

## Maximilian 1st Modelling Project part 1 by Alan Ball

### The Horse

The Idea for this figure originally came from Rüdiger Möhrmann who commissioned me to make it for him in 90 mm.

He sent very detailed drawings of the figure he wanted, and supplied close up photographs of the Maximilian style armour, as well as many illustrations of both the man himself and armour in General. In fact all that you could ask for in the way of references....hardly surprising, as Rüdiger works as a conservator of Medieval pictures and artefacts, as well as being involved in re-enacting the period. The first time I saw his illustrations of Max it was a little daunting, but I thought that by breaking it down to manageable steps I could eventually give him the figure he wanted.



Now as this was to be a one of figure, I decided not to make the horse itself, but to use a commercial casting. I thought that a Metal horse would give me a nice solid basis and be less fragile around the ankles than a resin one, so I chose to use a horse from Eisenbach (Based in France, and beautiful horses in both 54mm and 90mm).

Once the horse was assembled, it made more sense to make a start on that before beginning the figure of Max, as it would be much easier to make sure that he sat on the horse if I already had the saddle made .

I mixed some Magicsculpt and put it on the horse where the saddle was to go. Using an old paintbrush to model a very rough idea of the saddle so I could carve it easier when the putty had set.

At this time, I also added (very roughly) the belly strap and what would be the neck and rear armour of the horse.

It wasn't necessary to be too exact at this point, just important to make sure that I covered the whole area that was to be armoured. The cleaning up and refining of the shapes would come after the putty had set.



Once the putty had set, I started to cut in the individual pieces of armour on the neck, and dressed the edges a bit. I also carved the saddle to a more reasonable shape and cut in a groove where I would add the back of the saddle.



I put some Vaseline in the saddle groove, and pushed some Magicsculpt into in in a very rough shape. Once the Magicsculpt had set, the saddle back was taken away from the saddle and carved to shape. Of course because I had used Vaseline the back came away very easily, and I was ensured of a good fit when I had finished carving and wanted to put it back. So far I was pretty pleased with the way things were going.

I now did the same thing with the front of the saddle ....a pretty complex shape, but by waiting till the Magicsculpt has begun to harden slightly, I was able to get a rough form before putting it to the horse (using Vaseline again to make sure that it didn't stick.) I carved the front of the saddle in the same way as the back; simply with a scalpel blade and a no 11 blade...I find I can some pretty complex shapes with just the no11 blade. The edges of the armour were simply scribed in using the very tip of the scalpel blade.



Next I added the straps around the neck and at the back of the saddle, I added a layer of Magicsculpt, and added the small plates of armour with Plasticard. The rivets on the neck armour and the little designs on the saddle front were added from Magicsculpt and Plasticard



Time to start detailing the armour at the rear of the horse. This was measured out and marked with a pencil; I then scribed the lines with the tip of the scalpel as I had the other details.

I find that if I hold the actual blade of the scalpel, and let the handle rest on my hand (like holding a pen), I can get a very gentle line if I just follow the pencil marks for just a few mm at a time ...doing this several times makes the line deeper and I can reasonably control the depth of the scribed line.

Now as there were to be raised badges attached to the rear armour, I coated the area where they would fit with Vaseline and pushed on some Putty to roughly the shape required ...once that had set I took them off again to work on them individually.



Now came a little fun....and I wasn't sure how it would work out ... but eventually I was very pleased.....

The front and head armour of the horse.....I once again coated the area with Vaseline and added some more Magicsculpt, this time however, before it was completely set, I pulled the Magicsculpt off the horse and set it aside to harden fully.



Once fully cured, I worked the hardened Magicsculpt with my scalpel, thinning it out and getting the shape I wanted .....I needed to do this to make sure that the armour was even on both sides, and that there wouldn't be any misalignment with the odd curves and shapes involved. With the pieces away from the horse, I was able to measure and judge the shape more objectively.

It was also easier to hold, mark and scribe the armour without having the heavy horse to contend with. That way I could get down to the details quite easily.



I also found that I could thin down the edges of the armour on the inside, and that by doing this, it allowed the piece to be put back and removed again from the horse pretty easily ...there was a slight "click" when it went on for the first time, but it simply meant that it was in the same position that it came from, and was a pretty snug fit.

The same was true of the front armour, and in that way, I worked on the piece till all the detail was added. The eye shields were simply MS put over the end of a paintbrush (to get the dome shape) and cut in half to fit to the headpiece, the point in the centre of the headpiece is simply the end of a pin cut off and glued into a Magicsculpt "mount" rivets were again added from Plasticard made using the trusty old punch and die set from Historex Agents that I have had for years.



The detailing of the shields on the front and rear armour plates was now done, and the shields glued back into place on the armour ...locating them was simple, because the hardened Putty still showed the lines of the scribing where it had been stuck on the plates before removal.



The final pieces to the horse were the eagle in a crown on the head armour, and the armoured reins. The eagle was carved from Magicsculpt and the wings and details of the crown added with Plasticard. The Reins were made by making the armour with Plasticard first, cutting them to their three individual plates, and gluing them to some Duro, which was dressed to give the correct shape. I used Duro for this, as I knew that it would give a certain degree of flexibility to the reins which would be needed when assembling the piece and fitting the reins to the rider.



This all went much quicker than I would have expected, as the Horse I used from Eisenbach was a great help and made this part of the project pretty easy to take on. The great think for this part of the project was to take it one step at a time, and try and follow a logical sequence in making the pieces.