

Hedges

The material supplied is cut from a floor polishing pad and is flat and regular in shape. So for most hedges it needs to be reshaped. For a well trimmed privet hedge it won't need much alteration - perhaps trimming off the top corners and, perhaps, teasing out a few strands.

For an untrimmed hedge, eg hawthorn, the material will need more work. Use a small hook to tease out some of the strands and small scissors to remove some pieces until the hedge is sufficiently ragged.

The base material must then be covered with a foliage material. This is the chopped sponge material normally used by railway modellers for foliage, grass, weeds, etc. The pack includes some of this sponge (sold originally as "Blended Turf"). There is a wide range of colours and textures available from hobby and model railway shops so you may wish to use an alternative. Old field boundary hedges in the countryside usually have more than one species of bush so for these it would be appropriate to use a mixture of colours/textures in patches.

To apply the foliage, first spray the hedge base with matt varnish (most spray glues are too thick for this purpose and some spray glues used for displaying photos, etc do not completely dry as they are designed to allow the photo to be repositioned). While the glue is still wet sprinkle a generous amount of the sponge.

The hedge base material is dark green and this is suitable for most hedges. If a different base colour is required it can be sprayed with paint, eg Humbrol Matt Dark Earth, and the paint can be used to fix the foliage material instead of using varnish.

When the varnish/paint is dry, shake off the surplus foliage material. If insufficient foliage material remains attached to the hedge, apply a second coating using matt varnish. Finally an overspray of varnish can be applied to make the foliage material more secure.