

Basing and Mounting Specifications for *The Blue Max* Using 1/285 Scale Aircraft

Aircraft Bases

Aircraft can be based using the lead Hex bases from Ral Partha for use with Battletech-type aircraft. These will provide enough weight to keep the planes stable.

The bases usually come with short lengths of 1/16" steel rod which is the correct size for making the mounting pins. Mount about a 1/2" length of the rod in both the base and the bottom of the plane. These can then be inserted into the various altitude tubes to depict the proper flying altitude. If the steel rod which came with your package of bases does not fit easily in the 1/16" ID Altitude tubes, please do not use them! Ask someone in the group for some brass or steel rod of the correct diameter or purchase some from your local hobby shop to allow interchangeability among all altitude tubes.

Since the aircraft models may tend to rotate on the altitude tubes, you should mark the bases in some way to denote the front facing. This could be done with a spot of paint, a small rock, a piece of wood resembling a felled tree or something similar. The markings on the base will be the overriding factor in determining the actual facing of the plane.

Altitude Tubes

The various altitudes are noted by inserting an altitude tube of proper length into the aircraft and it's base. The tubes are painted an appropriate sky-blue and color-coded with a small ring around the bottom end of the tube which is noted in the following chart. When an aircraft changes altitude, just exchange the tube for one of the proper length. The tubes are made from 1/16" ID brass tubing available at most hobby shops.

Dimensions for the tubes and their proper color codes are shown in the following chart:

Altitude	Length (Inches)	Color Code
Very Low	2	Red
Low	3 1/2	Yellow
Medium	5	Green
High	6 1/2	Blue
Very High	8	White

Terrain Board

Because *The Blue Max* is played on a board composed of a hex grid and due to the scale of the miniatures, we are going to adopt the use of the 4" *Terrain Maker* hex pieces manufactured by GHQ. The 4" size will easily accommodate multiple aircraft in any hex and since range and distances are counted by hex, there is no need to account for ground scale. An added benefit would be that they are also perfect scale for use with Micro Armor and 5mm/6mm figures.

Although Blue Max has no rules regarding terrain effects, we may at some point create rules that would apply to flying into/over hills, landing in rough terrain, etc.