Static Grass Tips
Plus Make Your Own Realistic Tufts and Buffalo Grass

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The Basic Principle behind Static Grass
You're taking a rayon or polyester material that has been designed to quickly accept a full static charge. This material comes in many colors and sizes in the basic shape of a blade of grass.

The machine (Noch Grassmaster, Heki Flockstar, Homemade) add a negative charge to the material, since the ground is in wet glue the now charged material is attracted to the glue and stands straight up like real grass.

Your results will vary depending on the machine you are using and the length of the material. There are many types of static grass on the market (Heki, Silflour, Woodland Scenics) all can be purchased from Scenic Express (www.sceneryexpress.com)

Material
Keep in mind the material lengths are sold in millimeters... 2mm, 4mm, 6mm are the most common…
As 6mm is about 18 inches in HO, a neat trick is to "stack" the grass, stacking is when you get the grass to stick to each other end to end, making the grass taller… I have seen modelers get it up to ¾ of an inch. Wow…

Work Area
Since the static grass is almost microscopic, it can blow everywhere and stick to everything. I usually work on a surface that has its own static properties to help keep the mess to a minimum. I use a Styrofoam tray which will also collect the excess static grass that can be reused.

Keep a vacuum cleaner handy as well, not just to help clean up the mess. Once your scenery is dry, hit it with the vacuum cleaner to remove any unglued grass and just give you that clean look.

Application Issues
If you intend to use static grass on your layout or your diorama, a little planning goes a long way. Now you certainly can just pick up and start planting but from experience I wouldn't. Once a structure or other scenery is applied, it becomes more difficult to apply the static grass. So either add your static grass at the beginning of your process or just use tufts and large patches that can be pre-made. I usually end up doing both.

 Basic Materials
-A Static Grass Machine
-Canopy Glue
-3/4 Strength Elmer's (White Glue)
-Matte Medium (optional)
-Old Brush (for glue)
-Brush for Dry Brushing
-Oil Paint – Bright Colors
-Tan Acrylic Paint
-Non Stick Aluminum Foil (Rapid Release)
-Grass Dumpster (jar for mixed grasses)

Make your own Grass Tufts, Buffalo Grass, Tiny Tufts, Grass Patches and Strips

The techniques to make all of these items are the same. You just happen to use different static grasses and apply the glue in the sizes you need.

You can always make these sheets up in advance of any project, as they come in handy in a pinch.

The Technique
Take a sheet of Heavy Duty Non-Stick Tin Foil and apply Canopy Glue in the size/shape you need.
I use Canopy Glue because is reacts with the non-stick part of the foil and retracts after you apply it.
Small circles are perfect, and if you brush on a large patch it retracts to cool natural shapes.

Load your Grass Machine with your selected static grasses, attach the ground wire to the tin foil and start planting.

Let completely dry, since we are using Canopy Glue it dries rather fast. When completely dry vacuum the sheets carefully with a small vacuum with small attachments.

Cool Effects
Now to step up your modeling, get some oil paints and a nice brush for dry brushing.

Flowers
Use bright colors like yellow, orange, purple, white… Unless you are modeling a large field, don't go overboard.

Make sure you let the paint dry, it is oil paint and will take a while… You can try other paints for flowers; I just found the oil paints retained its bright colors.

Gone to Seed
I take a light tan/Sand Stone color craft store type acrylic paint, I then dry brush the tips of all the grass to assimilate the tops of the grass has started to seed.