

Ice Time

Writer **Debbie Marshall** creates a typical Canadian hockey scene.

Photography by H.J.Marshall.

Ice hockey is Canada's national sport. Although recently eclipsed in popularity by soccer, nearly 2,000,000 Canadian adults and children continue to play the game on a regular basis. Many participate in organised matches in the over 2,800 rinks spread across the country while thousands of Canadian children play casual games after school and on weekends. Urban children play street hockey, pulling their hockey sticks and nets onto the sidewalk whenever a car 'interrupts' play. However, those who live out in the country as I do are more likely to play pond hockey. Pond hockey is exactly what it sounds like - hockey played on the icy surface of a pond in the coldest days of winter.

For that reason, when DHMS editor Lucie Roper invited me to create a winter scene with a distinctly Canadian flavour, I quickly opted to create a pond hockey scene. It is based on my own happy memories of games played on the pond that borders my family's backyard in rural Alberta.

Aztec Imports

The Deluxe Materials products, room box, and all of the 1/12th scale 'props' in this story (with the exception of the blue jay, hockey sticks and puck) are all distributed by Aztec Imports. The company carries over 18,000 items beloved by miniaturists. Their catalogues can be downloaded at www.aztecimport.com and the products themselves can be ordered through retailers in the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia and New Zealand.

Aztec Imports are also the new premier distributor for Deluxe Materials in the USA.



You will need:

- Room box
- Paint brushes
- Pencil
- White paper and oil pastels
- Double-sided tape (optional)
- Sheet of balsa wood and balsa scraps
- Bare branch to resemble a tree
- Bird bath
- Winter bird (I used a blue jay)
- Two or three evergreen trees
- Park bench
- Two hockey sticks
- Two pairs of hockey skates
- Thermos
- Hockey puck (I used a thin slice of pencil eraser, blackened with marker)
- Fine hair spray



From Deluxe Materials

- Speed Bond
- Solid Water Kit
- Scenic Snow Kit
- Scenic Spray Glue
- Scenic Shovelled Snow
- Tacky Wax

- Decide how you would like to arrange the 'props' in your scene.
- Put your room box together, but leave the roof until your scene is finished.
- Prepare the bird bath and stick tree, as shown.
- Cut sheets of paper to fit the walls and ceiling, then using pastels, colour in the sheets to resemble a winter sky.
- Using white glue such as Speed Bond or double sided tape, line the walls and ceiling with your 'sky' paper.
- Draw the outline of a pond's edge on the floor of the room box, but don't have the pond running right to the sides.
- Cut out the balsa wood sheet to fit the entire floor of the box, with the exception of the 'pond' area. Glue it firmly in position.
- Glue the scraps of balsa to the floor of the box in those places where you want to create different elevations.
- Using the provided syringes, with Deluxe Materials Solid Water, mix two parts resin to one part hardener. Be careful not to cross-contaminate the syringes. You may need to prepare a few batches, depending on the size of your 'pond'. Always wear gloves when preparing this product.
- Pour the prepared 'water' into the pond area. Use a clean, dry paintbrush to spread the water. Allow two to three days for the 'ice' to set. It should be a shiny brown. If you prefer a different colour, add an oil-based colour to the 'water' during preparation.

- Using Tacky Wax, attach small bits of cling film to the places where you are planning to set your trees and bird bath.



- When the pond has set, spray it with Scenic Spray Glue. Lightly sprinkle on Scenic Snowflakes. Do not overdo this though; you are trying to create the effect of snow along the edge of a pond. Spray the land area with Scenic Spray Glue. Sprinkle with Scenic Snowflakes. Allow to dry and repeat until you have achieved the desired effect. I recommend making several light layers.



- Remove the cling film from the places where you plan to place your trees and bird bath. Set these items in place, securing them with Tacky Wax, or a permanent adhesive such as Speed Bond. Spray around items and sprinkle Scenic Snowflakes. Allow to dry.
- Mix Shovelled Snowflakes (purchased in individual containers) with Scenic Bond (included in the Scenic Snow kit) to a plaster consistency and mold to create piled, heaped and drifted snow. A thinner mixture can be used to blend the drifts into the base.
- Shake on Icy Sparkles (included in the Scenic Snow kit) wherever you want a sparkly, icy effect. Spray the finished 'snow' with a light dusting of hairspray to seal.
- Place the park bench and remaining props. Use Tacky Wax to keep the hockey sticks, puck, and thermos in place. You could also pour a tiny amount of coloured Scenic Water into the cup of the thermos to simulate 'hot chocolate'.

Preparing the stick tree

- Observe how snow sticks to the bare branches of trees in the winter.
- Make a small hole in a scrap of balsa you have chosen as a base.
- Place a few dots of glue on the edges of the hole and insert the bottom of the 'stick tree'.
- Allow to dry.
- Using a clean, dry paintbrush, apply Scenic Bond to those areas of the tree where snow might collect.
- Sprinkle on Scenic Snowflakes.
- Allow to dry and add additional layers of Bond and Snowflakes until you get the desired effect.



Preparing the winter bird bath

- Prepare your Solid Water - be sure to wear gloves when working with the product.
- Measure two parts resin to one part hardener using the syringes or measuring beaker (both provided).
- Using the spatula provided, mix thoroughly, but try to avoid stirring in bubbles or the end result will be streaky when it hardens. When creating realistic pond ice, streaks add a little realism.
- Pour the mixture carefully into the 'pond' and fill your bird bath about three-quarters full. Allow to harden for 2-3 days.
- Paint Scenic Bond on the edge and sides of the birdbath, wherever you think snow would most likely fall or drift.
- Shake Scenic Snowflakes onto the spots where you have applied the Bond.
- Be sure to lightly dust the 'ice' with the Snowflakes and blow off the excess.
- Add more Bond and Snowflakes as needed until you get the desired effect.
- Attach a winter bird to the bird bath using Tacky Wax.



Top Tip

Purchase two identical bird baths, one for winter and the other for spring/summer/fall. Fill the warm-weather bird bath half-full of Solid Water. Allow to harden. Using a clean paintbrush, paint waves onto the water using Deluxe Materials Making Waves. It will look white, but will harden to a clear finish. Use Tacky Wax to attach a few warm-weather birds to the edge of the bird bath.

INFORMATION

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Scenic Shovelled Snow

Here's a step by step guide of how you can create the most realistic looking snow scenes using this great product.



And here's how to use it in a looser form to give the impression of recently disturbed snow.

David Iriarte @ KDF

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