

## SIEGE

FORTRESSES OF THE  
WARHAMMER WORLD

By Nick Davis

*There are thousands of fortresses throughout the Warhammer world, from the mighty stone forts of the Empire and graceful towers of the Elves to the ramshackle constructions of the Orcs. Nick gives us the lowdown on the different types of castle employed by the various races.*



Empire Fortress

well. It can already double up as a great Dwarf stronghold – just add Ancestor heads from the top of Dwarf banners poles on to the gatehouse.

The sinister Vampire Counts of Sylvania still inhabit their old Empire fortresses in that province. Again the Warhammer Fortress is perfect, just cover it with Gargoyles (ring Mail Order – they have loads of metal Arcane Architecture bits you can use) and glue some flock to the walls to represent ivy, giving a brooding, neglected look.

What about the Orcs, Chaos, Skaven, or even the Lizardmen? There is of course an easy answer to all of the above. Assume your army has captured a human stone fortress (after all there are thousands of derelict fortresses throughout the Old World) and has redecorated or even rebuilt bits to suit its tastes.

Over the next few pages you will see several styles of fortress, used by different races of the Old & New World. I hope it inspires you to customize your Warhammer Fortress or even to build your own. Remember, if you have decided to build your own fortress, the basic layout stays the same. You will still need walls, towers and a gateway, whether it is made from stone or other materials such as timber, bones or metal.

## WARHAMMER CASTLES

With the release of the awesome Warhammer Fortress plastic kit, building a fortress for Empire or Bretonnian armies is now an easy thing to do! Just assemble the Fortress in the box and you have a castle perfect for a human lord. "But what about the rest of the Warhammer races?" I hear you cry. Never fear. With a little customization, the Warhammer Fortress can work for other races just as



An Orc fortress is besieged by Bretonnians



Orc Fortress

ORC  
FORTRESSES

Dave Gallagher's sketch is the fort of Warlord Grotrag of the Badlands, and it illustrates the Orcs' no-nonsense building style. Orc forts are crude and follow a simple plan. They are always built in a rectangle, usually around a single large keep.

Orc forts crudely mock the design of Empire and Bretonnian border fortresses. Indeed many of their fortresses are built upon the remains of these border forts. The outside of an Orc fort is made up of a mix of material including the remains of the original castle walls, huge boulders, timbers, and large spiked stakes, jutting out to deter attackers. The outside of the walls are normally covered with mix of dung and mud, and are decorated with Orc glyphs.

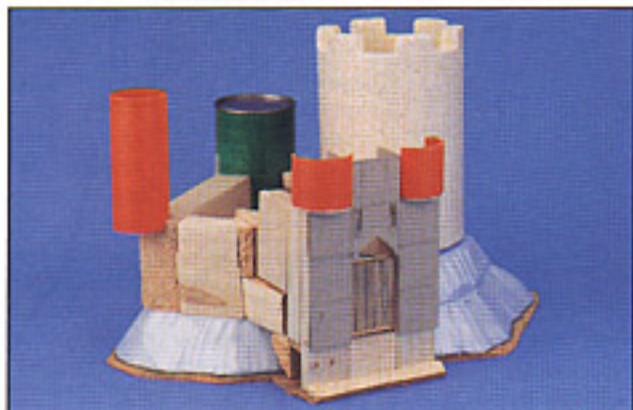
Such forts provide a rally point for scattered tribes when they gather under the leadership of a single Warlord.



plastic shields. The more ramshackle the fortification, the better your fort will look.

Below is an Orc fortification using half a castle wall. Orcs rebuild many of the fortresses they capture, blocking breaches in the walls with heavy timbers. We've used balsa wood off-cuts and spearheads cut from Boar Boy spears.





This is the start of Nigel Stillman's Bretonnian castle (see WD221 *Questing for the Grail*). He has used several easy-to-find materials in its construction. Plastic piping, a cardboard tube and polystyrene packaging make up the towers, and wooden off-cuts have been used to build the walls. The whole piece has been mounted on insulation board shaped into a crag, which in turn has been glued to a hardwood base.

## BRETONNIAN CASTLES



Due to the varied landscape of Bretonnia, the castles there are rarely built to one design. Some are situated on crags, others are built on flat terrain and are normally surrounded by a moat for defense.

The moat (or even chasm) is crossed by a drawbridge. A portcullis is also used and can be lowered to block the gate

against intruders. There are thousands of castles scattered around Bretonnia; the one shown here is just one example.

## SKAVEN FORTS



over (usually after killing the original owners by infecting the water and food stores) and have patched up with the wood and rubble of the original structure.

Within the shell of the ruined fort is a labyrinth of tunnels, making it almost impossible for an army to rid the ruins of Skaven. The Skaven prefer to have as many entrances and escape holes as possible. Gates, where they do exist, are made of rotten timbers or rusted iron gratings.

## HIGH ELF FORTRESS



This sketch is of a High Elf fortress at Tor Isil. It is typical of the smaller defensive forts dotted across Ulthuan.

The majority of High Elf fortresses feature a cluster of tall towers, similar to the round towers common to Bretonnian castles except that they are linked by causeways.

High Elf castles are principally built out of white marble, although some have been shaped straight out of the rock they are built on. The gates are thick and tall and are built out of solid bronze or thick hardwood decorated with gold and silver runes.

## NEXT ISSUE...

This is just a small selection of the many fortresses dotted around the Warhammer world. We hope it's given you some ideas. In the next issue of *White Dwarf*, we will be showing you some simple conversions we've done with the Warhammer Fortress that can give it even more character.

Until then, have a go yourself. There is plenty of scope for easy conversion work on the fortress. See what you can come up with and if you have any good ideas, send a photo of your fortress to *White Dwarf*. If it's really good we may even publish it!



Silver Helms sally forth from a High Elf Fortress.