

# Sand Table Showroom

The sand tables shown here are primarily used as a platform for delivering Tactical Decision Games. It is important to remember that sand tables can also be used to present briefings, conduct AARs, and teach topography map interpretation. You can build a table as elaborate as a fine piece of furniture or as basic as a hole in the ground filled with sand. All serve the same purpose. Keep it simple and build the table that best suits your facilitation needs. Basic considerations are: mobility requirements, exposure to weather, storage needs, and scale of landscape to be shown. Rule of thumb – the larger the table, the more terrain that can be shown, but the less mobile the table.



## Basic 4' x 8' Sand Table

Best used for medium to large landscapes. Use a full 4' x 8' sheet of 1" plywood along with 2" x 6" planks for the sides. Ensure the legs are reinforced to support the weight of the sand and that the joints are sealed to prevent the sand from leaking.



## Portable 4' x 8' Sand Table

Same as above except this version can be broken down for moving or storing. Note the handles on the side for easier handling and the buckets to transport the sand. Six saw-horses were used to hold approximately 500 lbs of sand.



## Portable 4' x 4' Sand Table

Best used for medium to smaller landscapes features. Use a half sheet of plywood and 2" x 6" planks for the sides. Use the remaining half of the plywood for a cover. The table is easier to set up and take down, but more difficult to show detail for larger landscapes.



## Outdoor Sand Pit

The simplest sand table to build is a basic sand pit. Find a large area of ground to dig a hole and fill with sand. Contain sand with a wood or concrete perimeter such as the parking barriers shown here. Covering the pit area with a simple pole shed roof will provide shade and rain protection, making the pit more usable.



### Mark III Containment Kit

For a quick and easy sand table, use a Mark III containment kit from you local warehouse. It provides a simple set up with a lot of versatility. The containment kit will hold approximately 10 lbs of sand. Best used for smaller landscape features.

### Large Group Versions

Sand tables can be built for use by large groups and display large areas of terrain. The table on the left is designed for a dedicated classroom space. The table on the right is a representation of the operating area for a Marine Corps helicopter assault mission in the desert involving over 60 helicopters.



### Other Options

Some sand tables can be very elaborate with special options. Note the side containers, blue base for water features, and elaborate table cover.



### The Original

And the classical turtle sand box, beautiful in its simplicity.

