

Congratulations on your choice of a Real Good Toys product. Your kit has been precision made with meticulous care by our craftspeople using carefully selected materials. This Dollhouse will last for years, even generations, if heirloom care and attention is given during assembly. Take your time and read the instructions completely. If you have questions, ask the experts at your local Dollhouse store or at info@realgoodtoys.com

Before you begin - You have already opened the box and see all the parts organized in boxes and bundles. For the moment, keep them that way. There are important things to do before you open your glue bottle.

Choose your color scheme. Look at houses in your community, models in your local Dollhouse shop or at our website: realgoodtoys.com; look at plan books from a paint store or architectural books at your library (a favorite is: *Painted Ladies* by Michael Larsen and Elizabeth Pomada). You will be painting some of the parts right away so get the paint now. Choose high-quality interior semi-gloss latex enamel paints for ease of use and durability.

Prepare your space: This dollhouse will spread out over a large area while it is being built. You will need a large flat tabletop for the house, several boxes to keep parts organized until they are needed, and several trays lined with waxed paper for holding small parts like windows and railings. A snap-lid box will keep your tools and supplies handy between building sessions.

www.realgoodtoys.help has slideshows

Measure and identify the parts: The kit is packed in groupings that protect the parts, and that is how the Parts List is organized. As you measure and identify the parts, label them with sticky notes using the names from the parts list, and check them off the parts list so you know you have everything. Taking the time now to identify and organize the parts also makes them familiar so you will understand what the instructions intend as you read ahead.

- Plan ahead so you know where you are going
- Read ahead so you know how to get there
- Paint ahead so the parts will be ready when you need them



Tools and Supplies:

Tape measure or ruler, Pencil, Sticky notes (like PostIts®)
White glue (like Aleene's Tacky Glue®) for all construction
Solvent-based Panel Cement for shingles
Masking tape, Utility knife or coarse file
Fine tooth saw (razor saw (like X-Acto®) or a hacksaw)
Painting Supplies, Sandpaper (especially 320gr)
Waxed paper
PostIts®, Aleene's®, and X-Acto® are registered trademarks of their manufacturers and have no affiliation with Real Good Toys

Not suitable for children under 13 years of age
California 93120 compliant for formaldehyde phase 2

Options: www.realgoodtoys.com or your miniature dealer

6888: the "Best 1" Dollhouse Electrical Kit
Stucco Grit: Paint additive for foundation texture
Dye-1: Brown shingle dye
Dye-3: Grey shingle dye
SC: Copper flashing
5408-10 Coarse Double-Cut file
1015: 6-panel interior doors for Dividers
J-FK Interior finishing materials: Baseboard and crown moldings & stairway banisters and landing rails.

See page 4 and
www.realgoodtoys.help



Identify the parts: Open one bundle at-a-time. Measure each part and find it on the parts list. Label the parts and mark the parts list so you know you've found everything.

Drawings are not all the same scale





Panels Bundle

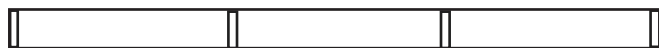
- (1) J0905 Dormer Roof Left: (1/4) 12^{3/8}top x 9^{5/8}, angled, bevels
- (1) J0906 Dormer Roof Right: (1/4) 12^{3/8}top x 9^{5/8}, angled, bevels
- (2) J0888 Attic Divider: (3/8) 11^{1/4} x 13^{5/8}, angled, door cutout
- (1) J0884 Dormer SideWall Left: (3/8 clapboard) 5^{13/16}tall x 5^{13/16}top, angled
- (1) J0885 Dormer SideWall Right: (3/8 clapboard) 5^{13/16}tall x 5^{13/16}top, angled
- (1) J0886 Dormer Front Wall: (3/8 clapboard) 9^{11/16} x 14, peaked, window cutout
- (1) J0887 Divider: (3/8) 9 x 13^{5/8}, door cutout
- (1) J0897 2nd Front Step Block: (3/4) 6 x 1^{1/4}

Panels

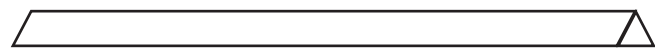
- (4) J0920 Porch Post: (1^{1/4} x 1^{1/4}) 5
- (1) J0880 Front Wall: (3/8 clapboard) 11^{1/8} x 30^{3/16}, cutouts
- (1) E9801 Bottom Stair Block: (6-step) 2^{1/4}, bottom bevel
- (1) E9802 Top Stair Block: (6-step) 2^{1/4}, top bevel
- (1) J0893 Mid Floor: (3/8) 29^{11/16} x 13^{3/4}, woodgrain, stair hole
- (1) J0894 Base Floor: (1/4) 29^{11/16} x 13^{3/4}, woodgrain
- (1) J0902 Porch Roof: (1/4) 34^{3/16} x 8^{7/16}, bevel
- (1) J0900 Porch Floor: (1/4) 30^{3/16} x 5^{5/8}
- (1) J0881 Side Wall Left: (3/8 clapboard) 21^{5/8}tall x 13^{5/8}, angled
- (1) J0882 Side Wall Right: (3/8 clapboard) 21^{5/8}tall x 13^{5/8}, angled
- (1) J0901 Front Roof: (1/4) 34^{3/16} x 15^{3/32}, dormer cutout

Bundles

- (6) J0936 Rafter Material: (3/16 x 1^{11/32}) 15^{1/4} 
- (2) J0933 Stripwood (Side): (3/16 x 7/16) 19 
- (6) J0934 Stripwood (Side): (3/16 x 7/16) 13^{7/32} 
- (6) J0935 Stripwood (Eave): (1/8 x 5/16) 15^{1/4} 
- (2) J0895 Foundation, F&B: (1/2) 30^{3/16} x 1^{3/4} grooved
- (1) J0898 Porch Beam: (3/4 x 1^{1/4}) 31^{7/16},
- (1) J0937 Porch Beam Cap: (5/8 x 7/8) 31^{3/16}, shaped
- (1) J0899 Attic Ceiling: (3/4 x 1^{1/2}, triangular) 29^{11/16}
- (1) J0903 Rear Roof: (1/4) 34^{3/16} x 2



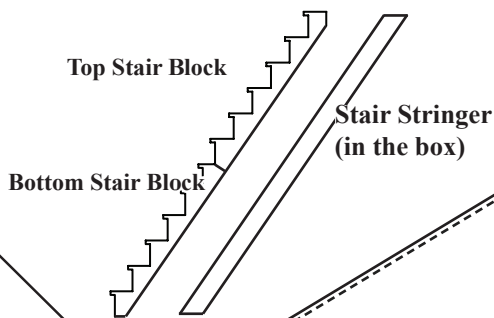
Long Foundation (front & back)



Porch Beam Cap

Attic Ceiling

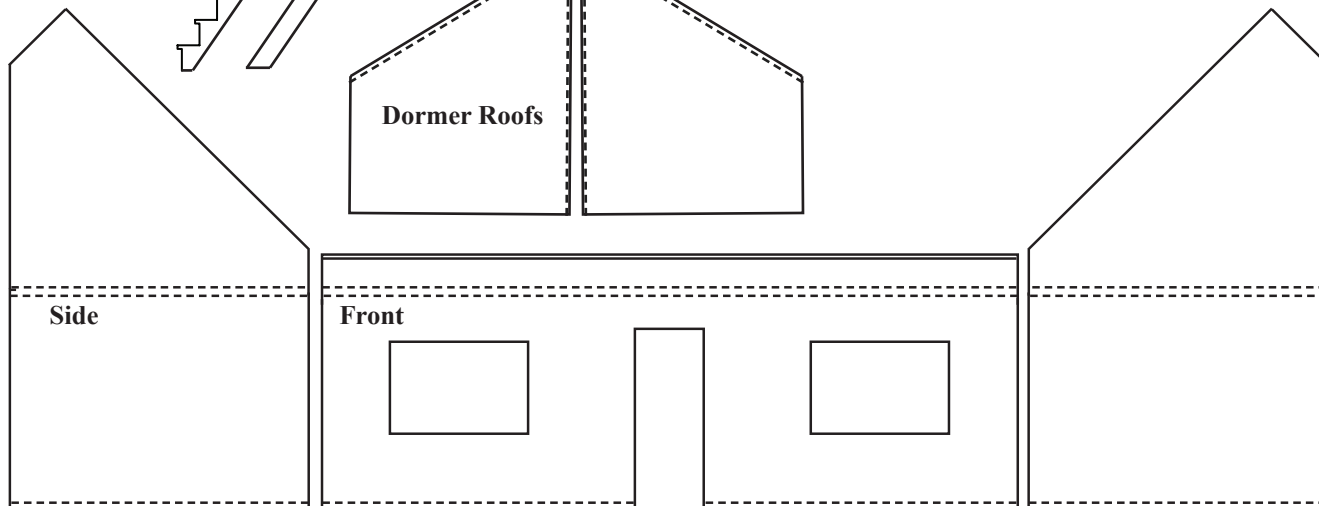
Porch Beam



Top Stair Block

Bottom Stair Block

Stair Stringer (in the box)

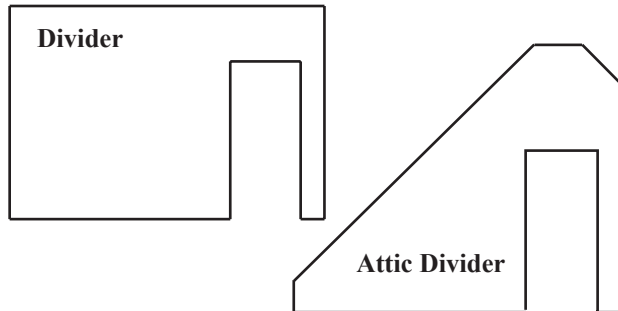


Dormer Roofs

Side

Front

Clapboard

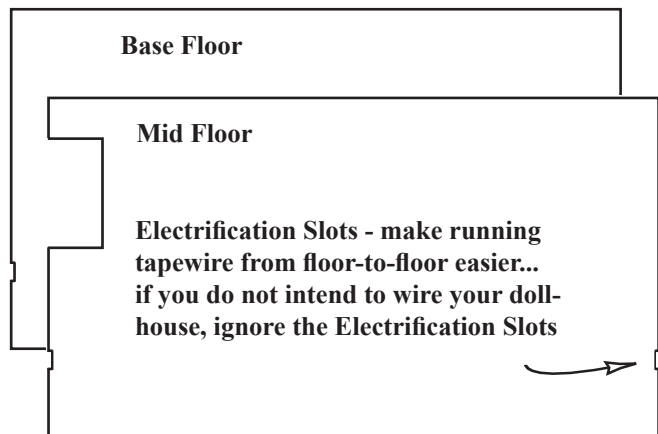


Divider

Attic Divider



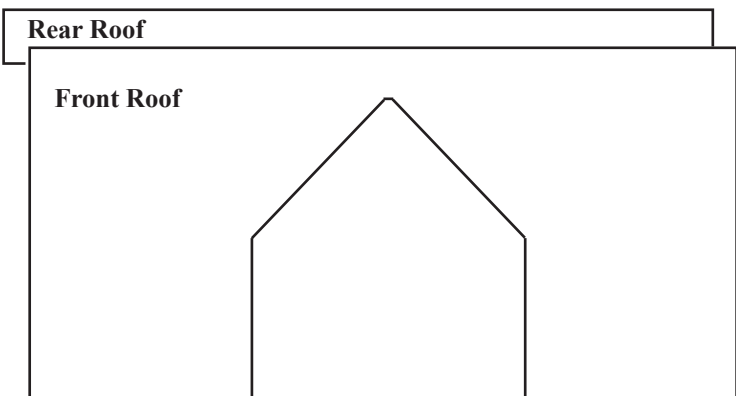
Porch Post



Base Floor

Mid Floor

Electrification Slots - make running tapewire from floor-to-floor easier... if you do not intend to wire your dollhouse, ignore the Electrification Slots



Rear Roof

Front Roof



Porch Roof

Box Parts

- (1400) T1004 Shingles: (1/16 x 3/4) 1 1/4
- (1) J0907 Cricket Roof, Left: (1/4) 6 1/2 x 7 Triangle, bevels
- (1) J0908 Cricket Roof, Right: (1/4) 6 1/2 x 7 Triangle, bevels
- (1) J0909 Cricket Triangle: (1/4) 10 13/32 x 1 3/8, triangle.
- (2) J0883 Handy Square: (3/8) Triangle ±4 1/2"
- (2) J0921 Chimney Block: (1 1/2 x 1 1/2) 5, angled
- (4) J0889 Foundation, Mid: (3/8) 18 7/8 x 1 3/4
- (2) J0910 Front Step Tread: (1/8) 6 x 1 7/16
- (1) J0896 Base Front Step Block: (1/2) 6 x 2 1/2
- (4) J0890 Porch Triangle: (3/8) 5 3/16 x 1 3/4+angled
- (1) E9803 Stair Stringer: (1/8) 3/4 x 10 7/8, angled
- (2) J0904 Eave: (1/4) 3 1/8 x 3 1/8.
- (1) R311 Oval Light Door, assembled
(set) Door Interior Trim
- (6) J0912 Postbase Side: (1/4) 1 3/4 x 4 7/8, Inlet
- (2) J0913 Postbase SideEnd: (1/4) 1 3/4 x 4 7/8
- (4) J0914 Postbase Front: (1/8) 2 x 4 7/8
- (2) J0915 Postbase BackEnd: (1/8) 2 x 4 7/8, Inlet
- (2) J0916 Postbase Back: (1/8) 2 x 2 7/8

Rail Pack:

- (2) J0923 Front Trim: (3/32 x 7/16) 9
- (4) J0924 Front Porch Rail: (W) 9 1/16
- (4) J0925 Side Porch Rail: (W) 4 17/32
- (38) E9661 Baluster: (1/8 x 5/16) 2 1/8

Cross-sections



Window Frame Pack

- (2) J0955 7 1/2 Window Frame: 7 13/16
- (8) J0950 6 Window Frame: 6 5/16
- (4) J0954 5" Window Frame: 5 5/16
- (8) J0949 4" Window Frame: 4 5/16

Cross-sections



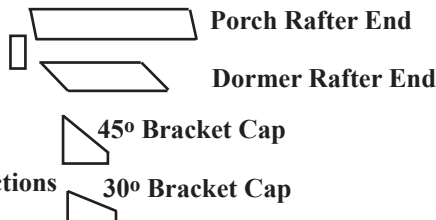
- (2) J0956 Middle Frame: 4 7/16
- (2) J0953 Interior Frame: (3/32 x 7/16) 7 13/16

- (1) E3623 Groove-Fill: (1/8 x 3/8) 4

- (1) J0922 Porch Edge Nosing: (3/16 x 3/16) 6

Brackets Pack

- (18) J0931 Porch Rafter End: (3/16 x 1 11/32) 1 5/8 angled
- (6) J0932 Dormer Rafter End: (3/16 x 1 11/32) 1 3/16 angled
- (14) R310 Bracket Base Assembly:
- (10) J0928 45° Bracket Cap: (7/32 x 7/16 angled) 1 1/2
- (4) J0927 30° Bracket Cap: (7/32 x 3/16 angled) 1 1/2



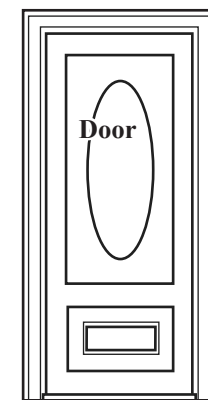
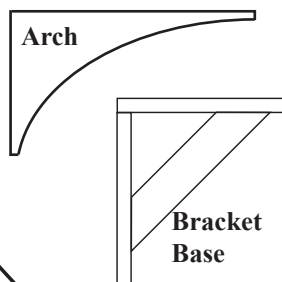
Caps pack:

- (2) J0892 Chimney Cap: (3/8) 1 1/2 x 1 1/2
- (2) J0891 Chimney Cap: (3/8) 1 3/4 x 1 3/4
- (4) J0911 Postbase Cap: (1/4) 2 1/4 x 2 1/4
- (4) J0918 Post Cap: (1/8) 1 1/2 x 1 1/2
- (6) J0919 Arch: (1/8) 3 3/8 x 2, shaped.

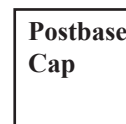
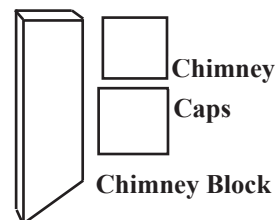
Cross-sections

Window Pane Pack

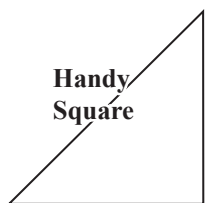
- (1) J0952 Window Pane 5 x 7 1/2 Printed
- (2) J0951 Window Pane 4 x 6 Printed



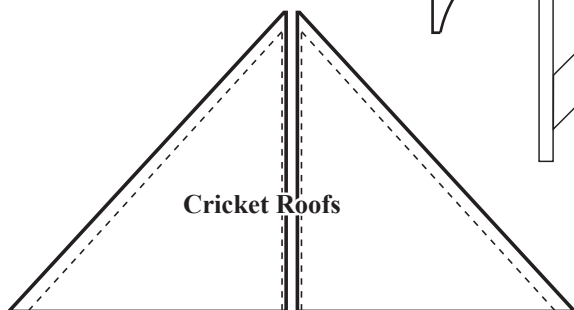
Door Interior Trim cross-section



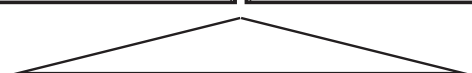
Porch Triangle



Handy Square



Cricket Roofs

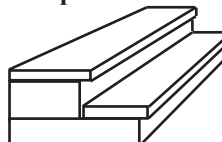


Cricket Triangle



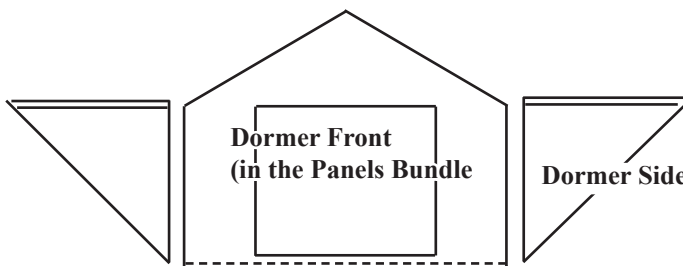
Mid Foundation

Front Step Treads



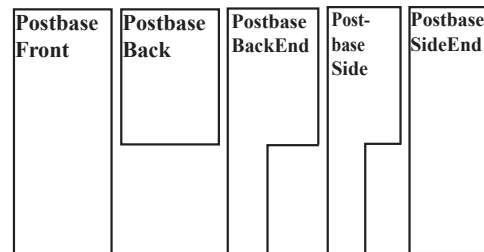
Front Step Blocks

Drawings are not all the same scale



Dormer Front
(in the Panels Bundle)

Dormer Side



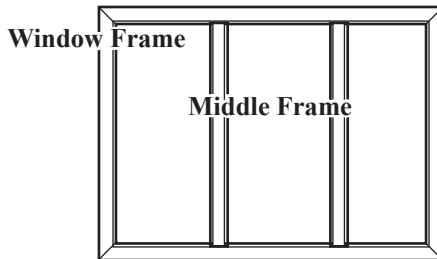
Postbase Front

Postbase Back

Postbase BackEnd

Post-base Side

Postbase SideEnd



Window Frame

Middle Frame

Options for building the Classic Bungalow Dollhouse

See your local dollhouse shop or www.realgoodtoys.com

Exterior:

Exterior Paint Color:

see www.realgoodtoys.help for suggestions

Accessories:

- Gingerbread
- Flower Boxes
- Foundation Stucco Grit
- Octagonal Shingles
- Fancy Windows and Doors
- Turnposts and Spindles

Interior:

- Wiring
- Wallpaper

Interior paint color:

- Ceilings
- Painted walls
- Interior trim

Flooring:

- Applied wood, tile, or carpet
- Banister & Landing Rails
- Window and Door trim
- Baseboard and Crown



E1615 Colonial Addition
13 x 16 x 19T



E1640 Conservatory
15 x 16 x 16T

Split Octagonal Shingles

Cedar: HOC350

Pine: HOW500



Doors:

Exterior

Interior



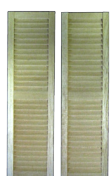
#6002

#6018

#6022

#1015

Note: I often enlarge an interior door opening to fit the #6022



5025
Louvered
Shutters

Shingle Dye

- Dye1: Reddish-Brown
- Dye3: Dark Grey



Stucco Mix



**T-10
Turntable**



T250 Assembled Turntable

- T10: 12" Turntable
- T250: Assembled Turntable
- ET250: Wired Turntable

A Dollhouse for your Dollhouse



6452M: Cherrydale Mini

6448M: Kiwi Mini



DH

A Doghouse for your Dollhouse

Wallpaper

P2000
HH444



RGT5
Porch
Post



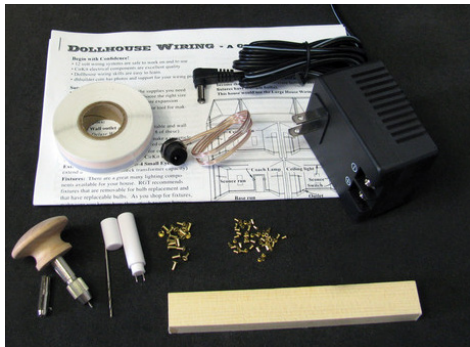
Trim and Stripwood

Flute24 

SW16 

RGT8
Spindle 

SW16



#6888

Real Good Toys' Best!
Dollhouse Wiring Set



E226



E225



E224

Tapewire or Roundwire powered
"Light-It-Up" LED Lighting

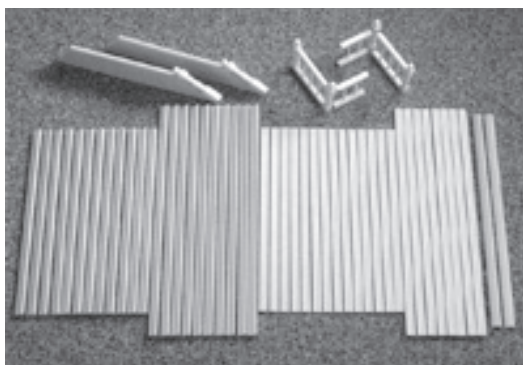
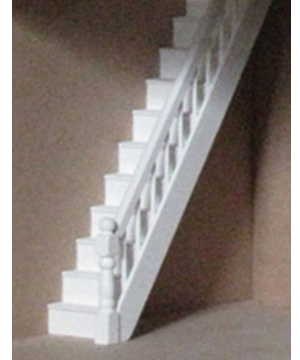
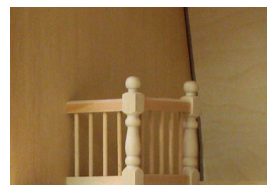
Battery powered LED Lighting



W2301



HW2326



J-FK
Banister/Newel
Turned Landing Rails
Baseboard Molding
Crown Molding

#4017 Pine Stair
and Landing Set
(replaces your kit stairs)

6803 Banister
& Landing Set
(use with your kit stairs)

This kit will accommodate 1" Scale furniture

Tools, Accessories, Supplies, and Miniatures:
visit www.realgoodtoys.com

Overview of the Build:

Details of each step will be expanded along the way, but lots of folks like to see how it all fits together before they start

Identify and label all of the parts
 Preassemble the Foundation, Rear Roof, Stairs, Postbases
 Finish the floors,
 Paint everything* one coat (see page 11)
 Sand everything until the paint is smooth, transparent,
 and some of the wood is showing through
 Build the housebody up to the Roof
 Second-coat the Walls
 Mark, paint, and attach the Roofs
 (don't glue on the Rear Roof yet)
 Optional: Start the wiring
 Foundation
 Install the Dividers
 Optional: Finish the wiring
 Assemble and finish painting everything else
 Finish the Attic - attach the Rear Roof
 Finish the outside
 Finish the inside

*avoid painting grooves, edges, and surfaces that will be glued (like the outside of the roofs)

Wiring? www.realgoodtoys.help

for wiring information specific to this house.

Assembly Tips:

A large, clutter-free, well-lighted work area is helpful during assembly, but a flat work surface is essential.

Read the instructions carefully; look at each of the illustrations. **!With the parts in your hands!**, think the assembly through before you proceed.

Test fit each time you are ready to glue a piece in place...then you'll know you have it right.
 If more tape or a helper is needed, it's good to know that before the parts have glue on them.

Don't be stingy with glue or tape; use generous amounts. Always wipe off excess glue immediately. Keep one damp rag and one dry rag handy all the time. Have weights available for holding things tight as glue joints dry (stacks of books, gallons of pure Vermont Maple Syrup - anything heavy).

Glue the body of your dollhouse together with white, water clean-up glue that dries clear. Do not use instant-bond (super glue), fast-tack, rubber cement, silicone, or hot melt glues. They are all used in some wood applications, but they all have some characteristic that makes them un-desirable for the body of your dollhouse. Carpenter Glue works well, but glue-smear dries yellow or tan; many of the things you glue onto the house are pre-painted – extra glue will show.

I use Aleene's Tacky Glue® for housebody assembly (available at www.realgoodtoys.com).

Make sure everything is straight and flat as glue dries... That's the shape that will be permanent.

Slideshows, demos, useful links, details, and photos are all at:

www.realgoodtoys.help

Glue the shingles on with glue that doesn't have any water in it! If the glue says "water clean-up", it will curl the wooden shingles. Look carefully at the glue you intend to use to be sure it is solvent-based, or use hot-melt glue (use the high temp version and watch out for the burns). I use a "Sub-Floor Adhesive" glue which comes in a caulking-gun tube at the hardware or building supply store. It says "Caution: Flammable" on the front, and that's how I am sure it is *solvent based*. Check ingredients and warnings!

If you Wallpaper, use Grandma Stover's www.realgoodtoys.com or pre-mixed Roman's "Border" paste.

Brush paste on the wallpaper, then the wall, and finally smooth the wallpaper into position.

Taking things apart: Heat softens glue. If you have to take things apart, warm the part in the oven at 170° for up to a half hour to let the heat get into the joint where the glue is. Don't let it get hotter than you can touch or the paint may scorch. Don't heat window panes. www.realgoodtoys.help has more info.

When glue is drying, skip ahead to up-coming assembly steps and prepare the parts that will be used.

Before you begin, read the "Finish the Inside" section at the end of these instructions.

Q: Can I wallpaper before I assemble the doll house?

A: Yes you can (it's your house!) Many experienced builders are advocates of papering before construction - I am not.

My biggest objection to papering first is that you are always too skimpy with glue so none will squeeze out and get on the paper. I try to use the amount of glue that fills the joint, so some will squeeze out in every joint and be wiped up. But wiping glue off of wallpaper leaves a streak, so the temptation is to go skimpy, and the joints aren't as strong.


Second, I can always tell a house that was pre-papered because the corners show a void instead of being continuous (see the slideshows about how to crowd the papers together in the corner... you can't do that with pre-papered walls).

Third, I have had to replace paper too often that has gotten damaged by glue or tape during construction... that wastes time and paper (\$) and can make it so you are left deciding whether to replace a damaged paper or letting it slide because you don't have any more of that pattern and you'll have to order it and that takes too much time (running out but then needing another piece is a distressing moment).

Finally, I don't find pre-papering to be faster. By the time I have done all of the extra planning that getting the papers in the right place requires, I have used up any potential advantage. I have great big blacksmith's hands, and papering in a finished house is easy for me.

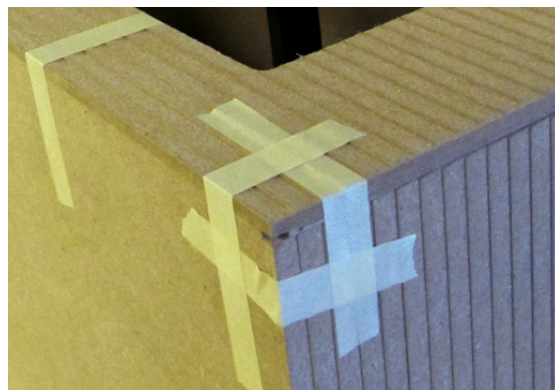
All that having been said, I do pre-cut the papers used in the attic before attaching the Roofs.

Masking tape is a great universal puller for dollhouse assembly, here's how to get the best out of it:

- Use a sticky yellow tape*, not the easy-to-remove painter's tape. Look for "high tack" on the label.
- Use enough tape* so you can start a distance from the joint and rub down several inches on the end, then...
- Stretch* the tape as you pull it across the joint.  *Rub* the tape down so it will remain tight while the glue dries.
- For more pull*, put on two thicknesses at the same time, or even three.

Wood always reacts to uneven moisture from paint or from having one surface exposed to the open air and the other facing a table top. It is part of the dollhouse builder's art to straighten reactive wood as you are building, and masking tape is your first and best tool. Many layers of tape will tighten or flatten even the most misbehaving panel, and it's normal to stretch bands of tape all the way around the house to hold the joints tight as the glue dries.

Don't be shy when using masking tape!



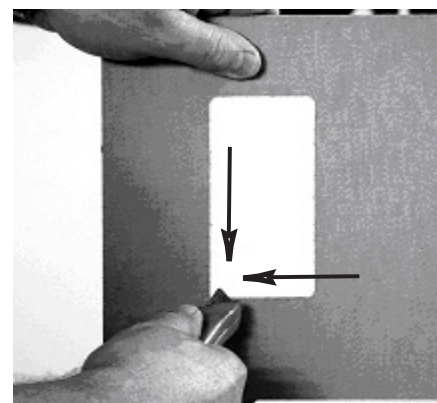
3-way tape on the corners

A: Getting Started: Do these things before the house assembly

Square the corners of the window, door, and stair holes with a utility knife - each cutout has a rounded corner left over from the tool that made it. Make two cuts in each corner from the outside (one from each direction), then cut from each direction on the inside to cut away the rounding in the corner so the window, door, or stairs will fit.



A Double-Cut Coarse file (item #5408-10 at reagoodtoys.com) is easier for many people to use when squaring the corners. Make several strokes from each direction in each corner and test the Window or Door to see how it fits.



Stain the Shingles: Our pro uses Real Good Toys' Shingle Dye (available at www.realgoodtoys.com or through your Real Good Toys miniature dealer) when dyeing the shingles for this house. Batch dye or stain the shingles several days ahead of time so they will be dry when the time comes to use them (instructions are with the shingle dye).

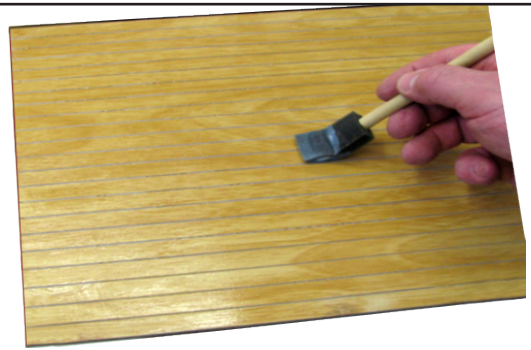


Demos and slideshows are at: www.realgoodtoys.help

Can I do it differently? *Yes you can - but:*

The information on these pages is offered as "best practices" advice, and it is what we do when we build this house. But if you are customizing or have something else in mind, go ahead!... just test-ahead to make sure your planning includes *everything!*

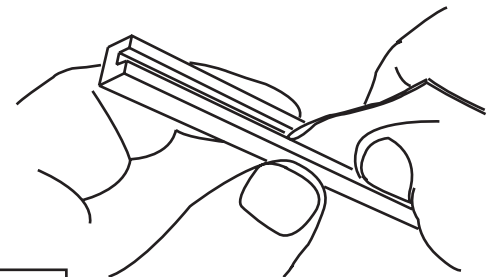
C. Put a finish on the floors now to protect them from the mess and wear-and-tear of construction. *Do not use penetrating stain* on these floors. Use a surface-coating finish like acrylic urethane or a “one-coat” stain + finish like “PolyShades” (polyurethane mixed with stain). Wipe off the first coat completely and, when dry, take off the shine with very fine abrasive (a used scotch-brite pad is ideal), then put on a full thickness second coat. *see “checklist” at www.realgoodtoys.help/B1925.html*



A Railing Assembly demo is available online at www.realgoodtoys.help

1. Rail Assembly

A. 1. Paint (the first coat - see page 11) and sand the Rails before assembly. Wipe any paint out of the grooves, and do not paint the Rail ends at all (wipe the ends to eliminate paint that sneaks around the corner). Paint the Ballusters.



Paint (one coat) and Sand the Rails and Ballusters

2. Sand (320 grit) the Rails and Ballusters. Sand the Rail’s grooves with a folded piece of sandpaper.



Balluster

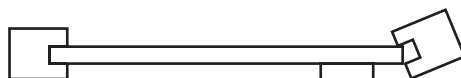
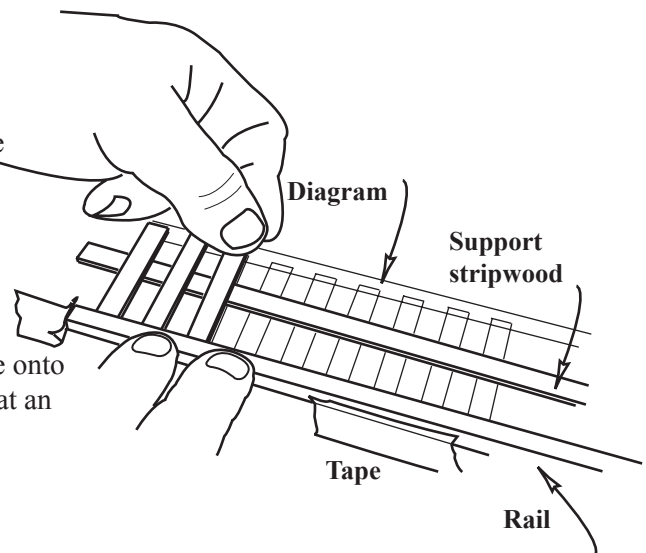
Remove the last page from the instructions - it has a Railing Assembly layout diagram.

B. Assemble the Railing:

1. Set one Rail on the assembly diagram, lined up on each end; tape it in place so it won’t move. Put a dab of glue on a Balluster end, and push it into the groove at a balluster locator on the diagram. Straighten and adjust the Balluster to exactly line up with the diagram, then put in the next Balluster.

Repeat until all the Ballusters are in place. Do a final inspection and adjustment. Let the glue stiffen for a few minutes.

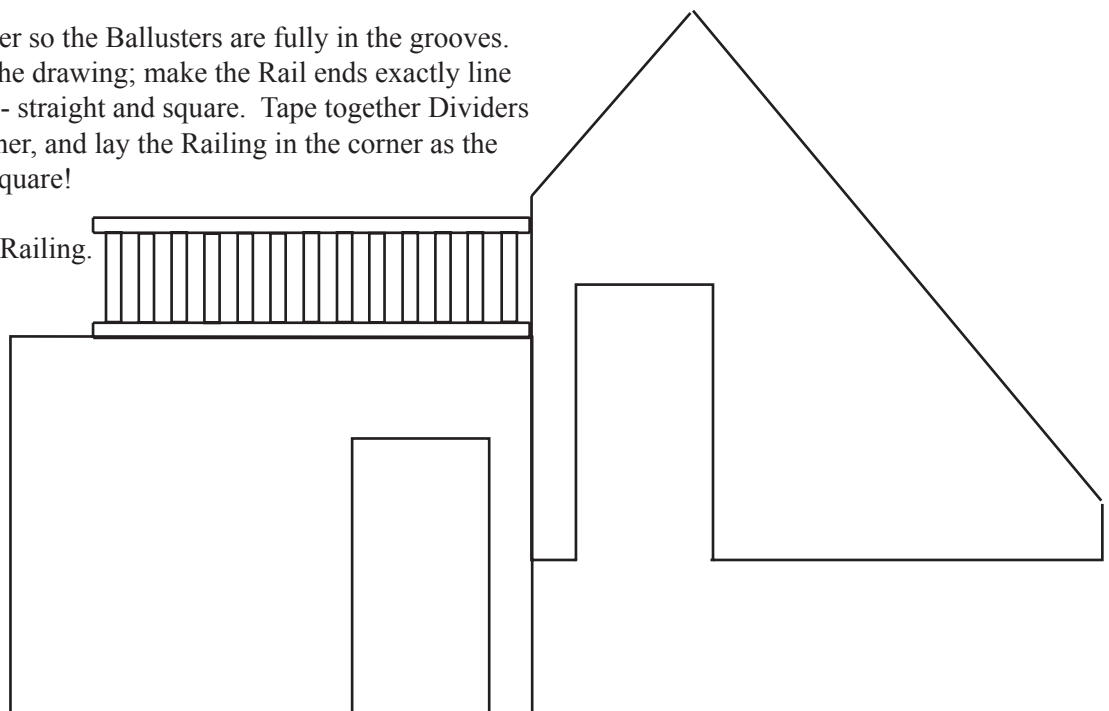
2. Support the Ballusters with a piece of stripwood; dab a little glue onto each Balluster end. Hold the second Rail over the Balluster’s ends at an angle.



Push down and scoop the Ballusters’ ends into the groove.

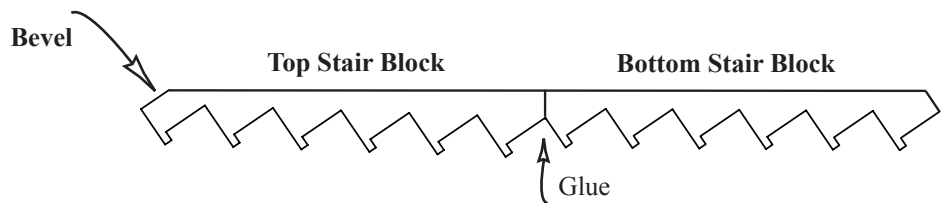
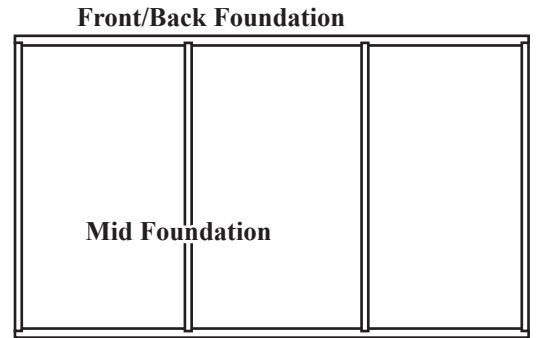
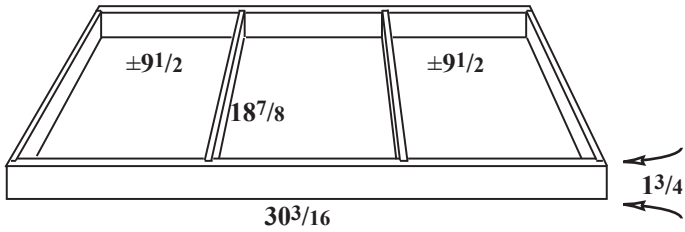
3. Squeeze the Rails together so the Ballusters are fully in the grooves.
 4. Hold the Railing set on the drawing; make the Rail ends exactly line up. Adjust the Ballusters - - straight and square. Tape together Dividers to form a square inside corner, and lay the Railing in the corner as the glue dries - keep the ends square!

C. Paint (second-coat) the Railing.



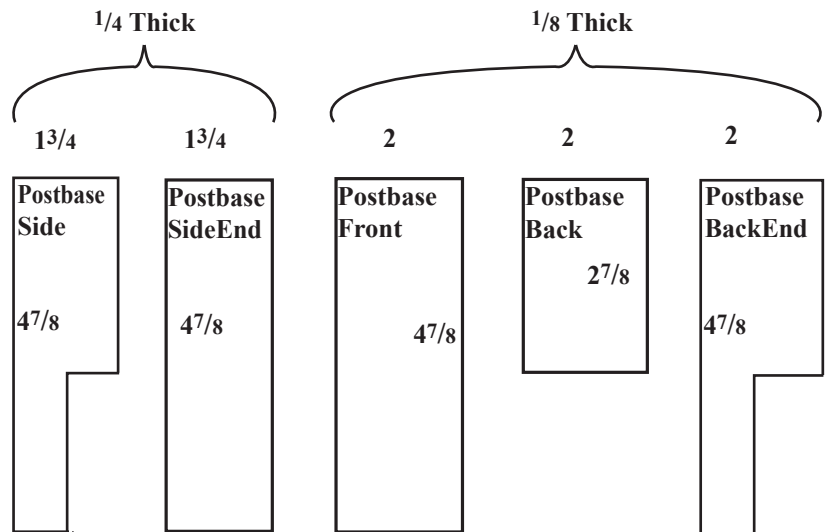
⇒ **2 Foundation.** Glue and tape the Foundation F&B (30³/₁₆"") and Mid Foundations (18⁷/₈"") together.

Tape the Base Floor to the Foundation to hold it square as the glue dries. If you haven't put finish on the Base Floor yet, tape it up-side-down so the tape won't damage the flooring (see "Put finish on the floors now", page 8).



3. Stairs:

Glue and tape together the Stairs.



⇒ **4. Porch Postbases:**

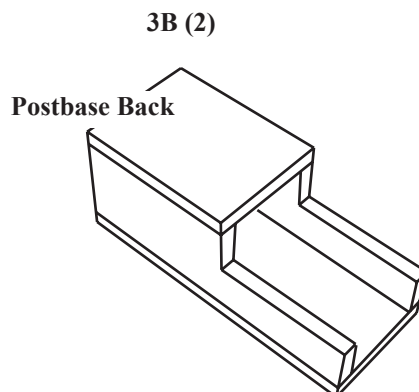
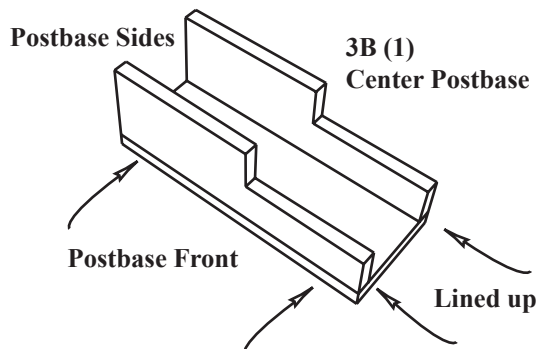
A. Sort the Postbases into these 5 categories:

4B Center Postbase (make two sets):

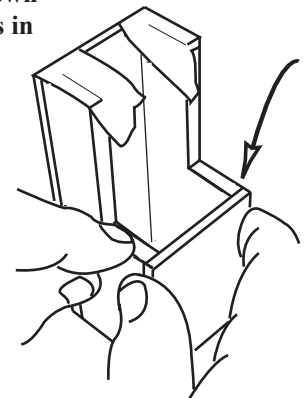
(1) Lay a Postbase Front flat; glue and tape two Postbase Sides to it, lined up on the edges.

(2) Glue and tape a Postbase Back to the assembly.

(3) Line up the edges and ends, with extra attention to the edges in the cutout.

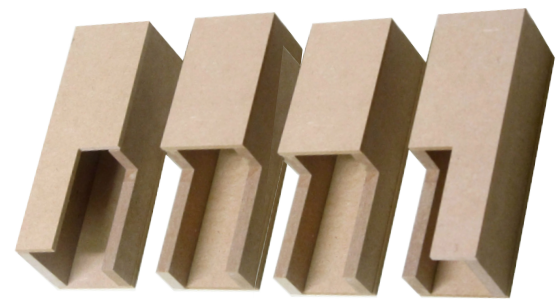


3B (3) up-side-down
Line up the parts in the cutout

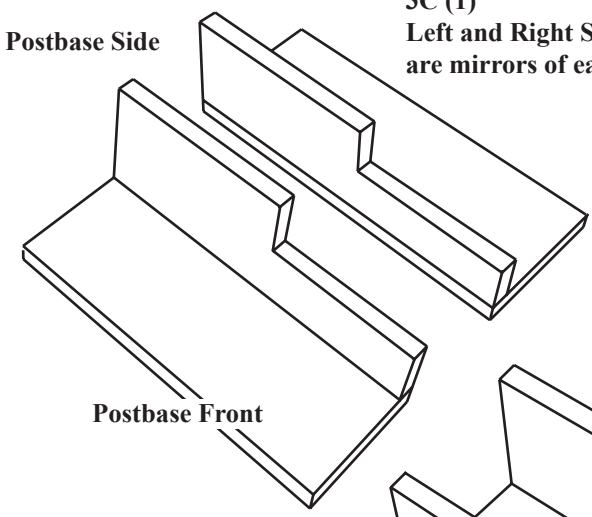
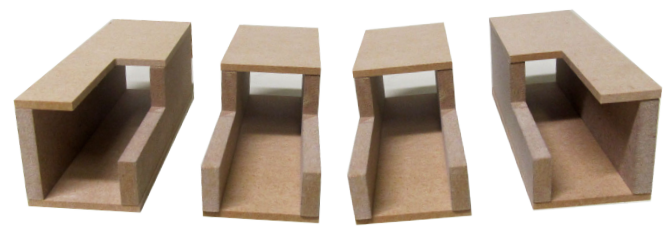


3C End Postbases:

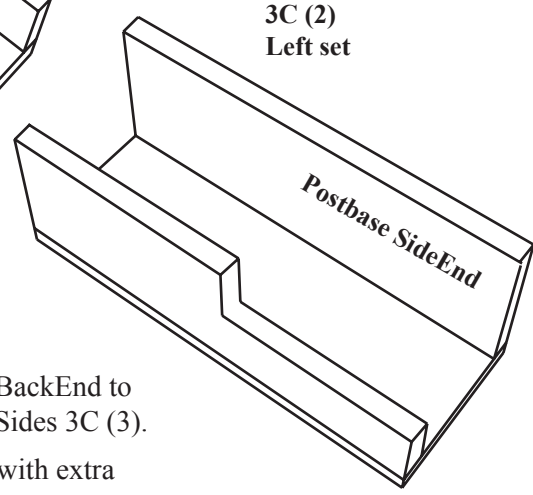
- (1) Lay two Postbase Fronts flat, glue and tape one Postbase Side to each, lined up on opposite edges to make one left set and one right set.
- (2) Glue and tape a Postbase SideEnd to each assembly.



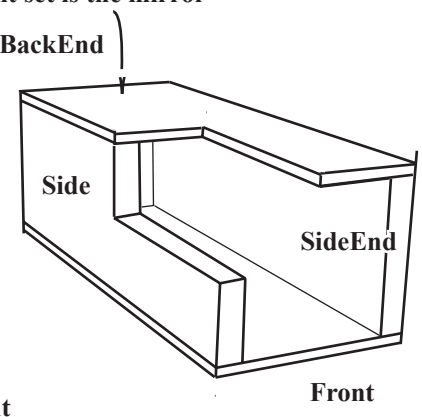
3C (1)
Left and Right Sets
are mirrors of each other



3C (2)
Left set



3C (3) Left Set viewed from the bottom
Right set is the mirror



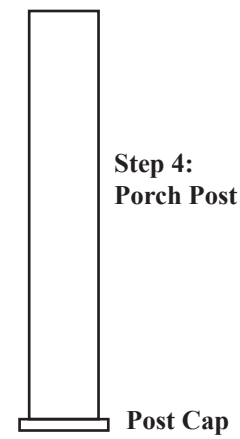
- (3) Glue and tape the Postbase BackEnd to the back edges of the Postbase Sides 3C (3).
- (4) Line up the edges and ends with extra attention to the edges in the cutout. Let the glue dry, then paint the Postbases.

Note... gluing errors can be un-done without damage: see "taking things apart" page 6.

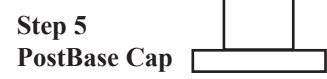
Texture Paint: Real Good Toys' "Stucco Grit" mixed with paint is tough and good looking on Foundations, Postbases, and the Front Step Block. Paint (one coat) the base color and sand now, and apply the paint + grit during final assembly.

- ⇒ 4. Glue the Porch Posts to Post Caps, centered. Pro tip: I usually paint the Porch Post and Post Caps the same color, so I paint them (one coat) first, sand them, glue them together, and paint them again (second-coat).

Review the Post options on page 19 before committing to step 5 for all your Porch Posts



- 5. Glue the Porch Posts to PostBase Caps, centered. Look from every angle to make sure the Posts are straight.



Painting: www.RealGoodToys.help has painting and sanding videos

A word about primer: Primer is designed to help paint stick to an impervious surface or to join layers of dissimilar paints. In *this* application, the first coat of paint soaks right into the wood and fills the grain - you *could* do that with primer, but its job of being an interface between different materials doesn't apply here. In *this* application, primer just adds steps and expense. I don't use it under exterior colors, but I *do* one-coat and sand the interior walls and ceilings before assembly, and primer (or any light colored paint) is a good choice for that.

Paint the parts the first coat. The first coat mostly soaks into the wood, filling and reinforcing the grain so the sanding step clips off the fibers and leaves the surface smooth. Resist sanding before painting - it will leave the surface fuzzy and make a smooth finish harder to achieve. The quality of your final finish is dependent on the quality of the sanding after the first coat. Do not go back to re-paint just because the paint has soaked in. Just a bit of paint left on the surface tells you you have put on enough to saturate the grain, which is the right amount. More paint than that will only make sanding harder.

Glue doesn't stick well to paint. Avoid painting edges, grooves, and areas that will be glued.

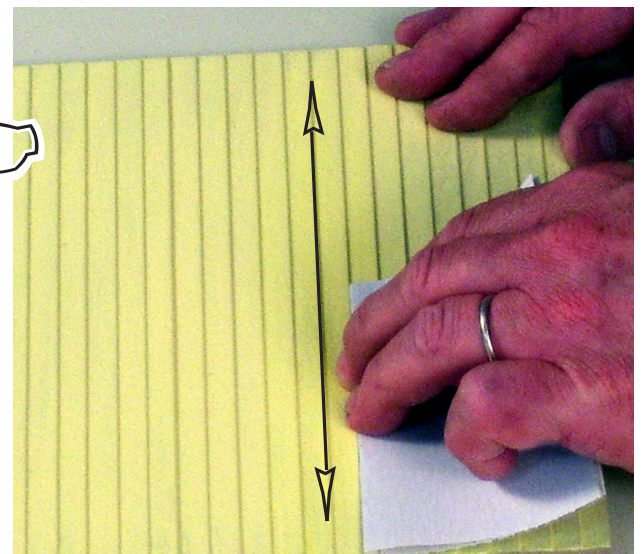
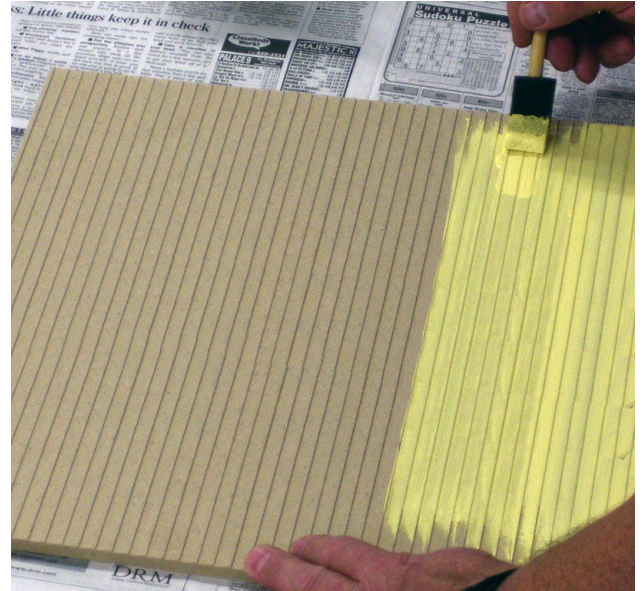
Paint the walls on both faces. Paint the Upper Floor on the bottom face (the ceiling).
Paint the Trim on one face and both edges.

Sand everything. Sand until the paint is smooth and "soft" feeling, transparent, and some of the wood is showing through. Sand the Clapboard one-clapboard-surface-at-a-time. Fold the sandpaper and sand back and forth until the surface of that board is smooth and transparent; then move on to the next board. Fold the sandpaper as needed to keep it fresh.

Paint the second coat. The Second coat for the outside of the Walls should be done after assembly of the housebody and before attaching the Roof. The second coat goes on smooth and creamy with enough paint on the brush so it is quiet while you are brushing the paint out, but not enough to leave puddles or drips.

Clean the edges and grooves before assembly. A little paint always builds-out the corner of an edge or groove and will make assembly harder and the glue joint less strong. Test the Floors in their grooves to see that they fit well.

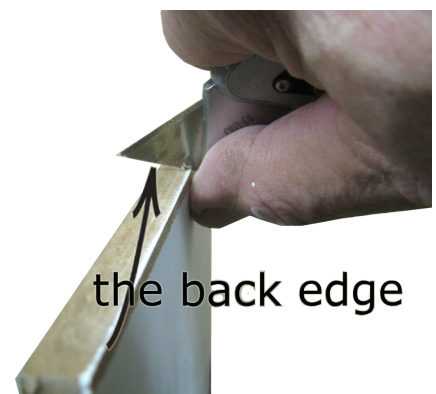
Do not stack painted parts - even when they feel dry they will stick and damage each other. Keep them spread out or separate them with waxed paper.



Cleaning a groove with a Cabinet Scraper



Cleaning a groove with a knife



the back edge

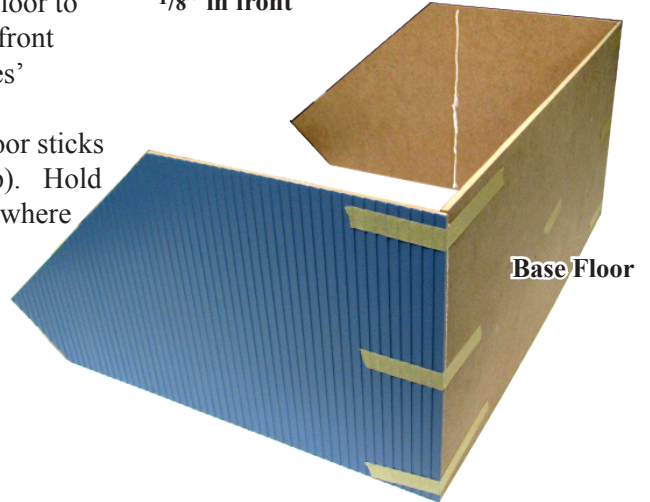
Cleaning an edge with the back of a utility knife blade

☐ 6. Complete all of step 6 without stopping.
 A. Spread glue in the grooves of both Sides. Tape the Base Floor to the Sides, lined up in back (down) the floor sticks out 1/8" in front (up). Make sure the Floor is all the way to the top of the Sides' grooves.

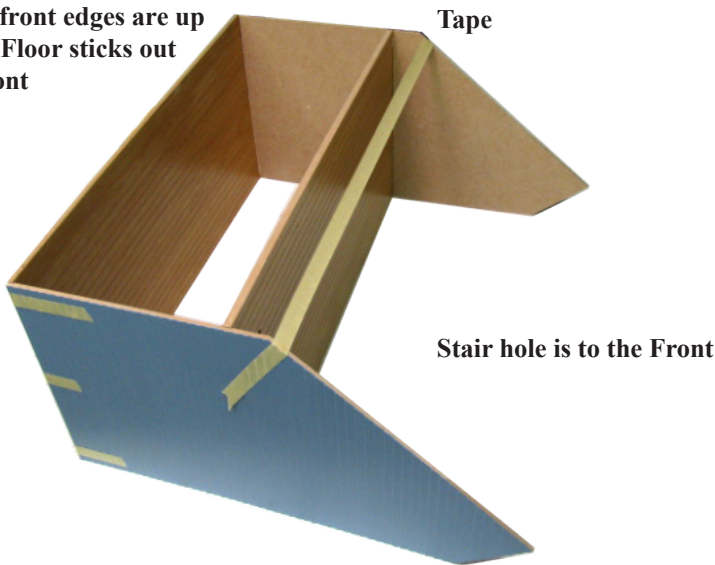
B. Set the Mid Floor into the grooves lined up in back (the floor sticks out 1/8" in front), and with the stairhole closer to the front (up). Hold the Sides tight onto the Mid Floor with a piece of tape above where the Front will attach (on the sloped part) so the tape won't be in the way.

C. Glue and tape the Groove-Fill into the exposed groove within the stairhole.

**Step 6A: front edges are up
 The Base Floor sticks out
 1/8" in front**



**Step 6B: front edges are up
 The Mid Floor sticks out
 1/8" in front**

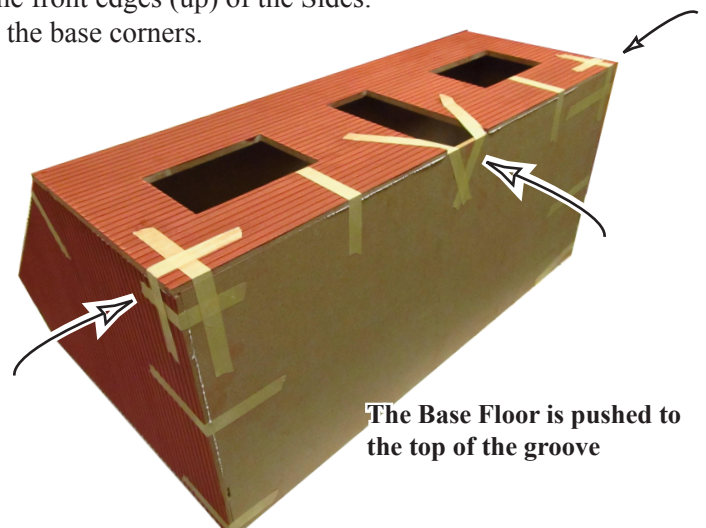
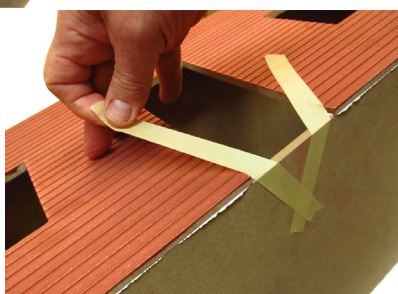
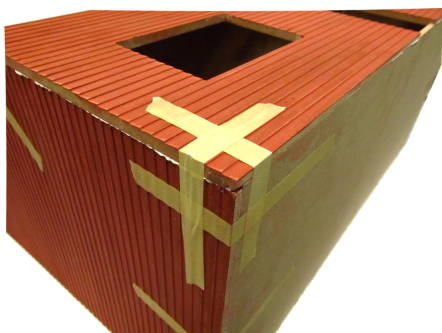


Step 6C: Groove Fill



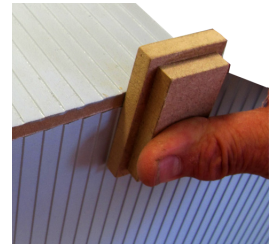
Note: if the Groove-Fill is too tight to slip into the groove, turn the house on its side and use a hammer and block (Front Step) to tap it in.

☐ 6 D. Spread glue in the grooves of the Front and on the front edges (up) of the Sides.
 (1) Set the Front on the housebody lined up side-to-side at the base corners. Tape the Front to the housebody along the base.



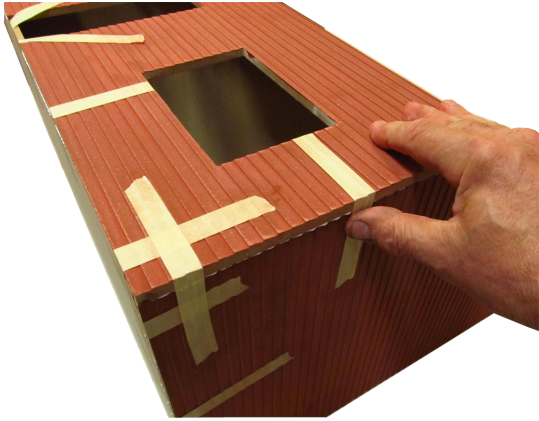
Step 6D: Line up the Front side-to-side; tape along the bottom.

6 D. (2) Flex the housebody side-to-side as necessary to make it line up with the edges of the Front (hold a block on the edges to confirm a good fit). Tape the Front to the Sides.
 (3) Stand the housebody upright. Tape across the top of the Front around the back edge of the floor and back thru the window and door openings.



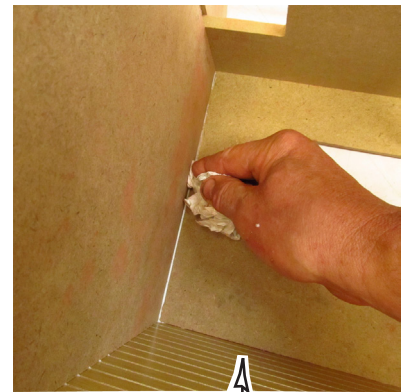
Chimney Caps help see when the side is lined up

Line up and tape along both sides



Tape all the way around the back

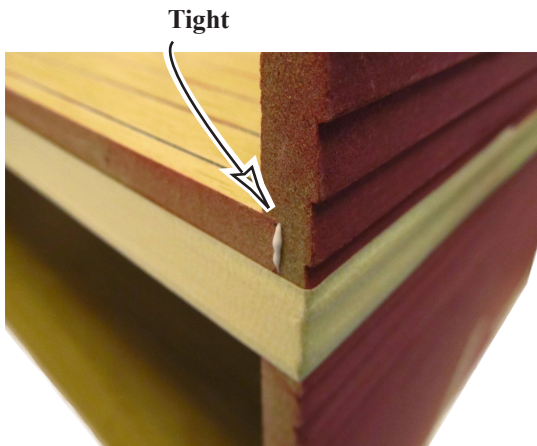
6 E. At the back of the housebody, Tape the Base Floor up to hold it tight to the top of the groove. Inspect the Base Floor to confirm it is at the top of the groove all the way around.



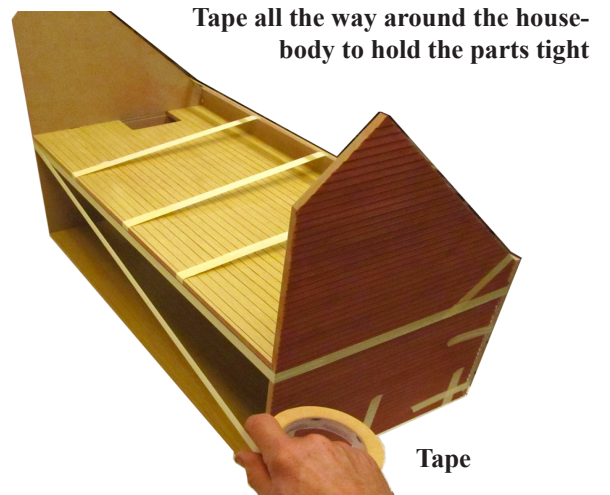
Base Floor is at the top of the groove

Clean up the glue squeezings

6 F. Tape all the way around the housebody at the Mid Floor to pull the joints tight. On this model I stretched 3 bands all the way around, stretching the tape each time I went around a corner.



Tight

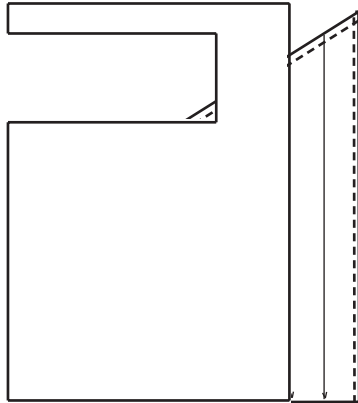
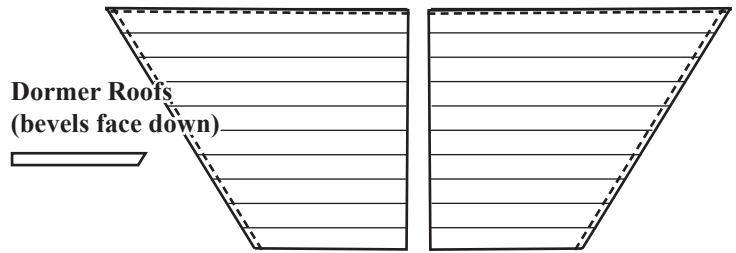


Tape all the way around the housebody to hold the parts tight

Tape

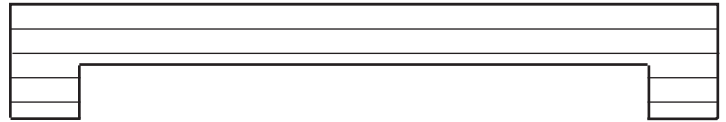
Let the glue dry

⇒ 7 Draw Shingle Guidelines spaced 1" apart, starting from the top of each roof. Look at the drawings to identify the outside of the Roofs (a dotted line shows a beveled edge that faces down).

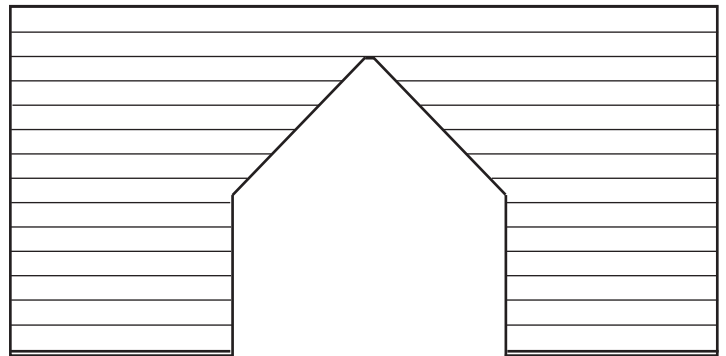


Stand the Dormer Roofs on their front edges and use a Divider to extend the marks for shingle lines.

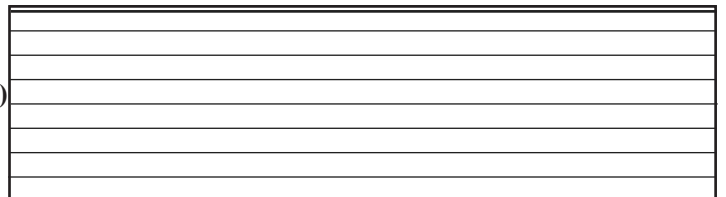
Rear Roof



Front Roof

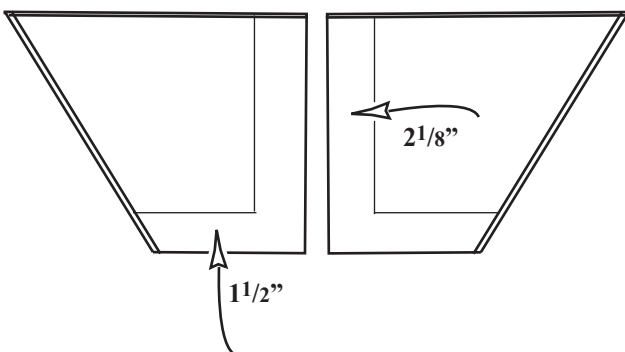
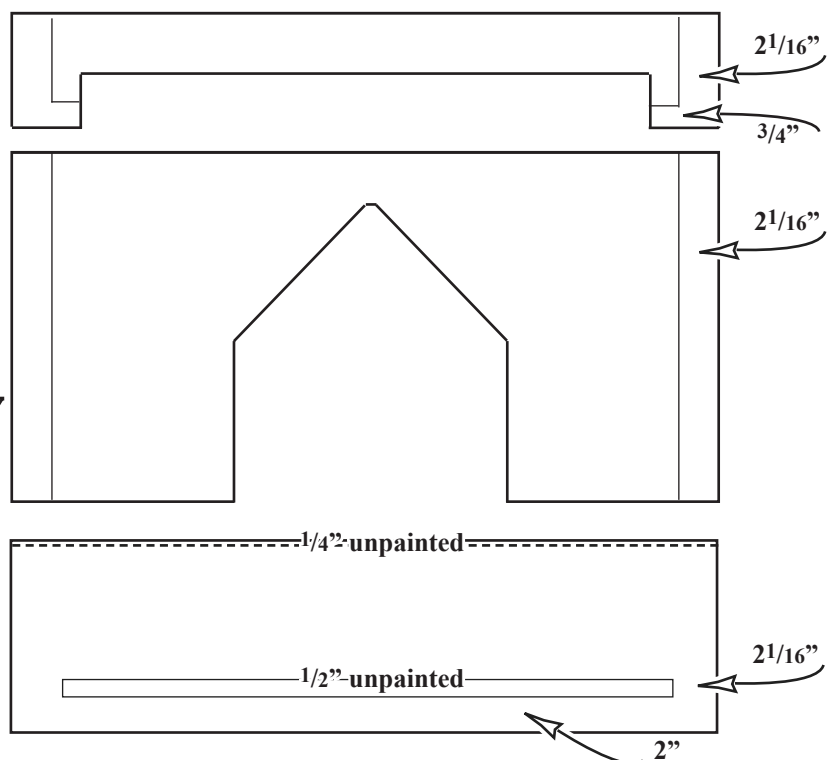


Porch Roof (bevel faces up)

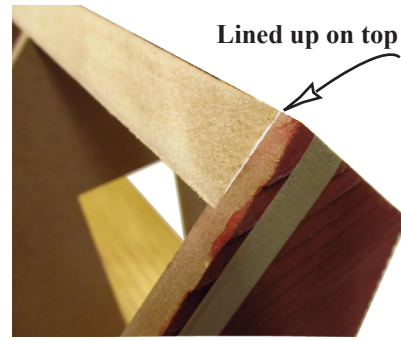
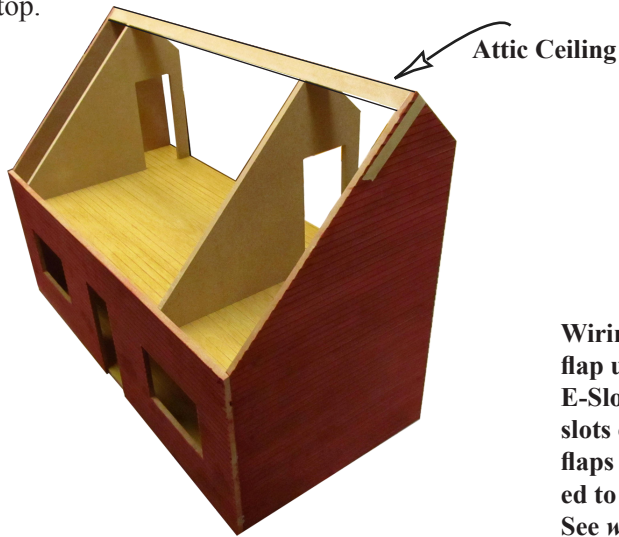


⇒ 8 Turn the Roofs over and draw painting guidelines spaced from the edges as shown. Paint to the lines (leave the lines visible). Note: these are guidelines for the eave paint (outside of the walls). For ceiling paint, draw a second guideline 1/4" inside the first (see below).

Pro Tip: Paint the interior ceilings with one coat, and sand them now. Leave about 1/4" unpainted for gluing the Roof to the Walls. Sand until the paint gets transparent and the wood begins to show thru (this allows Dividers to be glued in). Paint the second coat after assembly is done.

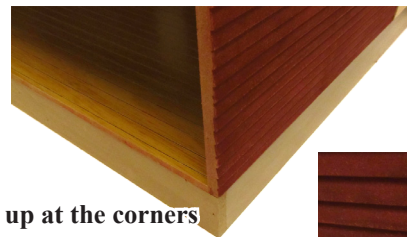
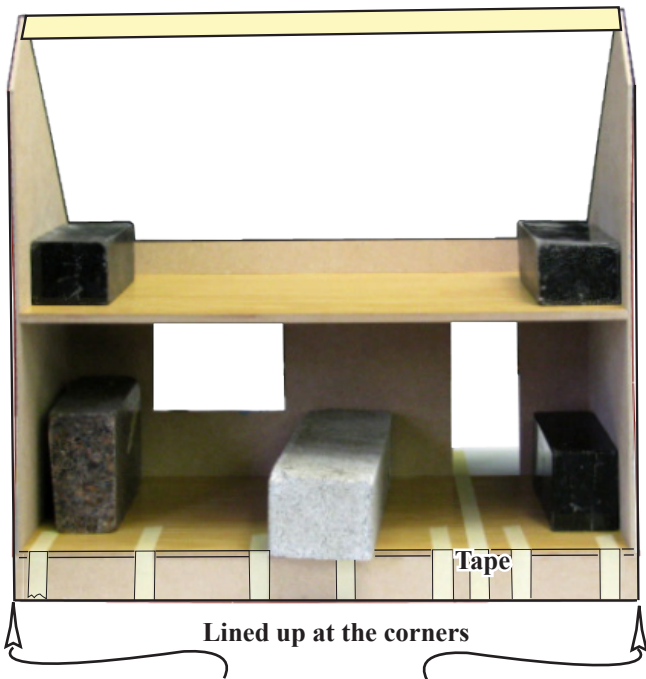


9. Glue and tape the Attic Ceiling to the Sides, lined up on top.

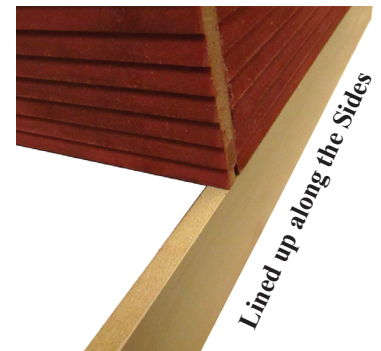


Wiring? Now is the easiest time to lay a "main loop". Leave a 2" flap under the Basefloor and lay tapewire up the Side (using the E-Slots) across the underside of the Attic Ceiling, down thru the E-slots on the other side, and leave another flap underneath. These flaps will stick to the inside of the Foundation and will be connected to the Power Jack (Kit #6888, the 'Best1' wiring set). See www.realgoodtoys.help

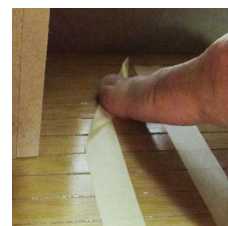
10A. Glue, tape, and weight the Housebody to the Foundation, lined up at the back corners, and along both sides.



Lined up at the corners

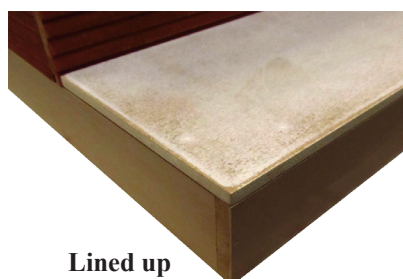


Lined up along the Sides

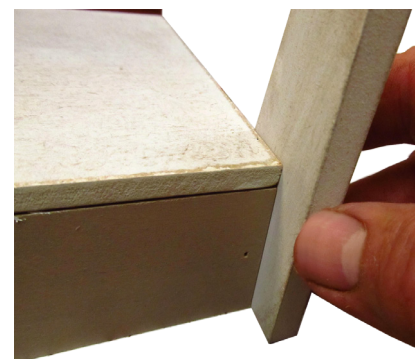


When removing tape from flooring: roll the tape off sideways, don't yank it off

10B. Glue, tape, and weight the Porch Floor to the Foundation, lined up at the front corners and along the sides.



Lined up

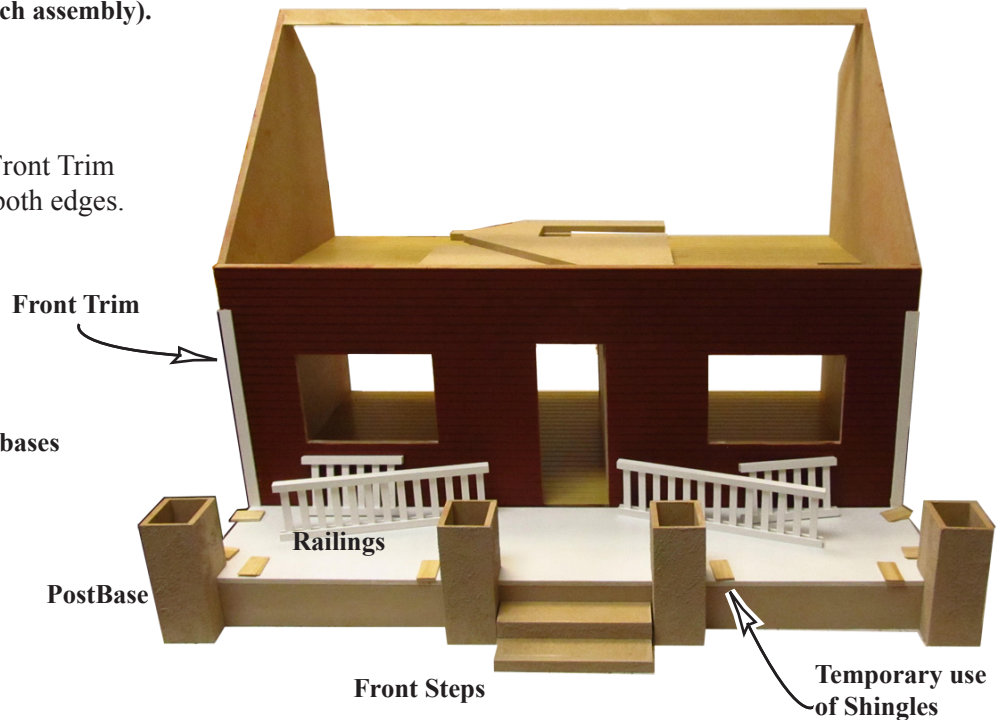


Let the glue dry

Everything that you attach to the house assembly from now on should be fully painted (except for texture paint... that will be applied during the Porch assembly).

- 11. Glue and Tape the Front Trim (3/32 x 7/16 x 9) to the Front at both edges.

Temporarily set the Postbases in approximate position.



Assemble the Porch: These instructions are customized for stucco/texture paint. The Foundation, the Postbases, and the Steps are painted with one coat only of the paint color with no texture additive, and they are sanded. The Rails, the Post sets, the Arches, and the Porch Beam are painted with two coats. Stucco/texture paint is mixed and ready. Without glue, set up the Porch parts. You may wish to lift the Rails with some shingles.

- 12. Without glue, set the Front Step between the Postbases. Set the Tread in place up-side-down (to “mask” the place on the foundation where it will be glued); Texture paint the Foundation above the Steps - avoid the edge of the Base Floor - Porch Edge Nosing will attach there after everything else is done (keeping the texture paint away from an edge is possible because the first-coat is the same color, so the texture paint only has to *approach* the edge).

Now there is texture paint on the Foundation where it will be visible, and there is no texture paint where the Step or Postbases will glue.

Clean off the bottom of the Tread.

Do not glue the Step to the Foundation yet.



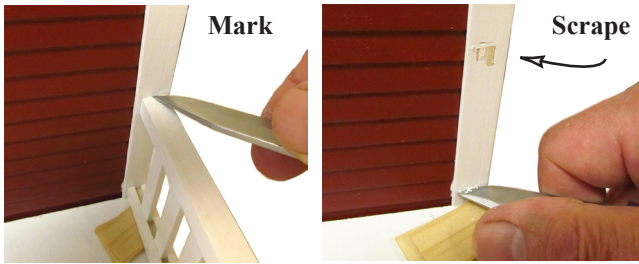
Temporary use of the Steps to mask the Foundation for painting.



Clean residual Stucco from the Tread



Foundation behind the Front Steps

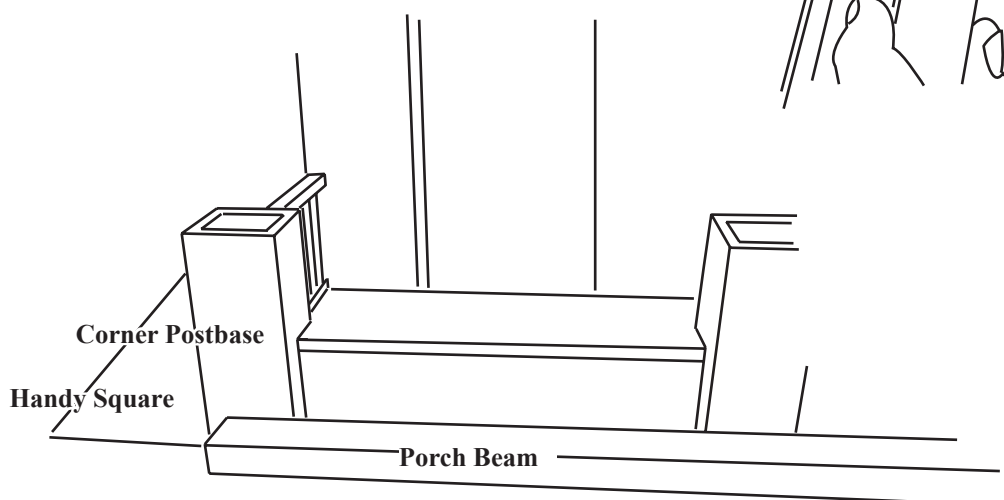
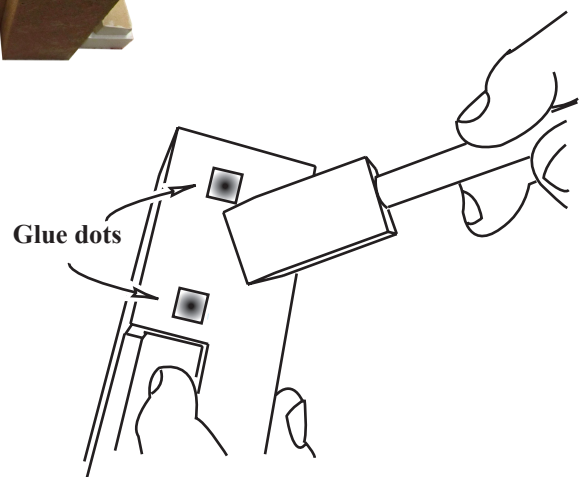
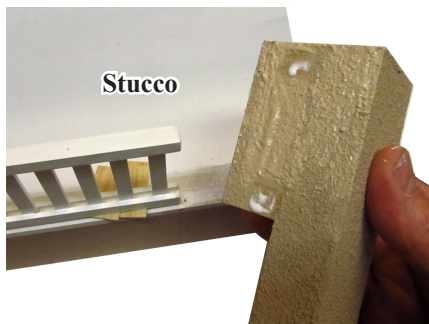
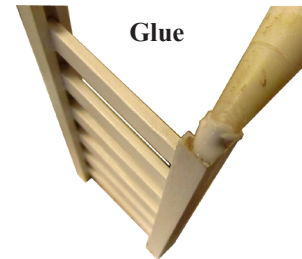
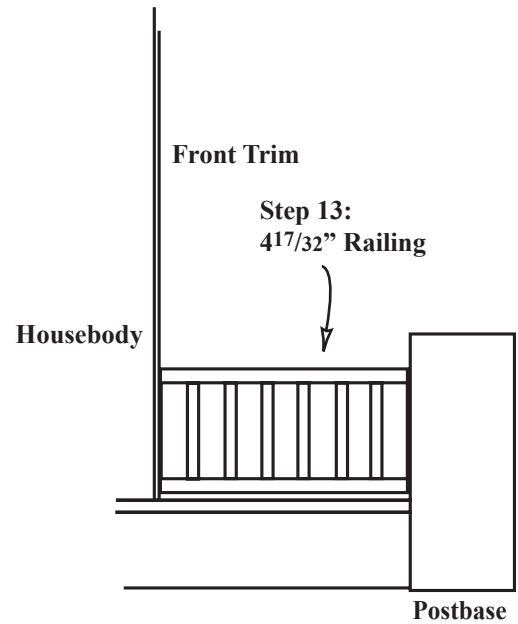


Note: For extra strength in your glue joints on fully painted surfaces, mark where you will be gluing and scrape a spot for the glue to grab inside the joint.

□ 13. On the Left end, glue the 4¹⁷/₃₂" Railing in place about 1/8" from the edge of the floor (and lifted with pairs of shingles if desired). Put glue on both ends of the Railing. Put the Postbase in place so it touches the Railing and gets a dot of glue from each rail.

Texture paint the back and right side of the Postbase but do not texture paint where the glue dots are... the grit in the texture paint will interfere with the rail's glue joint. (You are putting texture paint in places that will be difficult to paint cleanly after assembly, and you are *not* texture painting the left or front edges so you can put the Handy Square and Porch Beam against the Postbase to straighten it... you will paint those surfaces after the glue dries). Glue the Postbase to the Foundation, Porch Floor, and Railing. Straighten the Postbase with Handy Squares and the Porch Beam. Check that the Railing is straight.

Repeat for the right Side Rail and Postbase. Let the glue dry.



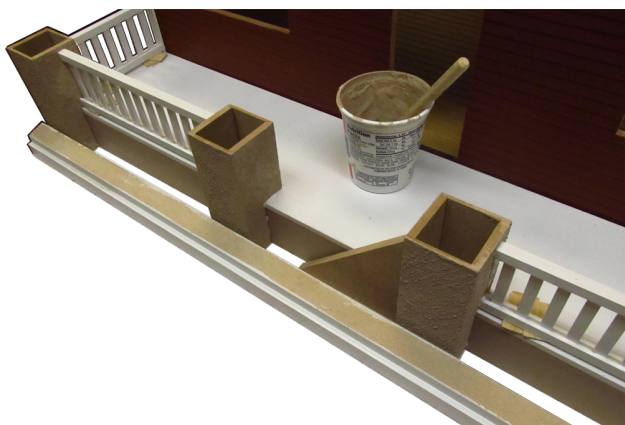
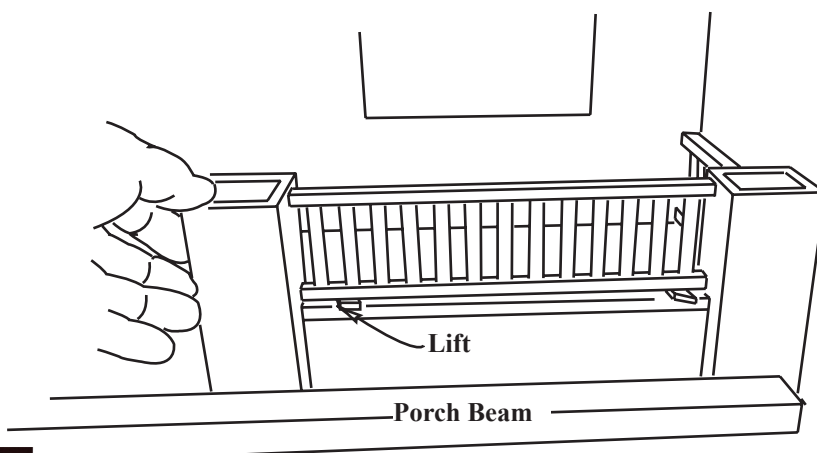
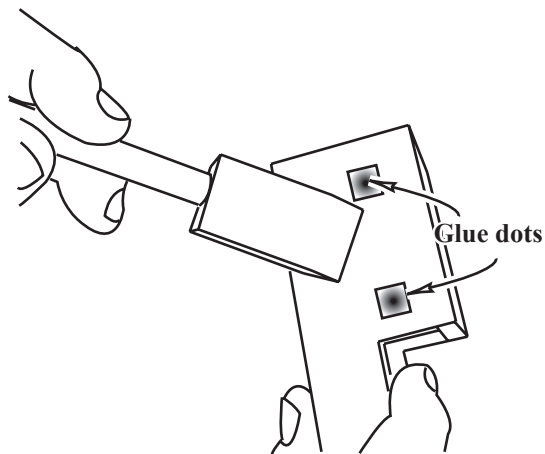
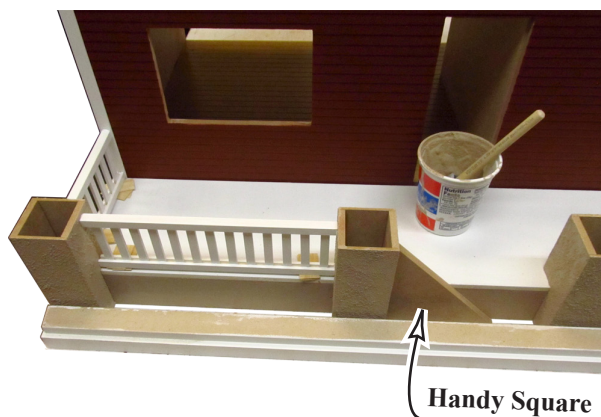
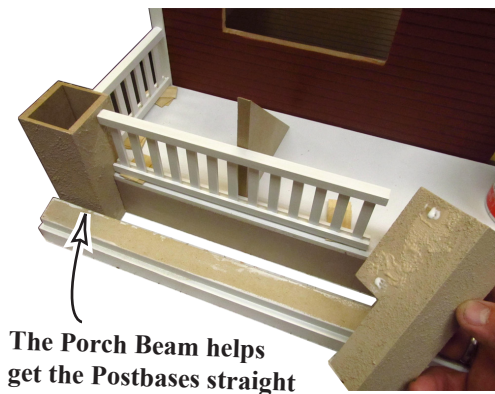
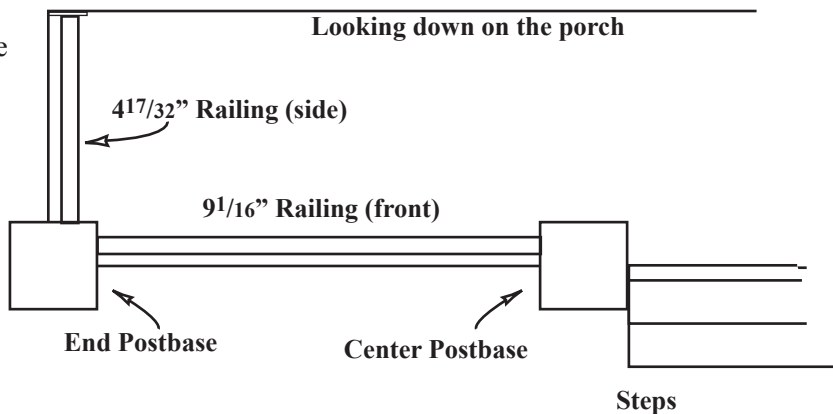
□ 14. Repeat the *glue-dot, paint, and glue* process for the Front Railings and Center Postbases.

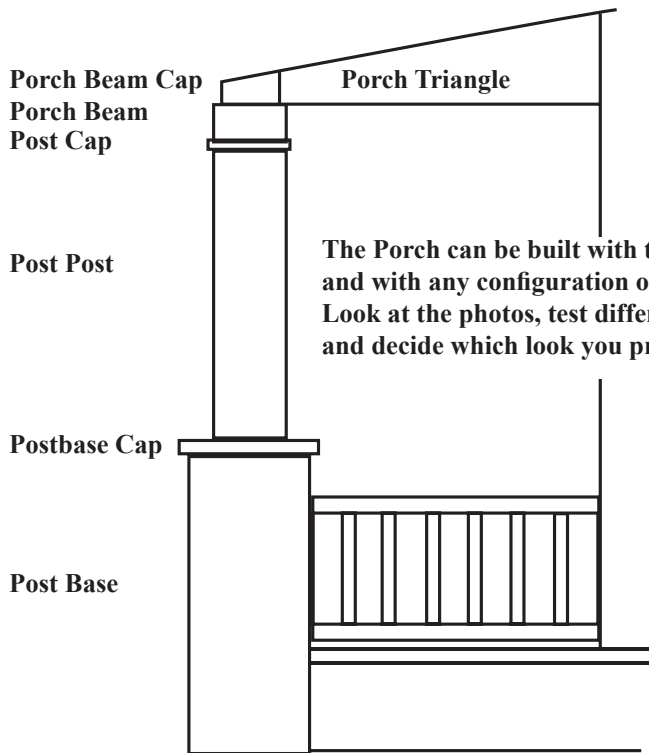
Straighten the Postbases with Handy Squares and the Porch Beam. Make sure the Postbases are tight on the Railings, tight on the Porch, straight, and square.

Straighten the Railings.

Let the glue dry.

Finish painting the Postbases and Foundation.



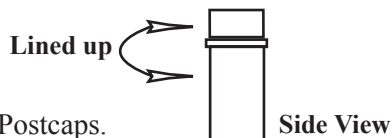


The Porch can be built with two Posts or four, and with any configuration of Arches you wish. Look at the photos, test different arrangements, and decide which look you prefer.

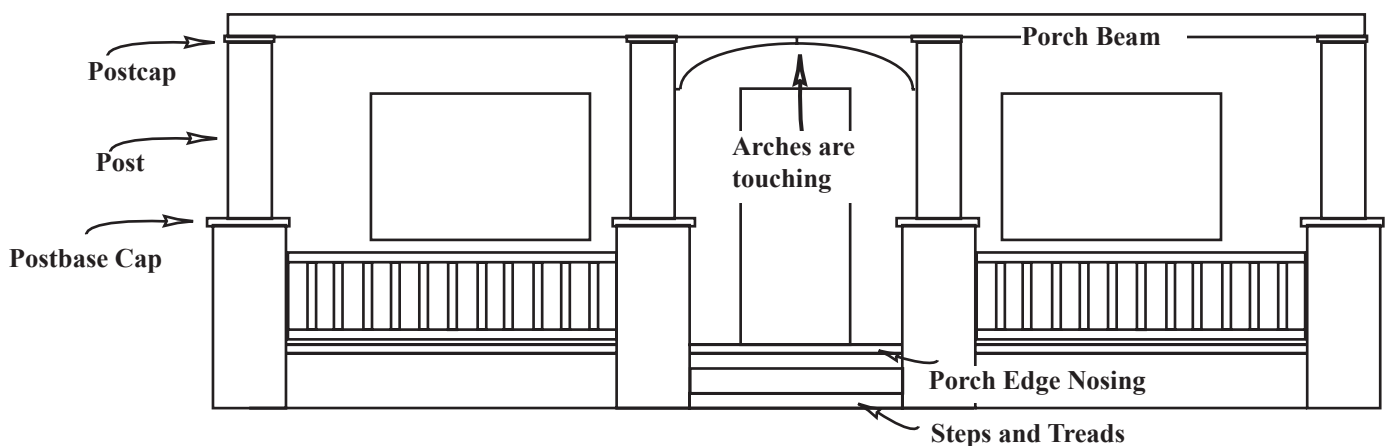
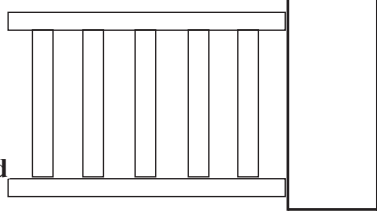


- 15A. Glue the Porch Post assemblies to the Postbases, centered and straight. Glue the Steps, Treads, and Porch Edge Nosing in place. Finish painting the Foundation.

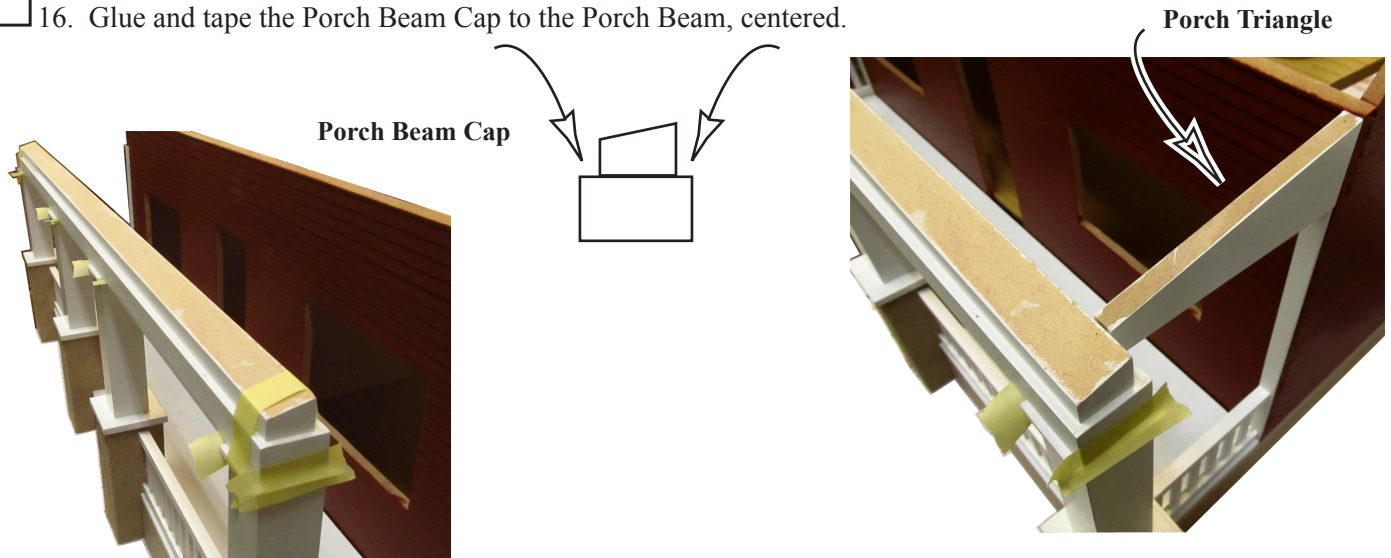
- 15B. Glue the Porch Beam to the Postcaps. Temporarily tape two Arches between the Center Posts (if used). The Arches are the guide for spacing the Center Posts. Center the Postcaps under the Porch Beam. Let the glue dry.



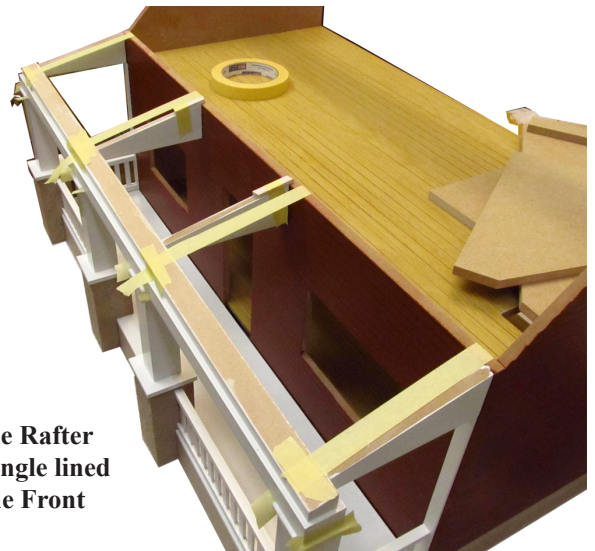
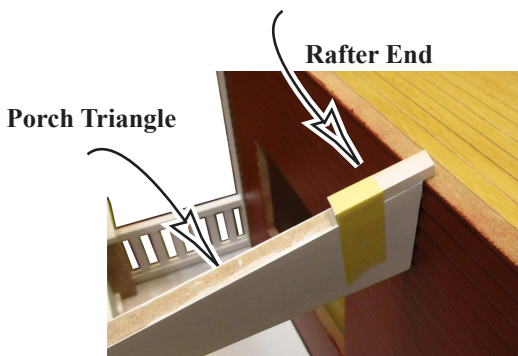
The Porch Beam and Post lines up on the end



- 16. Glue and tape the Porch Beam Cap to the Porch Beam, centered.



- 17. A. Glue and tape Porch Triangles to the Porch Beam and Cap, and to the Front, lined up with the house side on each end. B. Tape a Rafter End to the top of the other two Porch Triangles, sticking out at the back. Glue these two Porch Triangles to the Porch Beam and Cap, and to the Front, lined up and centered behind the Posts.



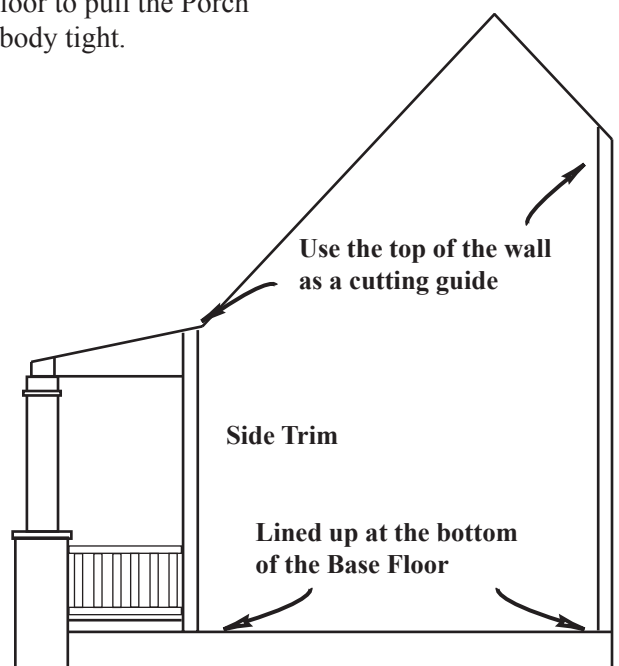
Temporary use of the Rafter End to hold the Triangle lined up with the top of the Front

17. C. Tape from in front of the Porch Beam to the back surface of the Front, or all the way to the back of the Floor to pull the Porch Beam and Cap, the Triangles, and the housebody tight.

- 18. Hold 19" Side Stripwood against the Side, lined up at the back edge and lined up with the bottom of the Base Floor. Use the top of the Attic Endwall as a cutting guide - cut the Stripwood with a fine-tooth saw (like the X-Acto razor saw).

Hold 137/32" Side Stripwood against the Side lined up with the front edge. Use the top edges of the Front and Side as a guide: cut the Stripwood to fit.

Repeat for the other side. Glue and tape the Side Trim to the Sides.



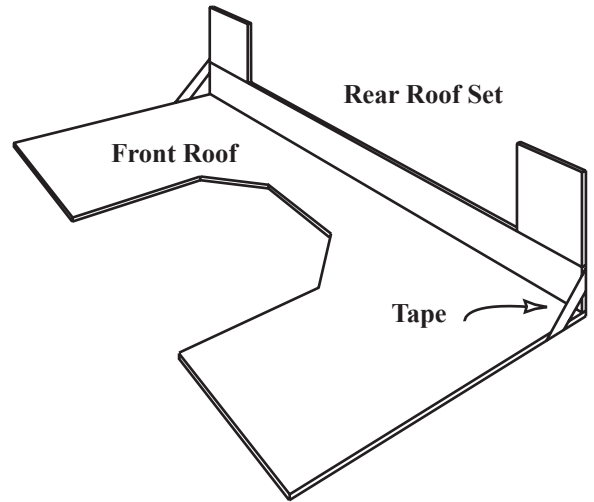
Let the glue dry - take off the tape.

19 A. Glue and tape together the Front Roof and the Rear Roof set - the Front Roof overlaps the Rear Roof.

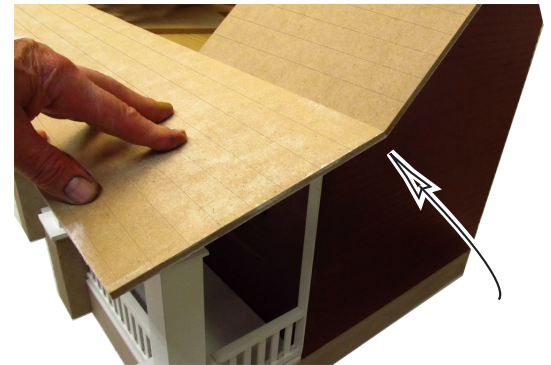
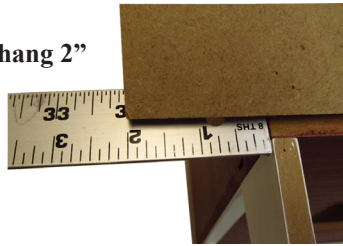
Note: Wallpapering in the Attic is tight. Pre-cut your wallpaper now or make a template for cutting the paper later.

B. Set the Divider within the 1st floor. Put the Attic Dividers in place, making sure they are pressed all the way forward. Glue and tape the Roofs to the housebody, centered side-to-side (2").

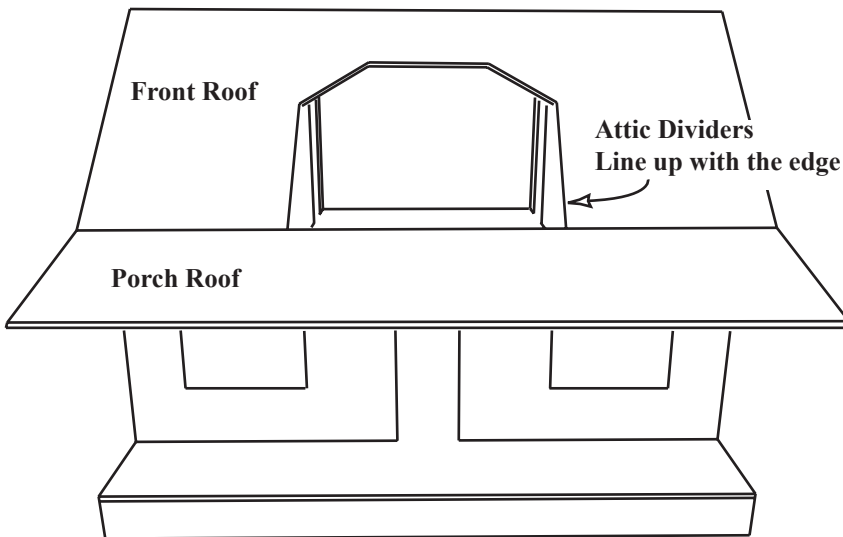
C. Glue, tape, and weight the Porch Roof to the housebody, the Front Roof, the Porch Triangles, and the Porch Beam Cap.



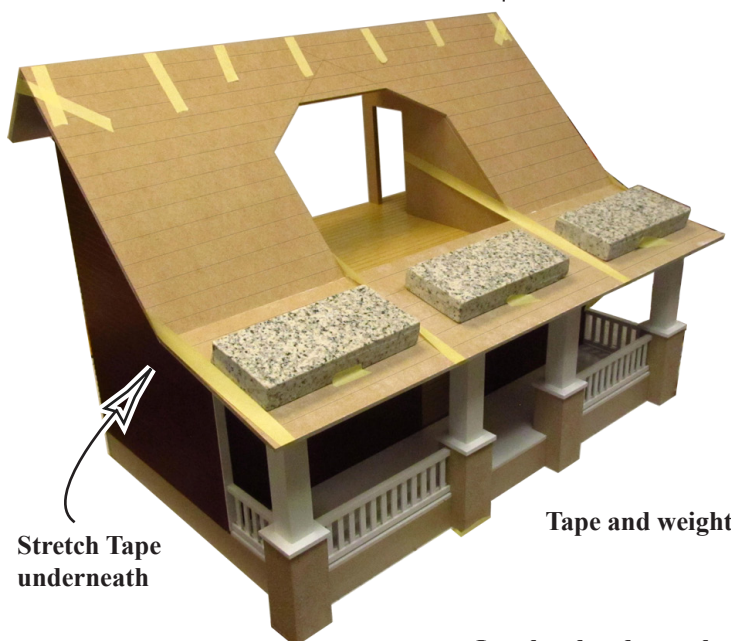
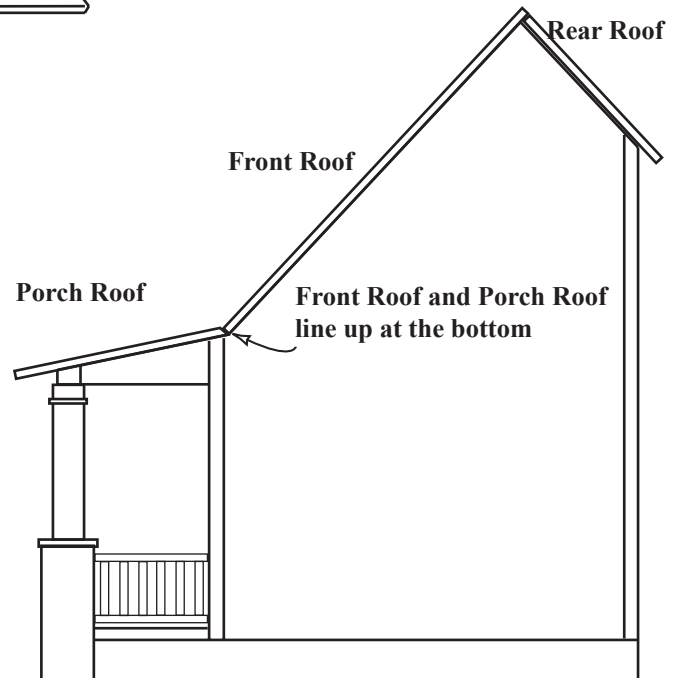
The Roofs overhang 2"



The Porch Roof's beveled edge faces up

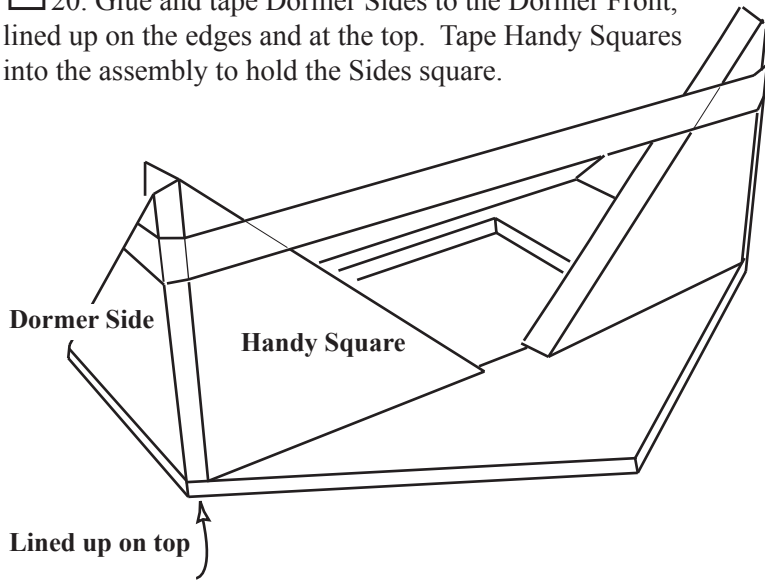


Inspect from inside to make sure everything is tight.

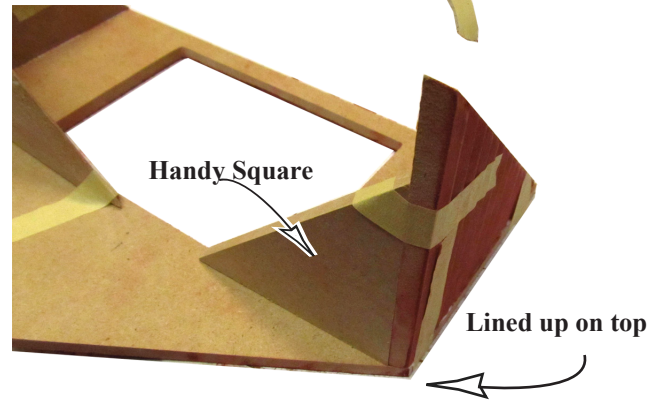
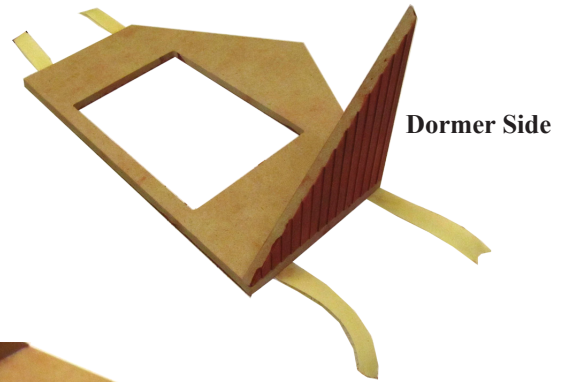


Let the glue dry - take off the tape.

⇒ 20. Glue and tape Dormer Sides to the Dormer Front, lined up on the edges and at the top. Tape Handy Squares into the assembly to hold the Sides square.

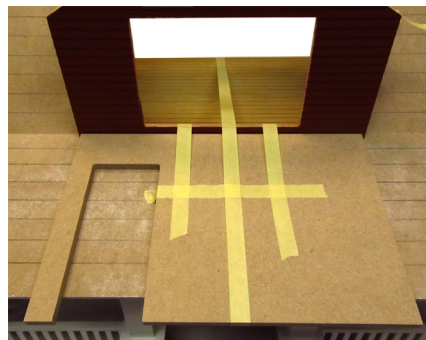
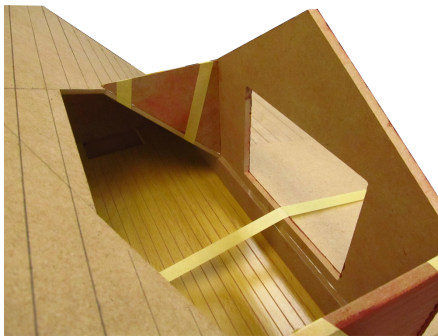


Prepare flaps of tape



Let the glue dry - take off the tape.

21. Glue and tape the Dormer to the house, lined up on the inside.

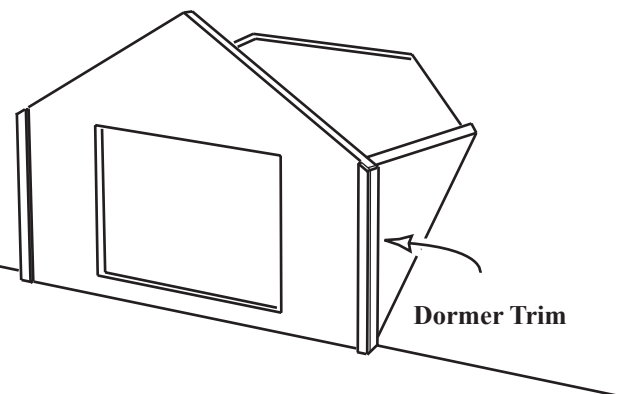


view from the top

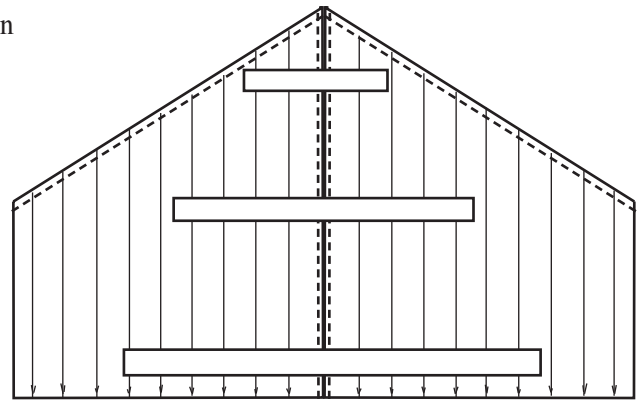
This Dormer Front had a curve from the moisture of painting. I used a Divider both to pull the Dormer Front against the Roof, and to hold it straight while the glue dried. Once the glue was dry 'straight' became permanent.

22. Cut Dormer Vertical Trim from the "Side Stripwood" (3/16 x 7/16). Cut the Side Trim first, then the Front Trim. Leave a gap at the bottom for shingles (2 thicknesses of shingles) so you won't have to cut the shingles to go around the Trim

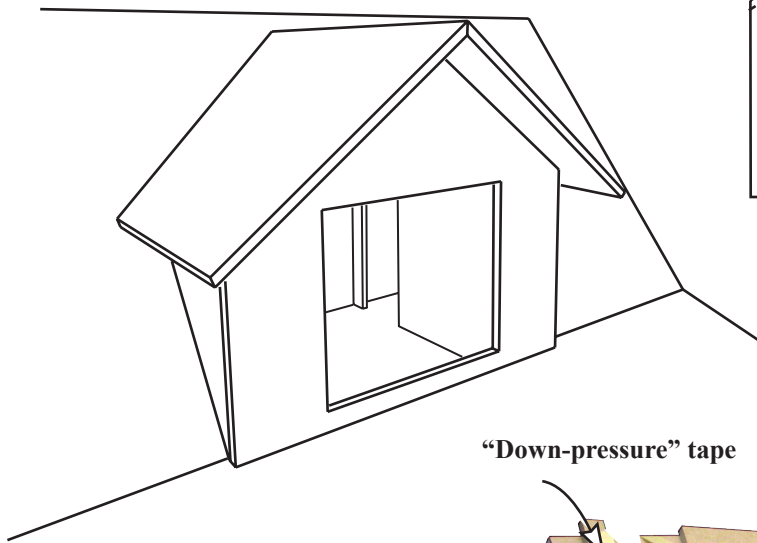
Glue and tape the Trim in place.



23. Tape together the Dormer Roofs at the peak. Test them in place on the Dormer. Glue and tape the Dormer Roofs to the Dormer and Front Roof.



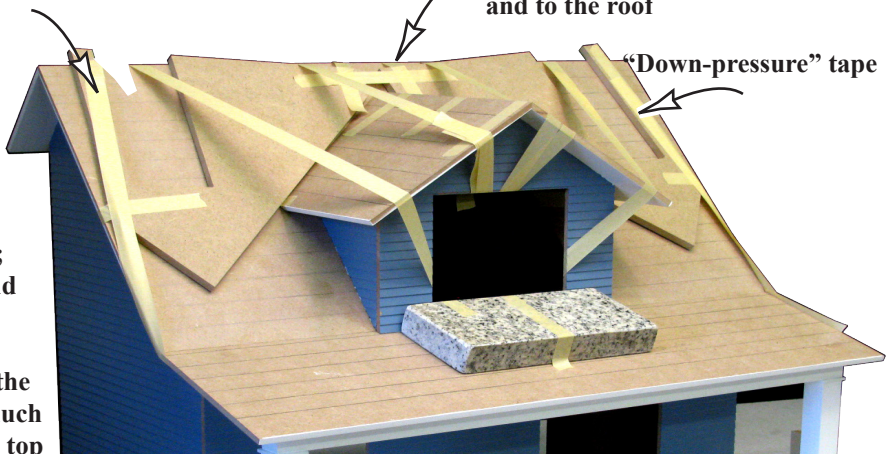
Step 22: Dormer Roofs



"Down-pressure" tape

Attic Dividers taped together and to the roof

"Down-pressure" tape



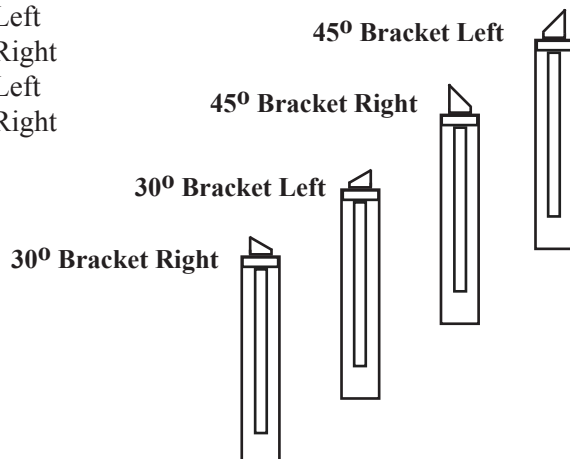
Builder's note: It's always hard getting down-pressure on the back edge of the Dormer Roof. Sometimes I tape weights to the Dormer Roofs; this time I taped two Attic Dividers together and hung them over the Dormer Roofs, then taped them to the roof. After the Front edge of the Dormer Roof was taped down, I looked under the Dormer Roof's overhang, and could see how much down pressure was needed to get contact at the top of the Dormer Side. I pulled down on the outside of the Attic Dividers with long flaps of tape on the left and right evenly until the fit was good.

Let the glue dry - take off the tape.

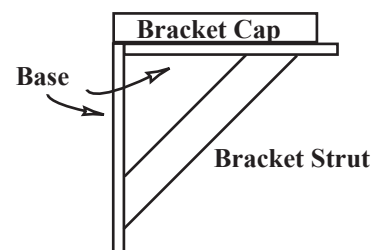
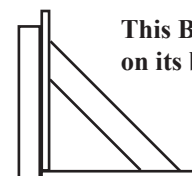
24. Attach the Bracket Caps

Glue a Bracket Cap to each Bracket - make:

- 5) 45° Brackets Left
- 5) 45° Brackets Right
- 2) 30° Brackets Left
- 2) 30° Brackets Right



This Bracket is laying on its back



Window Assembly:

www.realgoodtoys.help has more window assembly photos

☐ 25. Test assemble (*no glue*) a window set
Practice holding the frame pieces face-down on the work surface and putting on the rubber band (Illustration #25A: a scrap of tape at each corner helps). In the illustrations, the hands are holding the frame parts down, not squeezing together. When you can get the rubber band on every time without pieces flying, then you are ready for glue

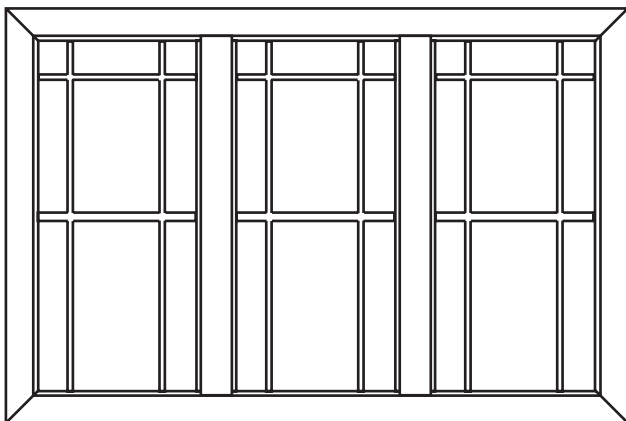
Glue and rubber band together four window frames using the 6" and the 4" frames. Confirm the size of the Frame you are building with the 4 x 6 window Pane (it fits to the edges of the thicker part of the frame - see illus. 25B)

☐ 26. Dormer Window:
Glue and rubber band together the Exterior Dormer Window Frame using the 7 1/2" frame that has notches for the Middle Frames, the 5" frames, and the Middle Frames.

Glue and rubber band together the Interior Dormer Window Frame using the 7 1/2" frame that does not have notches and the 5" Frames. Confirm the size of the Frames you are building with the 7 1/2 x 5 window Pane (it fits to the edges of the thicker part of the frame - see illus. 25B)

Paint the Window Frames

Dormer Window



Cross Section looking from the top

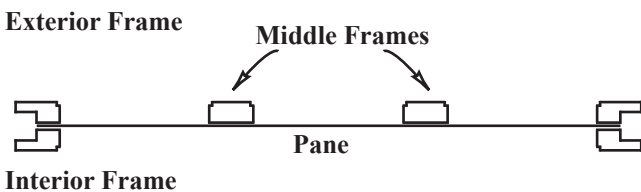
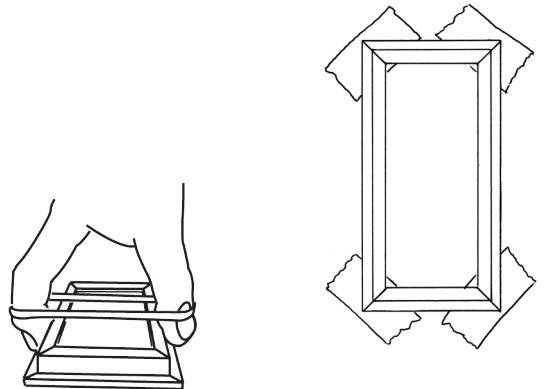


Illustration #25A Window Frame

A snip of tape in the corners helps keep the parts still while you put on the rubber band, but take off the tape while the glue dries.



These hands are holding the frame parts down against the table (not squeezing them together)

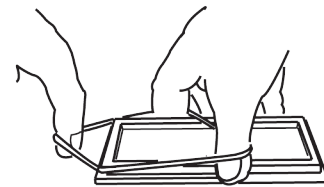
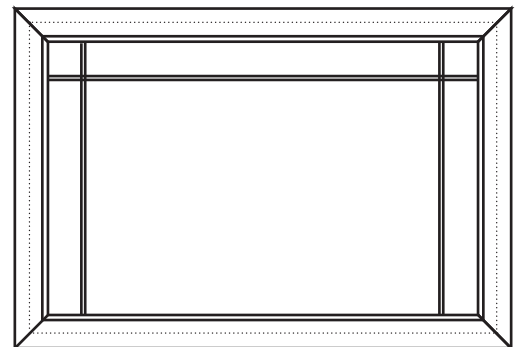


Illustration #25B Exterior Window Frame

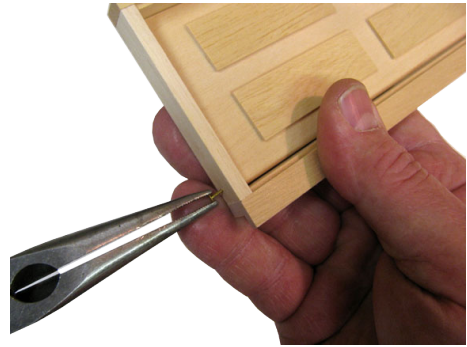


Interior Window Frame



Attach the exterior window frames as part of the exterior finishing. The Panes and Interior frames are installed after the interior finishing is done (wallpaper, paint, etc.), set the window plexi into the window cutout and glue the interior window frame in place.

- 27. Pull the bottom hinge pin to disassemble the door for painting. Tape the pins under the threshold so you don't lose them (a cut off of a paper clip can substitute for a lost pin). Re-assemble the door when the painting is done.



Secure the pane with a tiny dot of glue in each corner.

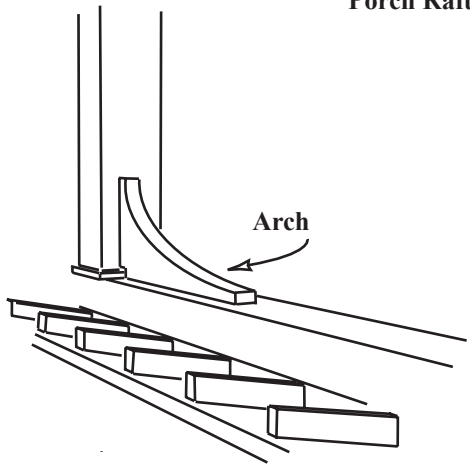
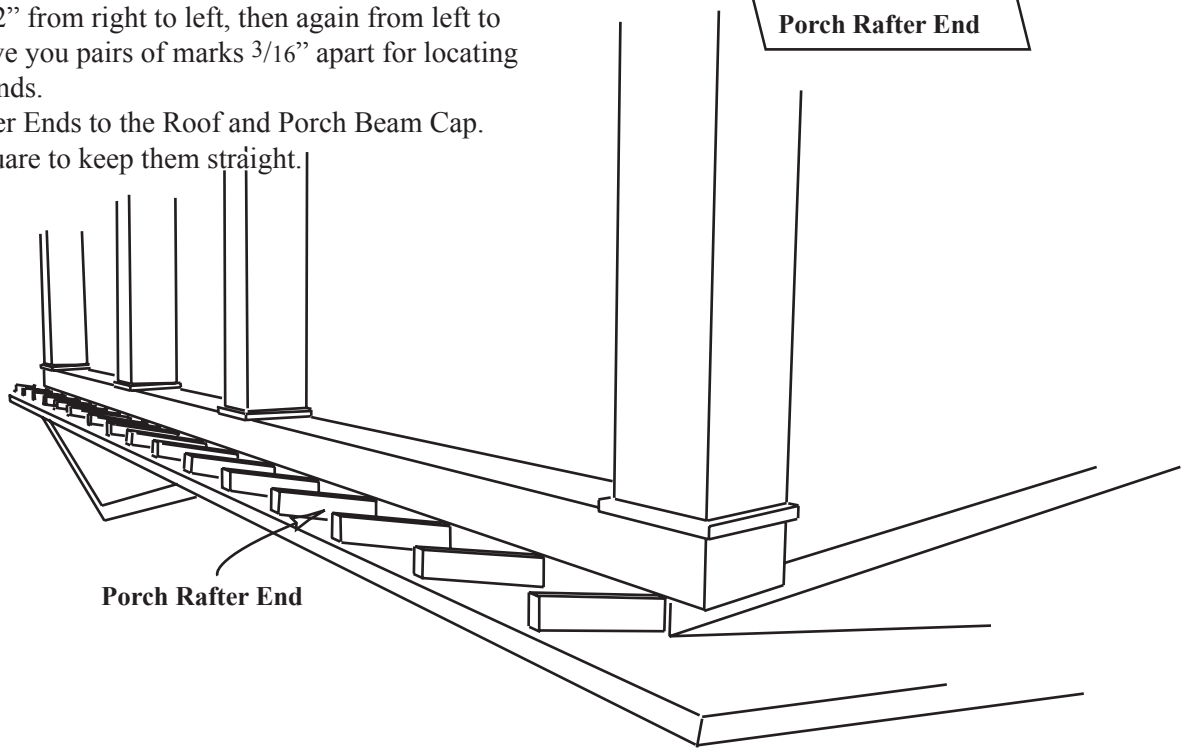
Trim

Turn the house up-side-down on several thicknesses of cardboard.

- 28A. **Porch Rafter Ends:** Lightly mark the underside of the Porch Roof every 2" from right to left, then again from left to right. This will give you pairs of marks $\frac{3}{16}$ " apart for locating the Porch Rafter Ends.

Glue the Porch Rafter Ends to the Roof and Porch Beam Cap.

Use the Handy Square to keep them straight.



- 28B. **Arches (options are on page 19):**

Glue Arches to the Posts and Porch Beam, centered front-to-back.

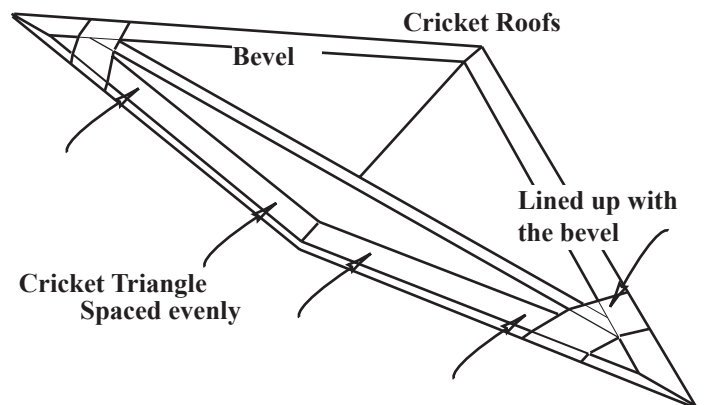
- 29. Tape together the Cricket Roofs at the peak. Lay the Cricket Triangle into the roof set spaced evenly from the front edges and set back so that the bottom edge of the Cricket Triangle exactly matches the bevels on the Cricket Roof edge.

Paint the Cricket Set parts

Glue and tape the Cricket set together.

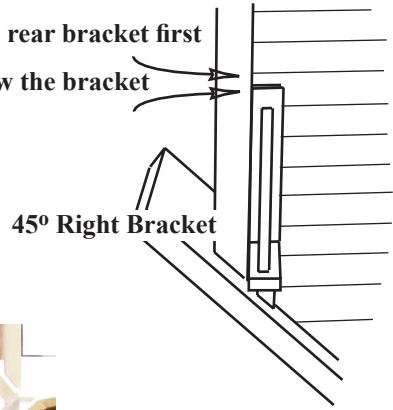
When the glue is dry, glue the Cricket to the Porch Roof, lined up on the front edge and centered side-to-side. See the photo on page 29.

Let the glue dry.

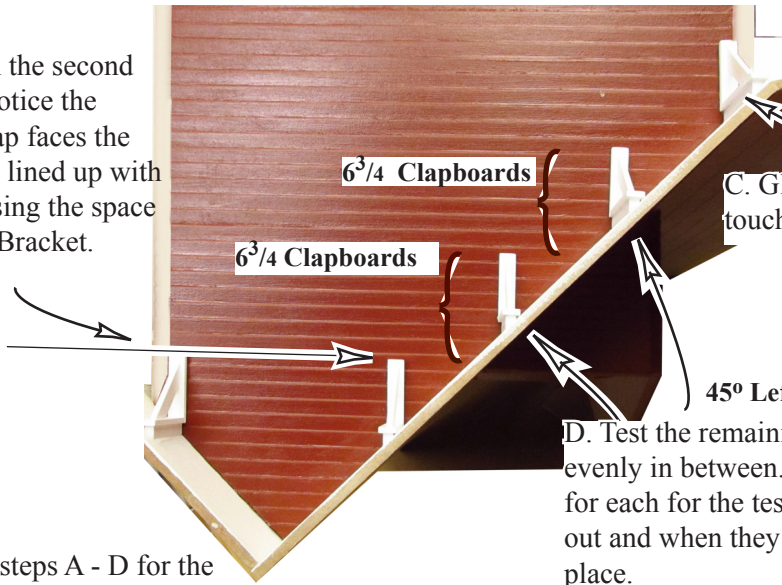


30. 45° Side Brackets: A. Glue the rear 45° Bracket to the side and roof, touching the Side Trim at the back edge. Notice the amount of space from the bottom edge of the Bracket to the next clapboard edge. That spacing will be used to place the Second Bracket (the one across from it).

A. Glue on the rear bracket first
Space below the bracket



B. Glue on the second Bracket (notice the Bracket Cap faces the other way) lined up with the first, using the space below the Bracket.

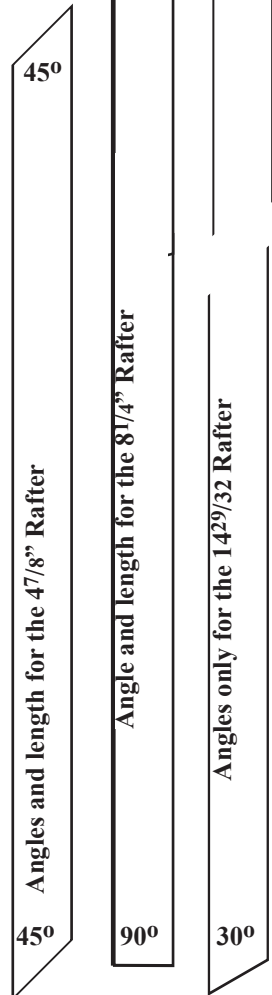
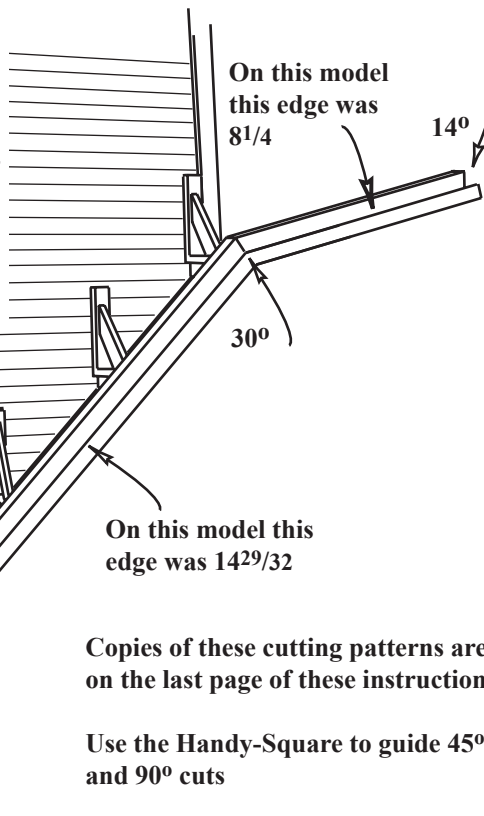


C. Glue on the third Bracket touching the Front Vertical Trim.

D. Test the remaining two brackets spaced evenly in between. Count 6 3/4 clapboards for each for the test positioning... lay them out and when they look right, glue them in place.

E. Repeat steps A - D for the Brackets on the other side of the house.

30. F. **Side Eave Rafter:** Cut Eave Rafters using Rafter Material (3/16 x 11/32). The guide at the right has the angles, but you must mark the length in place on your house. Use a "Handy Square" as a 45° cutting guide. Use the 30° guide on the next page for the 30° angles. Sight along the Porch Rafter for 14° (Fine tune the length of the 8 1/4" Rafter by lining it up with the Porch Rafter ends). Glue the Rafters under the edges of the roofs. Repeat for the other side.

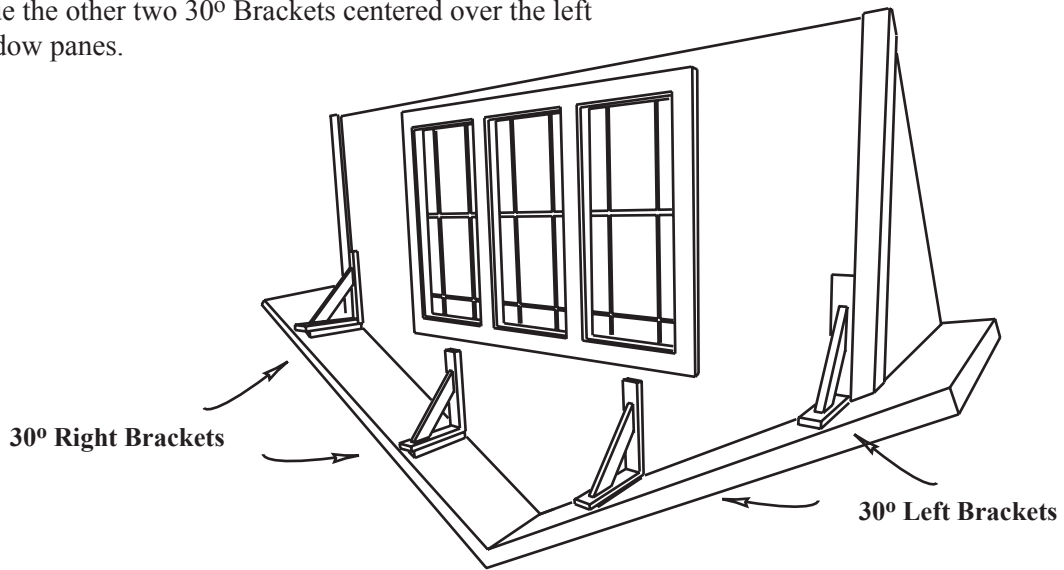


Copies of these cutting patterns are on the last page of these instructions

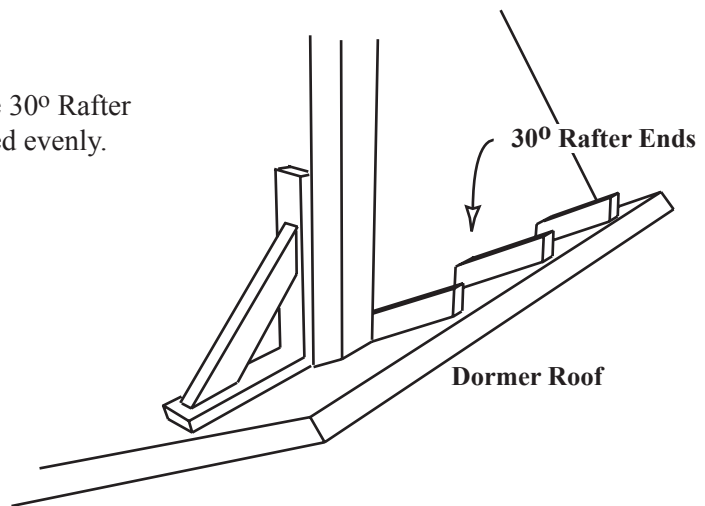
Use the Handy-Square to guide 45° and 90° cuts

31. A. **30° Dormer Brackets:** Glue the Triple Window in the Dormer Front.

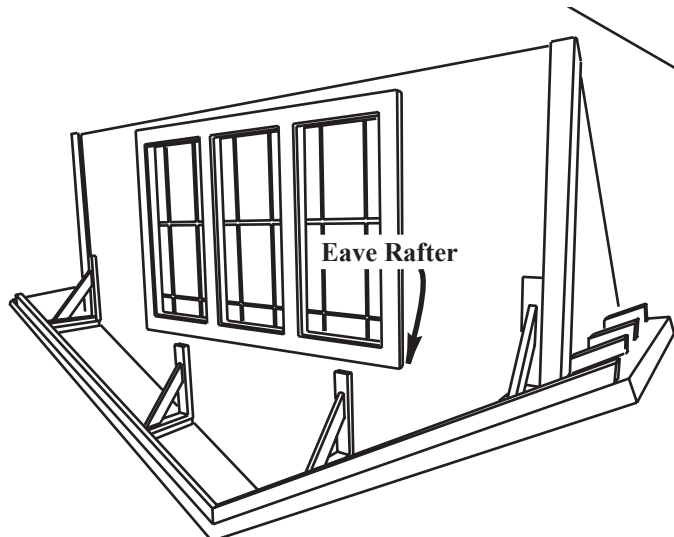
Glue two 30° Brackets to the Dormer Front and roof, touching the Trim. Glue the other two 30° Brackets centered over the left and right window panes.



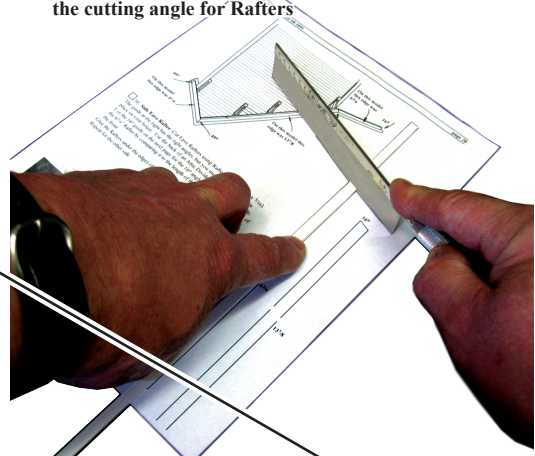
31. B. **30° Dormer Rafter Ends:** Glue three 30° Rafter Ends under each side of the Dormer Roof, spaced evenly.



31. C. **Dormer Eave Rafter:** Cut two Eave Rafters using Rafter Material (3/16 x 11/32) see the guide at the right. Glue them under the front edge of the Dormer Roof.



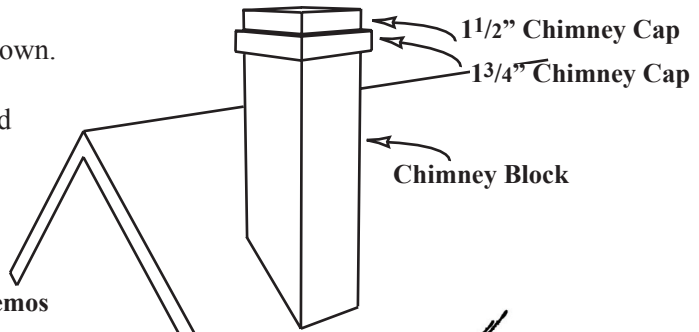
X-acto "Razor Saw" following the cutting angle for Rafters



30°

Dormer Eave Rafter

□ 32. **Chimney:** Assemble the Chimneys up-side-down. Let the glue dry, and paint the Chimneys. Attach the Chimneys 2" from the edge of the Roof and 2" down from the peak.



see www.realgoodtoys.help for flashing or shingling demos

□ 33. **Shingle the Roof:** Glue: Use a thick solvent-based (not "water clean-up"!) panel adhesive such as Liquid Nails[®]Macco available in caulking gun tubes at building supply stores. Trim just a little of the end of the tube for a tiny hole, giving a thin bead of glue. Always use good ventilation with solvent based adhesives.

Note: many builders use hot-melt glue for shingling... it does a great job. But the learning process for hot-melt glue always involves burns, and I don't suggest it for that reason. Fabric Glue (solvent-based!) is also a good choice for shingles.

A. Glue a "starter row" of 1/4" long Shingles along the bottom edge of the Roof or 'flash' the edge with a 1/2" strip of copper ('SC' from Real Good Toys) to prepare the bottom edge of the Roof for the first row of shingles.

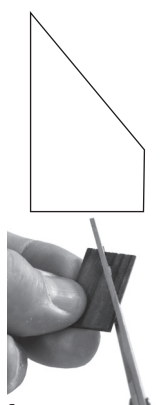
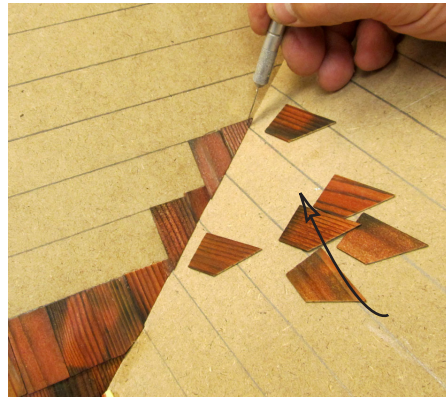
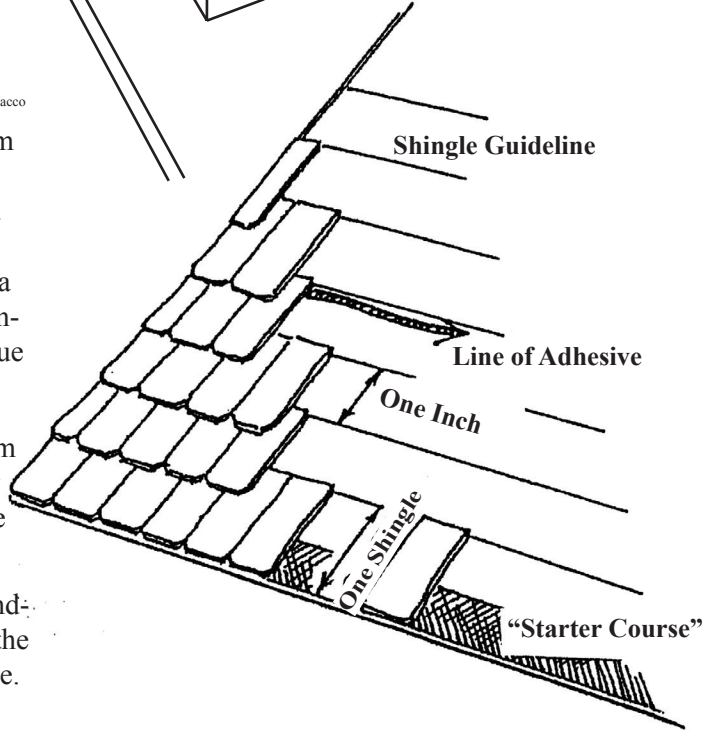
B. Valleys: Hold a shingle close to a valley and straight up-and-down the roof. Lay a piece of stripwood in the valley across the shingle to get the angle of the valley. Mark and cut the shingle. Use that shingle to cut shingles for that edge of the valley.

C. Apply a thin line of adhesive long enough for several shingles just below the lowest guideline. Press the top edge of a Shingle into the line of glue, smearing upward, squeezing out the excess, and coming to rest with the top edge of the shingle lined up with the guideline. Hold the first Shingle and press another Shingle into the adhesive, tight to the first. Hold the next Shingle and press in another... etc. all the way across the roof, cutting the last Shingle to fit.

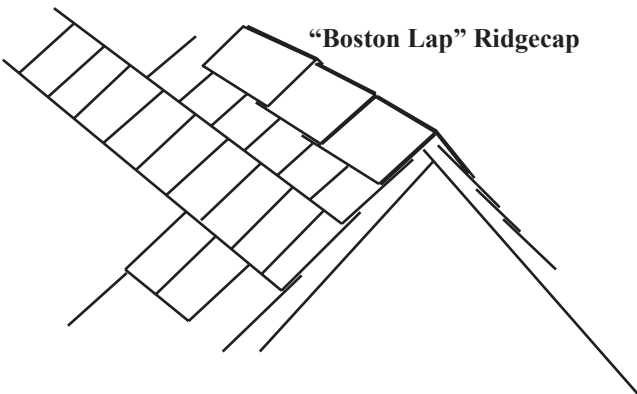
Continue up the roof one row at a time. Start the next row with a half Shingle so that the seam between Shingles weaves back and forth as you go up the roof. Line up the top edge of each row (except the starters) with the guidelines.

Cut the top row of Shingles (1") so that each row will have the same reveal.

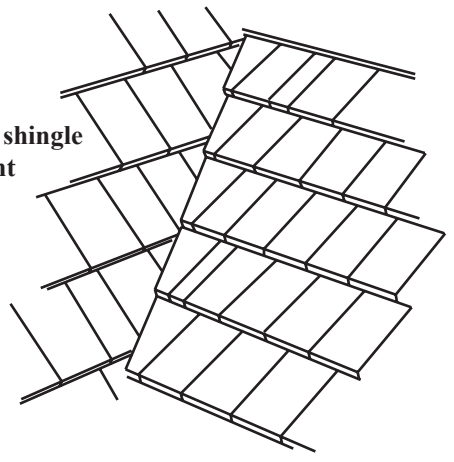
D. Finish the top edge with a "Boston Lap": pairs of Shingles laid horizontally. Start at the ends of the peak, and, with each pair overlapping the previous pair, work to the middle.



If you cut Valley Shingles with scissors, cut from the wide end of the angled shingle



The angle of the valley shingle for each roof is different



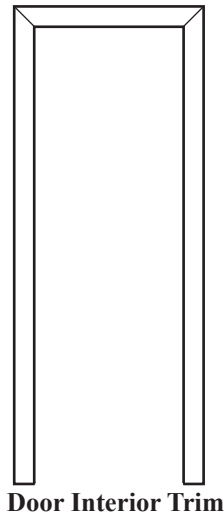
Finish the Outside

34. Glue together Window and Door Interior Trim, matching the sizes of the Windows and Door. Wait to install Window and Door Interior Trim until other interior finishing is done (see “Finishing the Inside”, page 30).

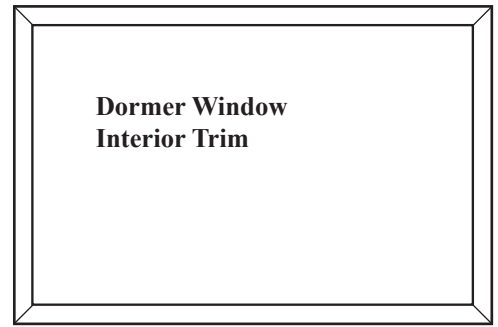
B. Install the Windows and Door after interior wallpapering is done.

35. **Finish the Trim:**

Cut and attach Eave Trim (Eave Stripwood 1/8 x 5/16). The Eave Trim uses the same angles as the Rafters (pages 26 and 27), but is not the same length - test and mark your cuts in place on the house, then follow the patterns for the angles; it attaches to the edge of the Roofs lined up at the bottom.



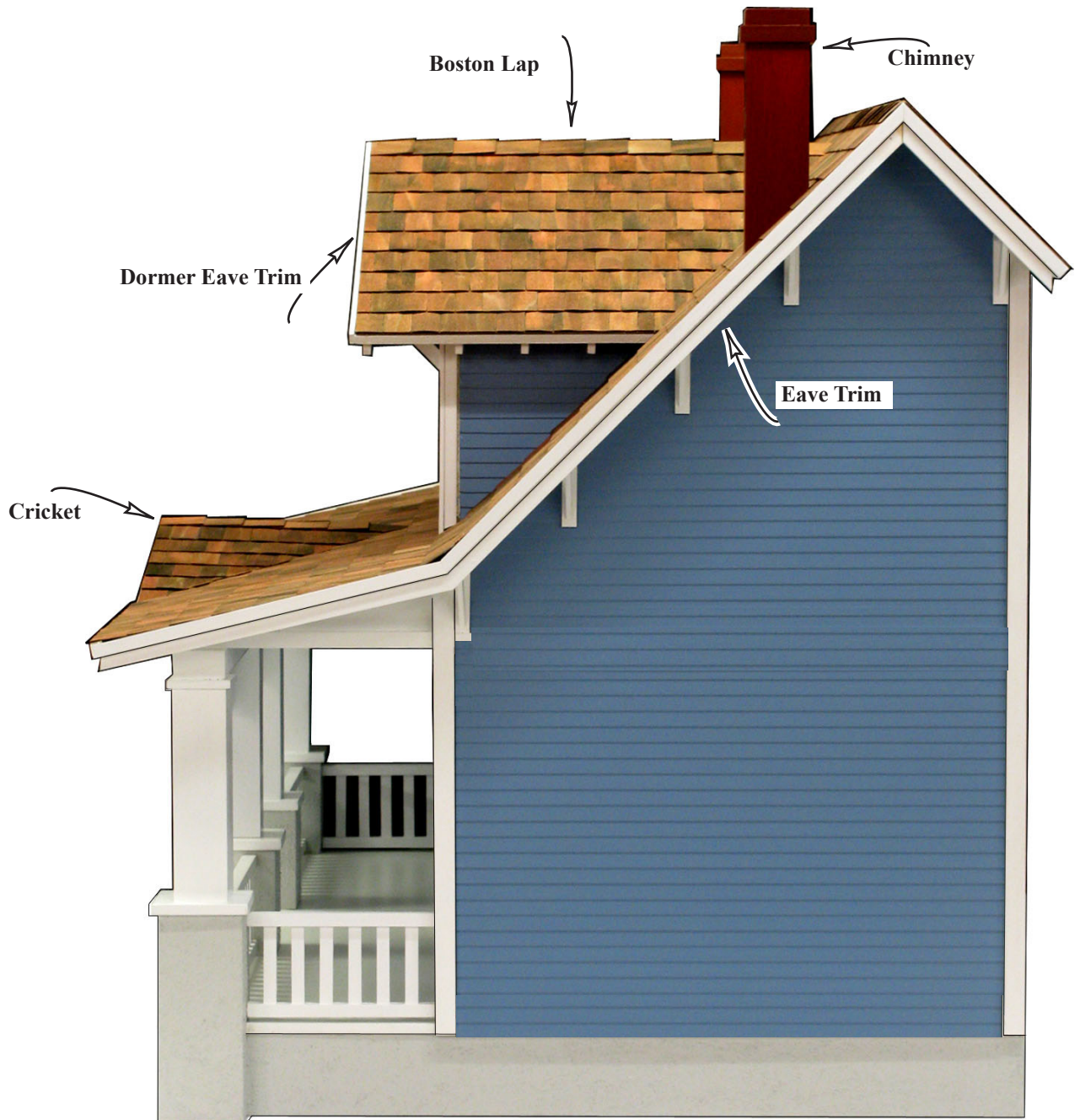
Door Interior Trim



Dormer Window Interior Trim



Window Interior Trim



Finish the Inside...Plan Ahead!

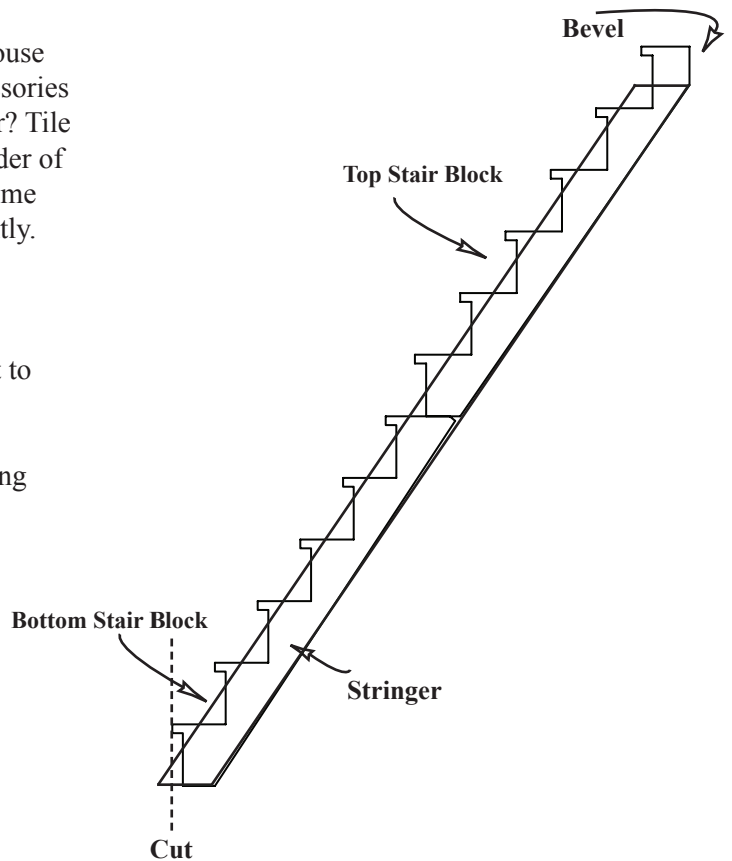
Interior finishing involves so many choices! Will this house be a play-house or a display for miniatures? What accessories will be used and where will they go? Wiring? Wallpaper? Tile or carpeting? Every choice makes a difference in the order of finishing. Real Good Toys has provided materials for some basic interior work, but you may choose to do it differently. Make your choices
 Get your materials
 Test your layout

With the pieces in your hands, imagine the steps to get to where you want to be.

Now you're ready for **your** order of interior finishing. Here's the order that our assembly pro follows for tackling most custom interior finishing:

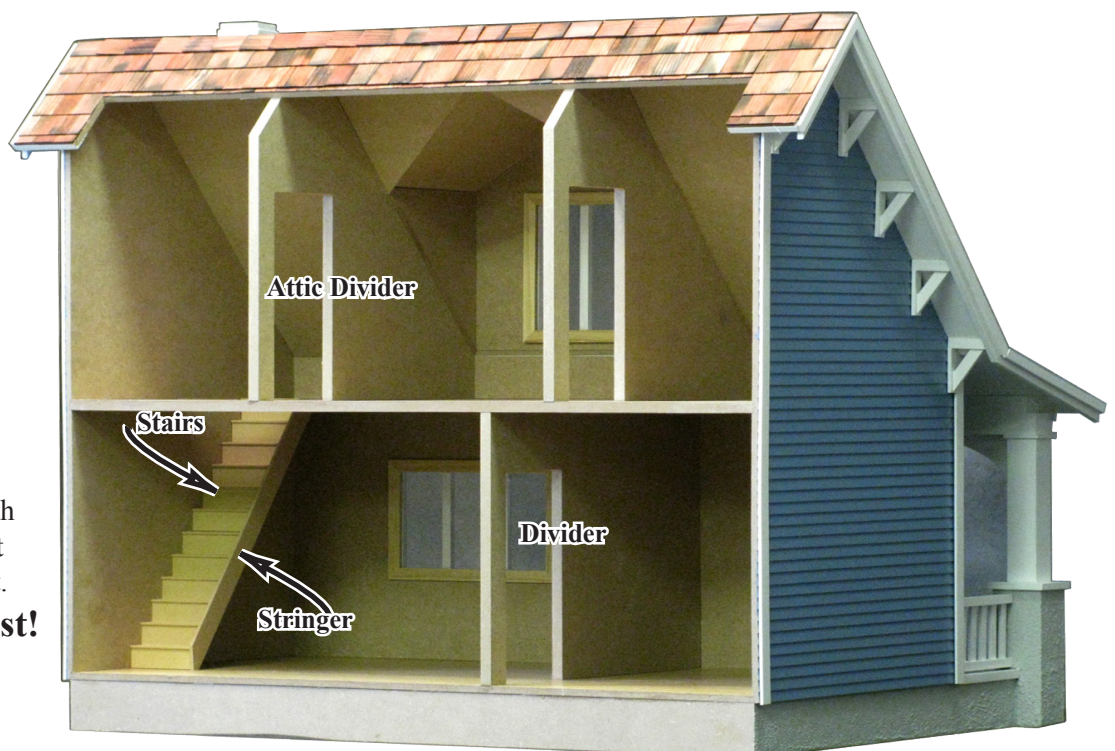
- Dividers
- Electrical wiring (using "tape" style wiring)
- Flooring (stained)
- Wallpaper
- Carpeting
- Interior Window & Door Trim
- Stairs
- Baseboard and crown moldings

see www.realgoodtoys.help for interior finishing slideshows



36. If the Dividers haven't been installed yet, lay out the Dividers without glue... straight front-to-back and up-and-down. Mark their location. To glue Dividers in, apply glue, tip the Divider and put it almost all the way in, set the base, lift the floor above for some clearance, tip the Divider upright, and slide it the rest of the way in place, clean-up the excess glue.

37. Glue the Stairs to the floor and wall, lined up with the Mid Floor's top. Test the Stringer on the edge of the Stairs, lined up at the bottom. Mark, then trim the Stringer. Glue the Stringer to the Stairs.



That's it! You're done with the House Assembly part of your dollhouse project.

Have fun with the rest!

Layout diagrams: These diagrams may print at a different scale on your printer than they did here, and the diagrams might not match the parts on the ends. If so, keep the Rails centered on the diagram and use it anyway, but be particularly careful to let the Railings dry in a square 'inside corner' (pg 8).

