



Photo Tips

by: Porthos

Creating the background:

Making a cool background for pictures is really easy. Cardboard and paper. I made some research with Google pictures search and found a couple of crowd pics and chose the best one. I printed it and glue it on the cardboard.



(View full sized image on page 4)

As for the turf, I had a beautiful picture of Charlize Theron laying in the grass. I took a square of grass from the pic and used it as a background pic in Netscape Composer to multiply it and make a big turf. Glued it to the cardboard and added lines. Voilà! ([Turf image available on page 5](#))



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The idea is to make it big enough so your figure won't be too close to the background when you take your pictures. If your figure is far enough from the background, the background will be out of focus on the picture and it's better that way since you can't see the flaws on it. I made a hole in the turf to be able to put the peg of the figures through the turf and place their original base under the turf so you can't see it on the pictures.

For the baseball pictures I've done, I just covered the turf with a green sheet. For the hockey one I covered it with a white sheet and placed a piece of plexiglass over it. For basketball I covered it with a piece of wood. I didn't want to do 4 different backgrounds and since you look more at the figure than the background, small flaws don't matter that much. For example, on my hockey pictures it's tough to see what's the ice and what is the board because I didn't do the red and yellow lines on the board parts...but the pictures still look great.

Tips about the Photo Session:

It's a lot better to take the pictures outside. The natural light always looks better than a light placed directly on the figure, the flash of the camera or regular indoor lighting. Take many pictures from many angles.

I can't talk about digital cameras because I never used one, but reflex cameras are much better than regular cameras. You can't really take close-up pictures with a regular camera. Normally, it will come out of focus. Plus, pictures taken with a regular camera aren't exactly like what you saw in the camera while taking the picture. It's always a bit further from the picture.

Always place your display on a table or a chair so you'll be able to take a picture a bit from under. If you place it directly on the ground and lay on the ground to take the pictures, you'll only be able to take a picture from the top or at the same height as the figure.

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Examples:



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