

Building a Drying Box

One of the downsides to being a miniature hobbyist is the inadvertent sharing of the hobby with others. Bringing primed models into your home after the recommended drying time can still create a noticeable odor. This isn't necessarily harmful, but if you live with others, there's a good chance that the smell will cause more than a few comments. A drying box can be used to store your miniatures in while the primer is still drying and greatly reduces the accompanying smells.

Also, few things are more disheartening than the winter months. You really feel like painting up that new unit, but it needs to be primed. You can't leave your models outside in the cold and snow to dry, and bringing them inside isn't an option unless you have a place to store them while they are drying.

A drying box is a plastic box that contains an air cleaner. There are many suppliers of plastic boxes that are sufficiently air-tight enough to prevent overpowering your family and friends. However, once you open the box to remove the models, you release the smells. The air cleaner serves to remove the odors and as a bonus, circulates the air inside the box, which speeds the drying process.

To make a drying box, you'll need the following supplies:

Materials

1 Plastic Tub
1 Air Cleaner
1 Roll of Duct Tape

Tools

1 Utility Knife
4 Velcro Tabs

Step 1: Cut a hole in the side of the tub for the air cleaner's power cord. The hole should be just large enough to fit the plug through. I recommend cutting the hole to match the shape of the plug as it will create a smaller opening in the tub.

Step 2: Place the air cleaner into the tub and pass the power cord through the hole.

Step 3: Apply the Velcro tabs to the bottom of the air cleaner and the tub. Peel the backing off the soft side of the tabs and apply them to the bottom of the air cleaner. Peel the backing off the rough side and press the air cleaner into position on the bottom of the tub. (Using the soft side of the Velcro on the bottom of the air cleaner will allow you to use the air cleaner on another surface without damaging the surface.)

Step 4: Cut strips of duct tape to cover the hole you cut for the cord. Apply duct tape to both sides of the hole for a better seal. There are lots of materials that you can use to seal the hole, for example expanding foam. However, duct tape is sufficient and will allow you to easily remove the air cleaner if you need to.

Now that you have your box, you can prime when you need to, with confidence that you're harming neither your loved ones, nor your models.