip 4 to 5 drops of **ZAP CA+** glue an inch above the trunk allowing the CA+ to run down the trunk forming a small puddle at the base of the tree.

Still holding the tree in position, immediately mist or dribble the **ZIP Kicker** accelerator over the puddle. The CA+ will instantly set the glue and anchor the tree.

The glue will harden on the trunk and reinforce the stalk.

CAUTION: CA+ (Cyanoacrylate) Glues have a very strong vapor that is harmful if breathed for any length of time. Use adequate ventilation and common sense.

Easy to Make SuperSage

SuperSage™ combines the superior branch structure of **SuperTrees** with the legendary texture and detail of Western Sagebrush to produce the 'Perfect' foreground tree. Call for more information or visit our web site.



Web Site: www.scenicexpress.com

SuperTrees

Advanced Tips and Techniques

Coloring Tree Trunks and Branches Idea!

Many Proto-Scale modelers prefer specific bark tones to match natural tree colors. It also will help your photography because unpainted trees appear white in photos. The technique is fast and easy. However, tinting should be done very first... before Step #1 or any foliage attached.

Select paint colors that best represent bark textures. Flat enamels work best. Avoid using tempera colors or watercolors. We suggest inexpensive automotive body primer paints due to their gritty grays, blacks and rust tones. Select light and dark colors that contrast (gray and black or rust and brown). Flat antique white works great for birch and aspen trees; grays, blacks and browns for hardwoods; blacks and dark browns for pines.

NOTE: As with most trees, the older bark of the trunk is often a darker shade than the younger branches.

Spray Paint and Air Brush

Directions: Remove the trees from the package, sort and trim. Pluck off any of the curly dried pedals which appear near the center of the stalk. Grip the center trunk with self-closing tweezers, making a handle. Gently begin spraying the trunk from the bottom and upward through the center of the tree. With the lighter color, spray around the outside of the branches, feathering and blending the two colors. Release the clip and allow paint to dry. Once paint is cured, begin with Step #1. Apply foliage and follow the normal **SuperTree** procedure.



Example: Apply dark color up through center of trunk. Highlight the outer branches with a lighter color.

Added Bonus! Because **SuperTrees** are real trees, they too have a natural bark texture. After the paint has cured, begin the normal flocking procedure as shown in Step #1. Here is the BONUS!...when the tree absorbs the **Matte Medium** the bark on the **SuperTree** swells slightly, cracking the paint. What will result will be fine vertical striations just like natural scale bark texture!

Tinting and Dying Trunks

NEW! TECHNIQUE Powder Tints

This method is the fastest and most permanent means of coloring your **SuperTrees**. but it can be a little messy and will emit strong alcohol vapors. This process should be done outside when the weather is suitable.

List of Recommended Materials

- 1 quart Shellac (3lb. White)
- 1 quart Denatured Alcohol
- Scenic Express Powder Tints
- Wash Basin (old & disposable)
- Rubber Gloves
- Self-Closing Tweezers
- Close Line & Clothes Pins
- Table coverings or newspaper

Lets begin: Mix 1 quart of Shellac with 1 quart of denatured alcohol. (*Denatured alcohol is the only solvent for shellac... rubbing alcohol will not work!*) Add **Powder Tint**. The tints are something only the modeler can determine how much depending on the desired tone of the resulting tree. 2 teaspoons of color would be a good amount to start with. If needed, add additional colors after a few test pieces have been made.

The denatured alcohol will cause the dye to dry quickly. Be sure to hang your tree on a clothes line because the shellac will cause the tree to stick to everything it touches.

Once thoroughly dry, the tree color should be permanent. Flock and treat the tree using the normal **SuperTree** methods.

MC001	MC006
MC002	MC007
MC003	MC008
MC004	MC009
MC005	MC010
MC001	Light Sage Green 4 oz.
MC002	Light Buff - Ochre 4 oz.
MC003	Dark Buff - Tan 4 oz.
MC004	Terra-Cotta - Rust 4 oz.
MC005	Brick Red Tint 4 oz.
MC006	Brown - Rich Soil 6 oz.
MC007	Light Chocolate 6 oz.
MC008	Dark Chocolate 6 oz.
MC009	Charcoal Gray 6 oz.
MC010	Carbon Black Tint 6 oz.

Glycerine



Glycerine Concentrate is a natural emollient that will help keep trees and natural lichens subtle.

Mix the following and allow to cool:

- 4 oz. Glycerine Concentrate
- 1 qt. Boiling Water (*HEAT thins the Glycerine*)

Once solution has cooled, mix in:

- 8 oz. Rubbing Alcohol (Isopropyl)

Spray or soak trees. Hang trees to dry.

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SuperTrees

Advanced
Tips and
Techniques

Small Scale Trees N-Scale Z-Scale Idea!

Two QUICK methods for Smaller Scale Trees.

The intricate branch structure of **SuperTrees** produce small scale trees of exceptional quality. There are two basic procedures for making N-Scale **SuperTrees** both of which are fast and simple.

Two coats of foliage... FIRST Coarse then Fine: The first procedure is to simply trim the tree to the desired size by plucking the base branches and trunk length. Follow the basic procedures shown using the **Coarse** foam as your base foliage. Coarse is recommended for giving the tree realistic shape and dimensions. Once the coarse base foliage has adhered, mist the tree with additional **Matte Medium** and then apply a second coat of fine foam. The fine foam will provide a more true-to-scale leaf texture.

A second easy method of assembling **SuperTrees** is to bundle the larger branches into a 'bouquet' type arrangement. This style makes perfect cottonwoods, aspens and acacia style trees. This is done by arranging the longer branches usually found at the base of the larger pieces of the **SuperTree** material. Glue the bouquet at the 'Y' point with CA+ Zap-a-Gap glue. Allow the capillary action to draw the glue down the trunk and then quickly apply Zip Kicker to set glue. This type of tree utilizes all the scrap material which may seem too large for N-Scale.



A drop of glue at the 'Y' will fuse the bundle together. Then quickly spray with Zip Kicker.

Tips for Creating Seasonal Trees

This is where the versatile **SuperTree** truly excels. Seasonal **SuperTrees** are made using the same production techniques only with a little more understanding of how trees and leaves change through the seasons.

Autumn Trees All trees do not change colors at the same time.

TWO BASIC RULES: Various trees change colors at different rates. The climate, altitude, water and sunlight source all have effects on the rate and progression of change. In most cases, softwood trees (birches, aspens and poplars) usually change before hardwoods (oaks, maples and walnuts).

Another rule is that the leaves within the same tree never turn at the same rate. When a tree begins the dormant cycle, sap will stop flowing first at the top, causing the upper leaves to change ahead of those at the base. An early fall tree may appear yellow or red at the top and still have full green leaves at the bottom. Later fall trees may have lost all the leaves at the top and the bottom may be rich in fall tones. Seldom does a tree have fall foliage of a single solid color. It is suggested to hand sprinkle, blend and feather the foliage to maintain precise control over foliage tones.



Progression of autumn leaves changing tone.

Winter Snow Trees Using snow crystal and white spray paint.

Needed is flat white spray paint, self-closing tweezers, **NOCH** Snow Crystal & **Matte Medium**. Follow soaking and straightening procedures in steps #1 and #3 but do not apply leaf foliage.

Once dry, grip the tree with the tweezers and liberally spray flat white paint on the tops of the limbs (try not to paint the trunk) The wet tacky paint becomes the adhesive. Immediately begin sprinkling the snow crystal, covering ONLY the tops of the branches. Use a sieve or shaker bottle to apply snow crystal. Dry in an upright position if possible. Repeat process several more times to create greater snow depth. When depth is achieved, mist with **Matte Medium** to secure snow permanently.



Squeeze Bottle Applicator NH08100 & Snow Crystal NH08750