# Abandoned Greenhouse
*by Fran Casselman*

**Items used:**

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| #1176 | 12" White Oak Tree Armature |
| #9718 | Autumn Foliage Mat |
| #9900 | The Conservatory Kit |
| #16132 | 3-Pc. Rabbit Set |
| #23388 | Terrapin |
| #74599 | Unfinished Work Table |
| #71617 | Three Songbirds |
| #77148 | American Crow |
| #11800 | Three Green Garden Delights Bushes |
| #78436 | Wheelbarrow |
| #78444 | 6" Straight Ladder |
| #1073 | Fred's Wood Weathering Stuff |
| #80873 | Grey Age-It EASY |
| #H8210 | 1/24 Scale Herringbone Brick Sheet |
| #55308 | Liquitex® White Gesso |
| #66599 | Brick and Stone Grout |
| #0016 | Rough Brick Sheets |
| #1123 | Gold Plated Brass Window Handle Pull |

*Other items in the scene were crafted and/or purchased from craft stores and other retailers.*

The unfinished wood items (conservatory, work table and ladder) in the scene were all stained with #1073 Fred's Wood Weathering Stuff; additional detailing was added with #80873 Grey Age-It EASY.

The floor and lower exterior panels of the conservatory feature #H8210 Herringbone brick sheet. To create a better gluing surface, the back side of the sheet was coated with #55308 Gesso. The front was highlighted and aged with Kiwi Scuff Cover (white liquid shoe polish) used directly on the surface with the product applicator. By planning carefully, one brick sheet can be used for all eight lower panels and the floor.

The conservatory was intended to function as a standalone structure, so a back wall had to be created. It is made from foam core that is fitted to the roof rafters and back corners by cutting away the top paper and foam layer in specific areas, leaving only the backing paper. To do this, when the conservatory and roof are assembled but before the acrylic roof shell or windows have been installed, tape the roof/rafter shell securely in place. Put the open back onto a piece of foam core and trace around the rafters and walls, inside and out. Using a craft knife and metal ruler on a cutting mat, cut the foam core to the outside shape; then cut into – but not through – the board on the lines that outline the rafters and side wall ends. Carefully peel away the top paper layer, then chip and peel away the foam layer. The result is a fitted back wall that will stay in place without glue (although you may glue it in place if you do not want the roof to be removable).

The brick covering is #0016 Rough Brick Sheets; two sheets were needed here and were matched and joined with tape on the back side to create one panel. Glue the brick to the foam core panel and, once the glue is completely dry, trim it to follow the rafter/wall outlines. The sheets take paint very well but I liked the original color as the grout color so I did not change it. Then, working quickly with a palette of similar brick shades, I painted individual bricks using a ¼" flat brush. Use one main color for about 40% of the bricks, trying for randomness and only a few side-by-side or above/below in the same shade. Pick another color and repeat until you have a look you like, using up to about five colors. Some bricks can remain unpainted.

I wanted the look of a brick wall that had been plastered and then cracked, so the plaster had flaked away in areas near the crack. I determined the line of the crack through the mortar and drew it with pencil, then applied #66599 Brick and Stone Grout to areas away from the crack, feathering it to a soft, thin edge. (This product can be thinned with water if it is too thick.) I used a craft stick as an applicator and refined the coverage with a brush and my fingers. Once dry, to soften the white appearance, I brushed on a muddy grey water wash in several layers, some over the brick as well. As a final step, I used an ultra fine point Sharpie marker to define the crack.

The cloudy appearance of the roof panels is sections of wax paper applied before the rafter trim was glued on. The windows still have their original protective film in place. More wax paper is used to replace the clear acrylic of the doors. The door handle is #1123 Window Pull, painted black with nail polish.

The rabbits were overpainted lightly to darken the brown fur color and add white to the tails.