



Korber Models

Scale Model Railroad Structures

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Model 700 O Scale Background Apartment Building Instructions

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Introduction

Congratulations, you have purchased the Korber Models #700 Background Apartment Building. The Background Apartment Building is one of the new Korber O Scale kits introduced to the market! This structure represent thousands of buildings whose back could be seen along the tracks all across the nation.

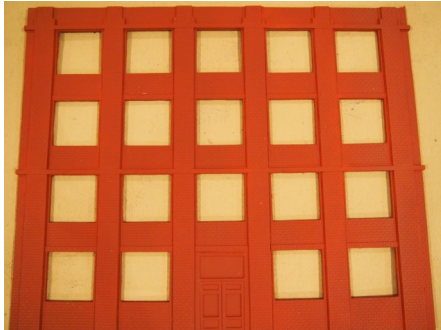
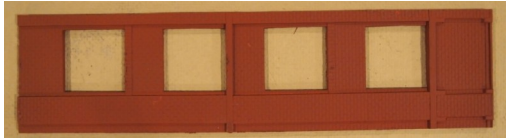
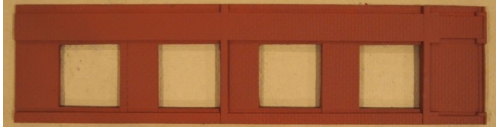
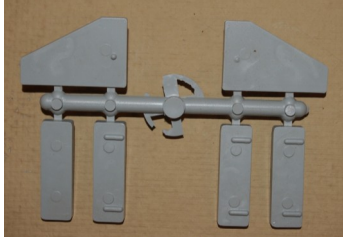
You can follow the simple, step by step instructions outlined in this document to easily assemble this great looking addition to your layout. We have covered not only the key required steps to build the building so you can get it on your layout the quickest, but have also included several optional steps to enhance the appearance. These enhancements are based on submissions from modelers just like you who have taken the Korber structures to the next level, and now by following a few extra steps you can achieve the same results.





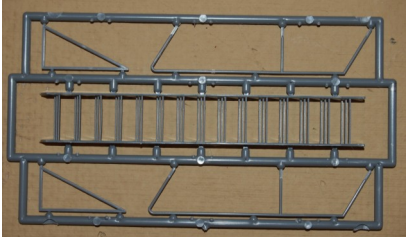
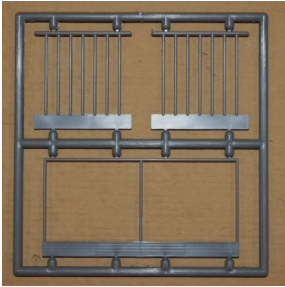


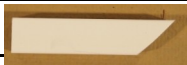




Before you start you may want to read through the instructions to get a feel for the things you will be doing, and the basic order in which they will be done. You are on your way to adding a centerpiece to your layout, so let's get started!

Parts list & Templates – (What's in the box)

Take a few minutes to locate all the parts in the box to make sure you have all the pieces you will need and that the quantities are right. You may also want to spread these parts out so that you have a small separate stack of each part and make it easy to find each as you start the assembly process. If you are missing anything, please contact us so we can get you any of the missing items.



Qty	Description	Photo
1	Main Wall	
1	Side Wall Left	
1	Side Wall Right	
1	Injection Molded Steps	

Qty	Description	Photo
2	Green wire for downspouts	
1	Styrene U channel for Gutter	
54	Injection molded windows 4x4	
1	Roof material 12.5" by 3"	
3	Fire Escape—ladder	
3	Fire Escape—short rails	
3	Fire Escape—deck & long railing	
1	Styrene 13" w 45deg. Ends—foundation front	
2	Styrene 3" w 45deg. End—foundation sides	
1	Wood trim stick (side wall cement top)	
3	10" - 1/4" x1/4" (2) front corner brace (1) front center brace	
2	12.5" - 1/4" x1/4" (1) top rear horizontal brace (1) center rear horizontal brace	
2	Sheet Clear Window "Glass"	
Diagrams		
1	Instructions	

Materials needed – (What else might I need that is not included)

The Korber Background Apartment Building, like any kit, requires a few additional items to complete the construction. We have included a list here, including some color and brand suggestions based on our experience; however you may use any product that fits the function. Please also note that some items are listed as options such that they either make assembly simpler, or are needed only for optional steps

Flat paint, choice of colors, for doors, windows, trim

“Red” automotive primer spray paint to cover all molded brick surfaces such as Krylon Ruddy Brown

Antique white craft paint for cement lines

Light grey or cement color paint for cement foundation

RustOleum camouflage flat spray paints work well for painting window frames, gutters and doors

Small paint brushes

Paper towels or soft cloth rags

Cyanoacrylate (CA) glue. Also known as Super Glue, Gorilla™ super glue works well

We really like the new Gorilla brand super glue because it is thicker than most super glues, and allows you to put in on a seam while holding the part in your hand, and will not run when you turn the seam on the side to put two pieces together. This glue is available in most retailers, including the larger home improvements stores

CA glue accelerator (optional) (turns any CA glue into quick set glue (optional)

Medium grit sandpaper or emery board

Testor's Dull-cote™ (optional)

Small clamps (optional)

Flat black or grimy black spray paint (optional)

1 - Parts preparation & painting

Look over all the molded parts and remove any flashing that might be left on them. Flashing is the thin pieces of the molding material that may be left in widow openings and along edges in the molded parts. This can quickly be removed with a razor type knife, a small file, or an emery board.

The parts in the kit will need to be painted to the final colors you select, and it is much easier to do this step before you assemble them. All the wall sections come colored in a brick red, however many modelers find a light coat of flat red auto primer spray paint gives not only a great look, but also makes it easier to add the mortar color lines to the walls later on. In a well ventilated area (outside is good) apply a coat to the inside (smooth side) of all the brick wall sections first; once dry, do the same to the other side. By painting the back side first you avoid any marks that might appear on the brick textured side.

Use a similar process for the gutters, window frames, and doors. You may want to paint all three of these types of pieces the same color to create a theme for your Background Apartment Building.

The internal wooden pieces do not need to be painted as they are for structural support only.

Option

An optional step that adds a great deal of realism to any model of a brick building is to add the mortar lines to contrast with the red brick color. The ability to lay the wall sections on a flat surface, when done prior to assembly, makes this detail step simpler. There are several ways to do this, including use of water based paint (Antique White or Light Grey latex well diluted with water until the consistency is as thin as milk), some commercially available products, and the use of light spackling compound to fill mortar joints. In all of these approaches the general concept is to spread the white product you are using over the brick walls, filling in the mortar line groves in the wall section, and then removing the excess from the top of the bricks. We will walk through the water based paint method.



One simple method we have used is to dilute some water based antique white or light grey craft paint to create a soupy like consistency.

- Cover entire wall section with diluted white paint, letting it settle and collect in the mortar lines
- Wait a few seconds and lightly wipe off excess paint using a slightly damp paper towel or soft cloth until paint is removed from the brick surface, but not the mortar joints
- Keep flat and let dry before moving so the paint in the joints does not run
- To remove haze from brick surface, apply a thin layer of Dull-Cote and wipe gently
- It may require several applications to achieve the mortar line that you want
- A finish light coat of Polly Scale Grimy Black done with an air brush will tone down the grey wash and give it an aged look. (Apply lightly and highlight the area where you would expect dirt to collect flat black spray paint can also be used)

The good news with this option is that if you don't like it, the paint is water based, so you can get it wet, remove it, and start over.

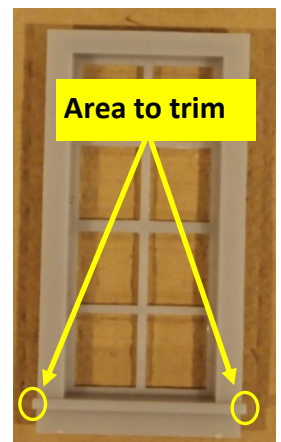
Once dry, this area should be washed using a mix of either watered down black paint, or alcohol and India ink. The purpose of the wash is to settle the black color in the groves/joints around the rocks and give definition. The wash should not be so dark as to overpower the cement/light grey color.

The three foundation sections are intended to represent a cement foundation that is exposed, and should be painted a cement or light grey color once assembled. Krylon Camouflage ultra-flat (4291) Khaki is a good substitute for aged concrete. There are other cement details that also can be highlighted with the cement color you choose. The tops of the side walls also have a cement colors "tile" along the top edge next to the roof line. They should also be painted the cement/light grey color as should the front steps once assembled.

2 - Assembly & Install windows

The windows are made from injection molded plastic and will have a clear plastic sheet stock applied over the opening from the inside of the model to form a finished window.

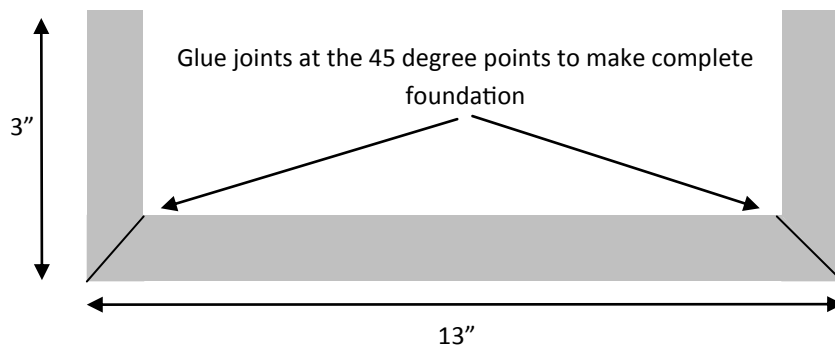
- Carefully remove any flashing from the window frames
- In order to install the windows side by side in the walls, the side overhang area of the window sill must be trimmed flush to the window frame and removed prior to installation
- If the window frames have not been painted, and if you would like to do so, paint them now and let them dry before moving to the next step
- Place the walls to which you want to add windows brick side up on a flat surface
- The windows are designed to overlay the window opening from the front, or outside of the building, and will not fit inside the window opening if installed from the back
- Apply a small amount of glue around the edge of the frame and insert over the openings on the wall pieces



- Let the glued windows dry before moving the wall sections to a vertical position to avoid glue running or the windows falling out
- Prepare to cut and glue small pieces of window material over the back of each window. Consider the following two window detailing option for the windows:
 - If you want the window panes to have a hazed affect, lightly sand the window material until you've achieved desired haze affect prior to cutting into small window pieces
 - You may also detail the windows with shades by covering the top portion of the window material with masking tape
- Cut window materials to fit over the back of each window – glue in place

3 - Assembly of Foundation

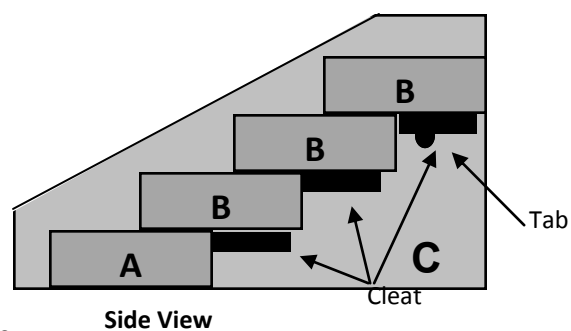
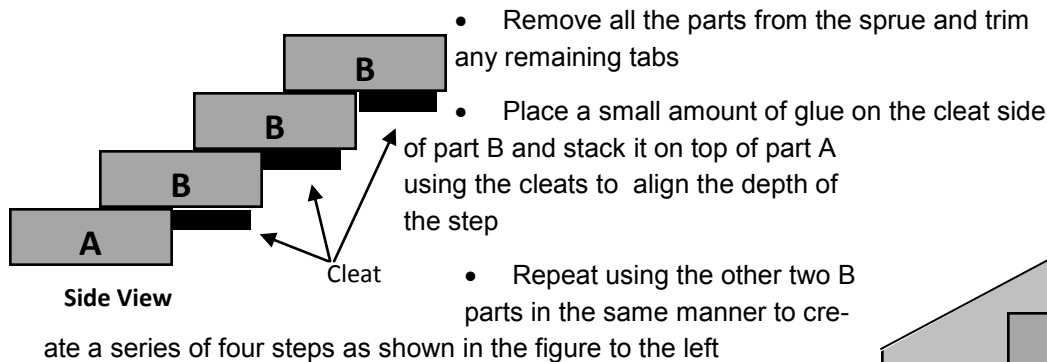
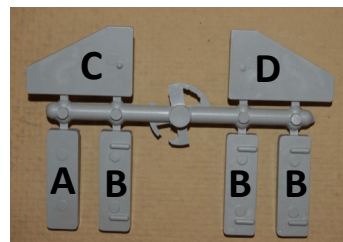
The assembly of the foundation is simple and requires only gluing two 45 degree joints forming a completed foundation. Before gluing and assembly, check the pieces and remove any hanging plastic or burs in the 45 degree cut end of the piece. There are three pieces to make the foundation, the long front piece which has 45 degree ends on both sides of the piece, and two shorter pieces with a single 45 degree end.



Once the foundation is assembled and the glue has dried, it should be painted a cement color and left to dry. Krylon Camouflage ultra-flat (4291) Khaki is a good substitute for aged concrete.

4 - Assembly of Steps

The steps come in a single injected molded sprue that holds 6 parts including, **(A)** 1 step with no cleats on the bottom, **(B)** 3 steps with cleats on the bottom, **(C)** a left side wall and **(D)** right side wall. These parts are glued together to form a set of cement steps with side walls.



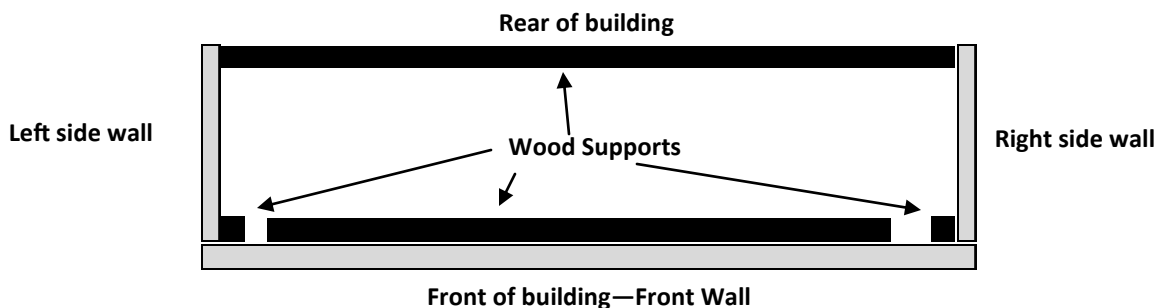
- Once the glue dries on the steps, glue the side walls on each side of the steps. Starting with side wall C align the top step B to rest flush with the back of the step wall, and rest on the small tab molded into the wall. The bottom A step will be flush with the bottom side of the side wall



- Repeat the same process to glue side wall D to the step assembly. Once assembled the steps should look like the photo to the left
- Once the steps are assembled and the glue has dried, the piece should be painted a cement color and left to dry

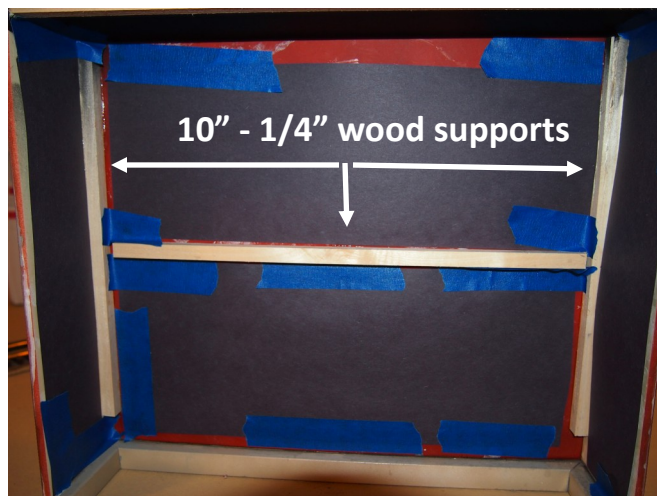
5 - Assembly of Main Structure

The assembly of the main structure is based on making a simple “U” shaped structure when viewed from the top. There are three walls, a long one in the front, and two shorter ones on each side. 1/4” square wood is used to add strength to the corners, and maintain the side wall to side wall distance on the back of the structure, which remains open since it will be up against the wall. Below is a top view drawing of the relationship of the wall sections and the wood support pieces.



Placement of brick walls

- Glue one of the 10” long 1/4” square wood pieces on the inside center of the front wall going horizontally between floors two and three to add rigidity to the front wall section
- Take one sidewall and the front wall and line them up to make a right angle. The use of a small square is helpful. The front wall should overlay the edge of the side wall. Glue the two wall sections together, and add the 10” vertical wood support pieces in the corner to assist with strength and to create a solid right angle
- Some sanding may be necessary. Rough up edges only where you need to glue
- Repeat the last step but using the right wall section to create the “U” structure
- Optionally use clamps as necessary to hold pieces together
- Install the 12.5” long 1/4” square wood pieces in two places along the back opening of the structure. The first is placed horizontally at the back of the structure even with the height of the front wall of the structure. This piece supports the back of the roof. The second is installed at the rear center of the structure at approximately same vertical distance as the previously installed wood piece that was glued to the front wall section between floor two and three
- Once the wall assembly has dried, the next step is to attach it to the previously assembled and painted foundation. Simply glue the bottom of the brick wall assembly to the top of the foundation with the end result looking like the photo to the right



View looking at the back of the structure

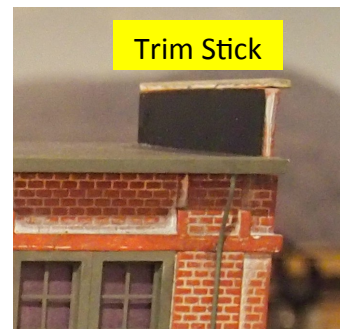


6 - Install roof

The #700 Background Apartment Building has a single level rectangular flat roof made from a black material. The intent is to glue this piece to the wood structure at the back and the top of the front wall of the building.

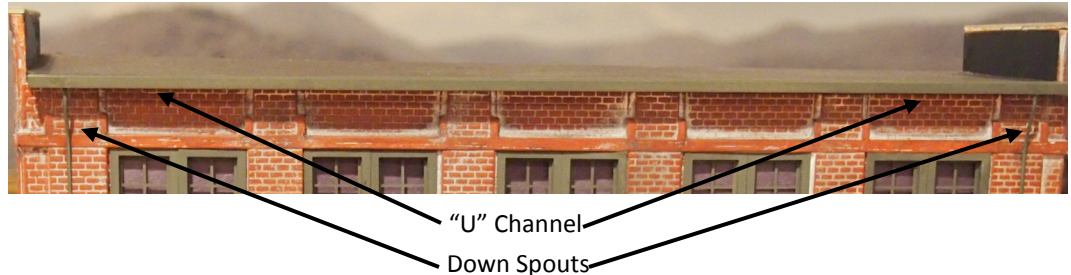
- Black roof material measuring 12.5” by 3” is designed fit on top of the front wall of the structure, and the back should sit on top of the horizontal wood support

- The roof should be flush to the back of the structure, and should overhang the front of the building approximately 1/8"
- Take the wood trim stick, and cut it such that you end up with two pieces that match the depth of the side walls (approximately 3")
- Paint these pieces the same "cement" color you used for the foundation
- Once dry, glue these pieces on the top of the side walls to represent a cement top trim piece
- You may want to paint the upper inside section of the side walls black to match the roof materials as shown in the picture



7 - Install Gutter and Downspouts

The background building, like most of the time period had rain gutters and down spouts to deal with the rain runoff. We have included parts to allow you to add this extra level of detail to your kit.



- Measure the width of the building at the roof line, which should be approximately 13" and cut the plastic "U" channel to that length
- Paint the "U" channel and the wire provided for the down spouts the same color, we suggest either a flat black, or the RustOleum camouflage green color works well
- Once the "U" channel is dry, glue it along the edge of the roof overhang to create a gutter that spans the entire back of your building
- The down spout wire should be glued to the bottom of the gutter, and also tacked to the brick wall with a dab of glue to hold it in place. In order to do this, the wire will need to be bent to allow it to slope up from the wall, and into the bottom of the gutter as shown in the picture to the right.
- The bottom of the wire will need to be bent out to aim the down spout away from the base of the foundation as shown in the second picture to the right



8 - Assemble and Install Fire Escapes

The included injection molded fire escapes have three sprue assemblies that contain the parts for a complete fire escape level or floor. This model includes enough fire escape kits to make three floors to serve a four floor building.

- Remove all parts from sprues with a sprue nipper or a sharp razor blade. File as needed making sure the bars under the platform are square and flush.
- Place the platform on a flat surface (I like glass as solvent doesn't stick). Use super glue for all joints. Place the 3-post handrail into the opening (file length as needed) and stand vertically. Glue in place.
- Center the long railing on the platform in front of the opening and glue in place.
- Glue end railings in place. Use just a drop of super glue to glue the top rail of the side to the back of the front top rail. Cut the stair to length. Remember to





allow an extra 0.1" that fits into the platform above as well as the 0.1" for the bottom platform. Make sure you have filed the sides smooth

- On stairs between platforms cut the handrails where the curved support section starts as the stair rails will be glued to the platform rails. Glue the handrails to both sides of the stair about 3/8" from the top. See photo and remember that the top of the stair fits into the platform above

- Place the stair assembly into the platform and adjust the angle so that the end of the stair is directly over the other side of the opening. Glue the bottom in place. Use a sprue nipper or small cutter to cut the front handrail so that it rests on the front rail and glue in place. Remove the vertical corner post from the inside rail by the bottom of the stair and cut the top rail and inside handrail so they meet and glue them together

- On the topmost platform glue one of these corner posts between

the inner and outer top rails on the non ladder side (see photo)

- Glue one triangular support approximately 1/16" of an inch in from the end and under each end of the platform
- Spray paint this assembly (usually black) and let dry well
- Glue the assembly in place on the building wall using superglue or equivalent. Build the next platform assembly and place it over the top of the stair and glue it to the building and stair. Repeat as twice more to create three levels of fire escape for a four floor building (nothing on the first floor)



9 - Final Detailing – Weathering

Your Korber #700 Apartment Background Building is now assembled and ready for placement on the layout. You may wish to provide some additional weathering before you install it as a building next to the tracks would be a heavily used structure with a layer of soot, and would rarely look brand new.

To add a weathered look, spray the entire model with flat black from a distance. This will give a sooty look to the building. Once done you can spray the completed structure with Dullcote to remove any gloss or shine.

If you choose not to detail the inside of your structure, or light it, an effective and quick way to make a good looking background building is to cover the widows with black construction paper from the inside. This creates a dark building look that is more desirable than the view in to an otherwise empty shell of a building.