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 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.

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 are ready when you need them



Waxed Paper to keep painted parts from sticking



Supplies and tools:

Masking tape: 34" or 1" high tack tape (not 'painter's tape'); Utility knife and/or coarse double-cut file, Ruler, Sticky-Notes Paint: Interior semi-gloss latex paint... Almost everything gets at least one coat before assembly - get the paint now. Paintbrushes 1" or 2" foam brushes for each color, 3" foam roller for interior painting; Fine toothed saw like X-Acto Razor Saw

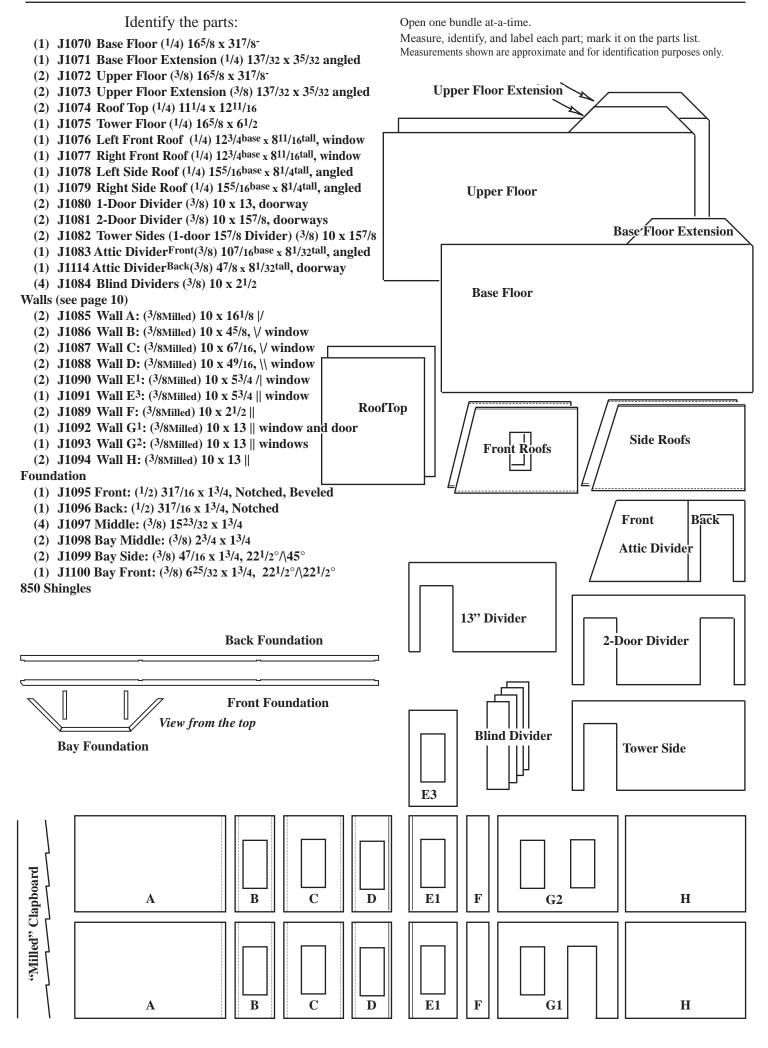
Sandpaper: 320 grit, 3-5 sheets... a sheet of coarse sandpaper (100 or 120 grit) is handy too

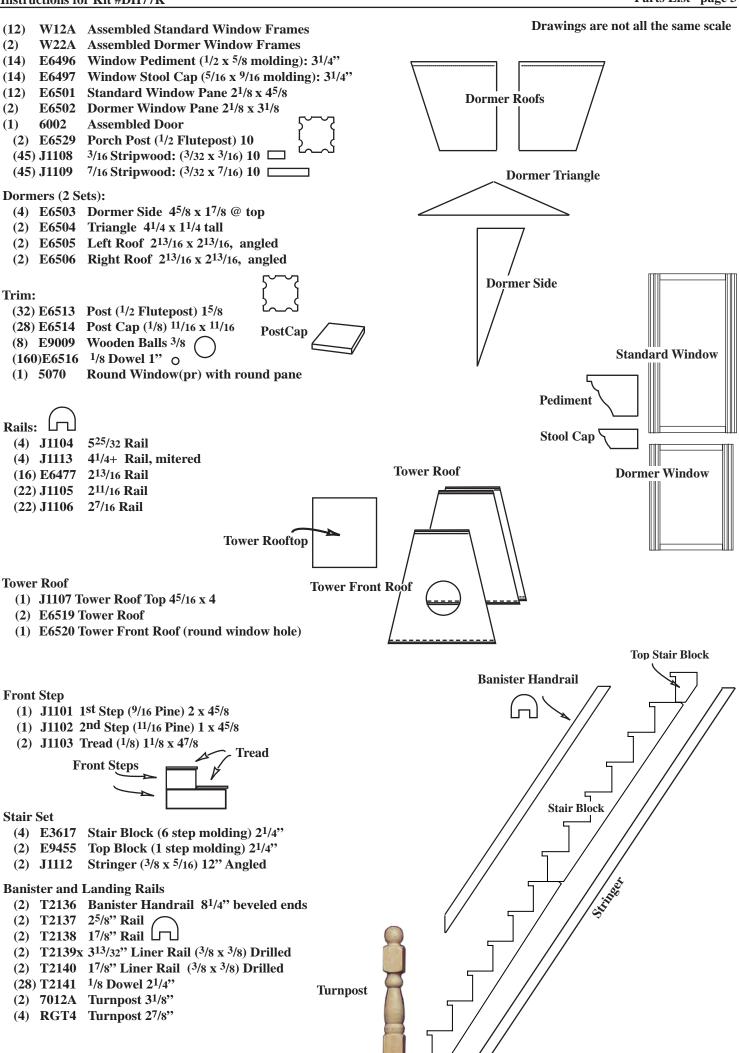
Glue: Aleene's Tacky Glue for the dollhouse, Solvent-Based panel cement for shingles Wiring: it's easiest to install some parts during assembly... order wiring supplies now.

Wallpaper paste: Roman's "Border" Paste or Grandmother Stover's Not suitable for children under 13 years of age California 93120 compliant for formaldehyde

and accessories.

See page 26 for options





Instructions for Kit #DH77K Assembly tips page 4

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

Paint everything that will be painted* one coat

Option: Faux-wood floor finish on the floors

Sand everything until the paint is smooth, transparent,

and some of the wood is showing through

Second-coat the outside Walls and outside of the floors

Build the house up to the Top Floor

Mark and paint the Top Floor; attach the Tower and Roofs

Shingles, Window and Door, Trim - Finish the outside

Optional: Start the wiring Install some of the Dividers Optional: Finish the wiring

Assemble and finish painting everything else

Finish the inside

*Avoid painting edges, grooves, or surfaces that will be glued: for instance do not paint the outside of the Roofs or the bottom of the Base Floor

Wiring? www.realgoodtoys.help

Assembly Tips:

A large, clutter-free, well-lighted work area is helpful during assembly, but a <u>flat</u> 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, milk jugs full of sand, 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.

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 pre-mixed Roman's "Border" paste or Grandmother Stover's www.realgoodtoys.com.

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 big blacksmith's hands, and papering in a finished house is easy for me.

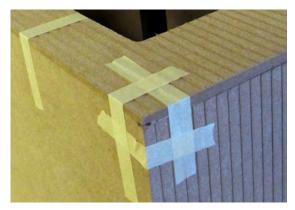
All that having been said, I do pre-cut the papers used in the attic before attaching the Roofs.

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

- a. Use a sticky yellow tape, not the easy-to-remove painter's tape.
- b. Use enough tape so you can start a distance from the joint and rub down several inches on the end, then...
- c. **Stretch** the tape as you pull it across the joint. **Rub** the tape down so it will remain tight while the glue dries.
- d. 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!





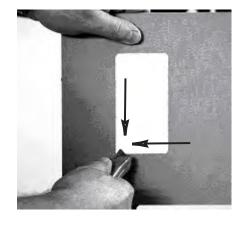
3-way tape on the corners

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 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. 5408-10 at www.realgoodtoys.com



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 dying 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*!

Connect the marks with a straight-edge.

Transfer the marks to the Side Roofs at the corners (the sloped edge).

Connect the marks on the Side Roofs.

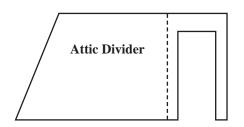
Connect the marks



1"

Transfer the marks at the corners

The Attic Divider is temporarily assembled and used as a locator during assembly. These instructions will refer to it as a single part, but keep it un-glued until you can test different floor layouts in the "Finish the inside" section at the end. For now, just tape the Attic Divider securely together.



Trace the Attic Divider onto one Tower Side $(10 \times 15^{3}/4)$.

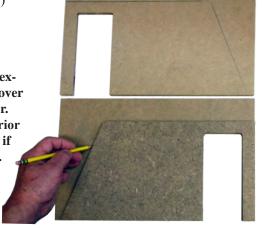
Hold a 1/4 panel (like a roof panel) on edge against the Attic Divider and trace again the extra 1/4" thickness.

Repeat for the other side of another Tower Side (making one 'right' and one 'left')

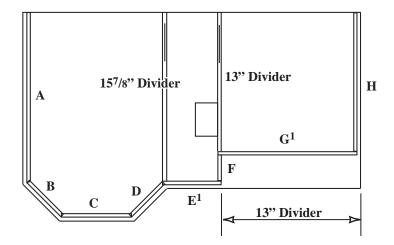


The outside of the second tracing is an exterior wall and will be painted to just cover the line when painting the exterior color. The inside of the first tracing is an interior wall and should be painted and sanded if painting and sanding the interior walls.

(see "Painting" pgs. 8 & 9)



Temporarily tape together a wall set... see how they overlap at the corners. (See page 10) Temporarily set the walls on the Base Floor, approximately 3/8" from the edge (except walls D, F, and G). Use the Dividers shown below to confirm the walls' positions. Use a 13" Divider to confirm wall F's position from the floor's right edge.





Trace the Walls inside and out on the Base Floor. Repeat the setup and Trace the walls inside and out on the middle Floor.

Turn the wall set over and trace the <u>bottom</u> of the mid and top Floors (they are both "Upper Floors" until you paint them differently).

Do not trace or paint the top of the top Floor.

Flooring: Hardwood flooring, carpeting, or tile is applied after assembly is complete. Paint or Faux-Wood flooring is done before assembly.

Google: "Faux Wood Floor on MDF gpr01010" or www.dollhouseworkshop.net/RGT/Videos/Faux-wood.html

Builder's Note: I often cut masking tape 1/4" wide and stick it in the center between the inside and outside tracings, then do Faux-Wood finish on the whole floor, even the porch floor and outside of the walls. If the final plan calls for applied flooring somewhere I scuff the paint with 100 grit sandpaper and apply the flooring right over the Faux-Wood, but this finish gives a nice look right from the start and gives flexibility later.

Paint outside the tracings (or faux wood). Paint the ceilings when the time comes for interior painting.

B. Pre-Assembly (continued)

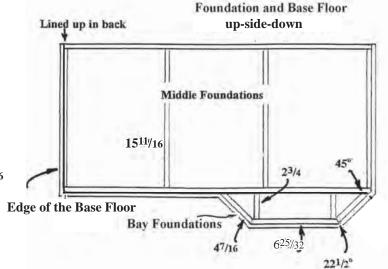
Glue and tape together the Foundation set.

Back Foundation ¹/₂ x 1³/₄ x 31⁷/₁₆

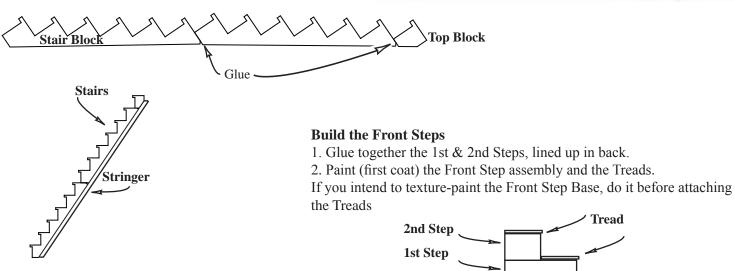
Mid Foundation (³/₈) 15¹¹/₁₆ x 1³/₄

Front Foundation ¹/₂ x 1³/₄ x 31⁷/₁₆

Without glue, line up the edges of the Foundation Set with a floor to keep it square as the glue dries.



Glue and tape together the Interior Stairs.



Let glue dry - take off the tape

- **C: Painting:** The order of assembly and painting is a back-and-forth process of test-assembly, marking, painting, and final assembly. There are three things to keep in mind as you do this:
- 1. The quality of your paint job depends on sanding *after the first coat*, and sanding is easiest and best while the parts are un-assembled.
- 2. **Glue doesn't stick to paint.** It does, however, stick to a part that has been first-coated and sanded. For this reason, parts that will be the same color can be glued together after one coat and sanding, but before the second coat of paint is applied.

3. Where different colored parts will be glued to each other, the neatest result will be achieved if the parts are marked and painted to just cover the mark, leaving the rest of the joint un-painted. That way, when they are glued together, the glue joint will have wood for strength (glue doesn't stick well to paint), and the joint between colors will be perfect (impossible to achieve with masking for painting).

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.







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

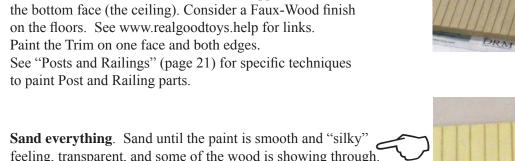
Primer is designed to help paint stick to an impervious surface or to join layers of dissimilar paints. In this application, the first coat of paint soaks right into the wood and fills the grain - you could do that with primer, but its job of being an interface between different materials doesn't apply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

Use interior semi-gloss latex paint. Details can be painted with 'Samplers', which may be a lower-gloss finish (harder to clean) or with craft paints. I use 1" and 2" foam brushes and a 3/16" flat bristle brush for details; dress smooth areas (like the interior) with a foam roller to eliminate brush marks.

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 to paint. Avoid painting edges, grooves, and areas that will be glued (like the outside of the roofs).

Paint the walls on both faces. Paint the Upper Floors on on the floors. See www.realgoodtoys.help for links. Paint the Trim on one face and both edges.



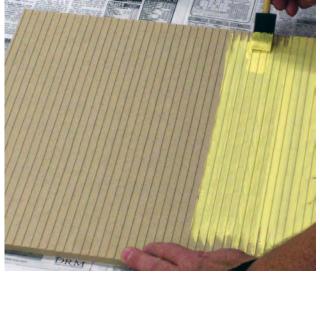
feeling, transparent, and some of the wood is showing through. Sand the Clapboard one-clapboard-surface-at-a-time. Fold the sandpaper and sand back and forth until the surface of that board is smooth and transparent; then move on to the next board. Fold the sandpaper as needed to keep it fresh.

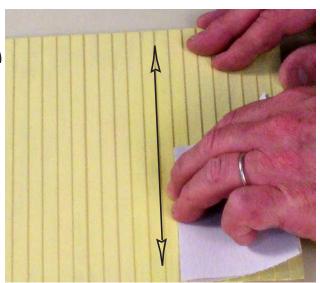
Paint the second coat everything for the outside of the house (not the roofs or the top of the top Floor). The second coat goes on smooth and creamy with enough paint on the brush so it is quiet while you are brushing the paint out, but not enough to leave puddles or drips.

See the 'Layout page (23) to plan your interior sequence. You will be cleaning and scraping the inside as you build this house so finishing interior walls is best left to after the build... most plans work best to second-coat the interior after assembly.

Texture Paint: For the foundations and anywhere else a textured surface is desired, base coat the surface with plain paint and second-coat with a mixture of paint and "Real Good Toys' Stucco Grit".

Mix the Stucco Grit with paint and apply in slaps or short swirls.





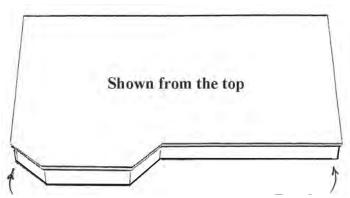


Wiring? If you are going to wire your house, be prepared to cut slots for the tapewire each time a floor is ready to glue down. An Oscillating Multitool makes running wire later just as easy but for builders who will be cutting slots with a rotary tool or 'drilling and carving', follow the tracing (in the PreAssembly step) and cut the hole $5^{1/2}$ " from the back edge, mostly hidden by the wall, and sticking out from the inside wall's surface $^{1/32}$ " or so. Cut two slots in each Floor so the tapewire can go up one side, across the rooftop, and down the other side all in one piece (no connections means a more robust 'main loop', which is the backbone of any wiring layout). www.DollhouseWiring.com

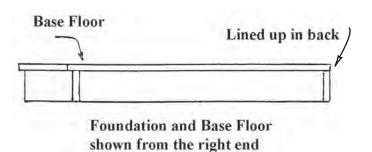
Housebody Assembly: the Foundation and Base Floor

1. Glue, tape, and weight the Base Floor to the Foundation set, lined up at the back edge, and spaced evenly side-to-side.

Weight the Base and Foundation set to lay absolutely flat on a flat worksurface as the glue dries. Getting the Base assembly <u>flat</u> is necessary for a flat house!



Lined up evenly side-to-side from front to back



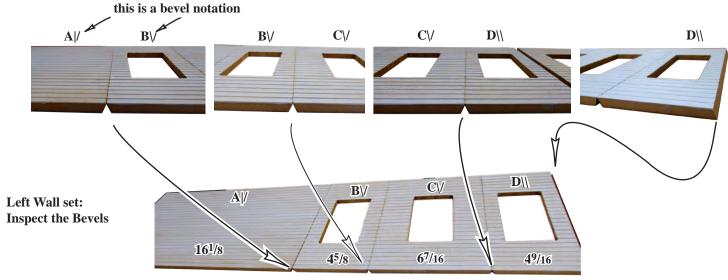
_____ When the glue is dry, take off the tape

Clean <u>any</u> paint on the edges or inside face

Set Up the Walls

A. Tape together the 1st floor's left wall set using the wall sizes and bevels shown. Make sure the clapboard is right-side-up.

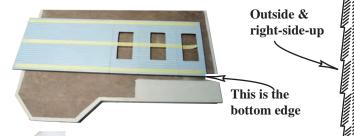




2B. Tape together the Left Wall set with the clapboard profile lined up at the bottom.

Turn the set over and lift the joints for glue. Spread glue on the bottom edges.

Glue the Left Wall set to the Base Floor lined up in back and spaced about ³/8" at A, B, and C.

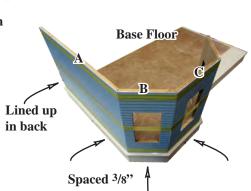




Lift the joints for glue

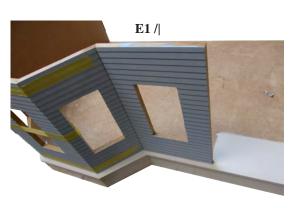


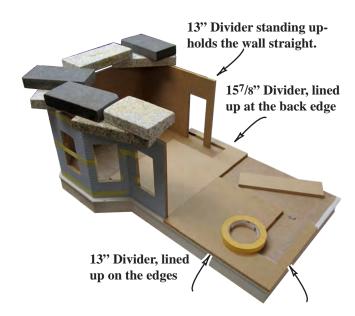
Glue the bottom edge



2C. Glue Wall E1 to the Left Wall Set and Base, spaced about ³/8" from the Floor's edge and 13" from the Base Floor's right edge..

Without glue, use Dividers (below) to hold the spacing.

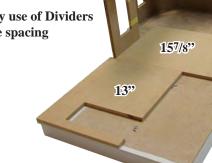






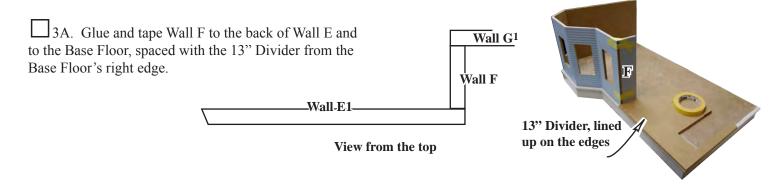
Temporary use of Dividers to hold the spacing

the



Check the 3/8" spacing to the floor's edge (except wall D). When the glue has begun to stiffen, take the Dividers off the floor and stand them up against the insides of the walls.

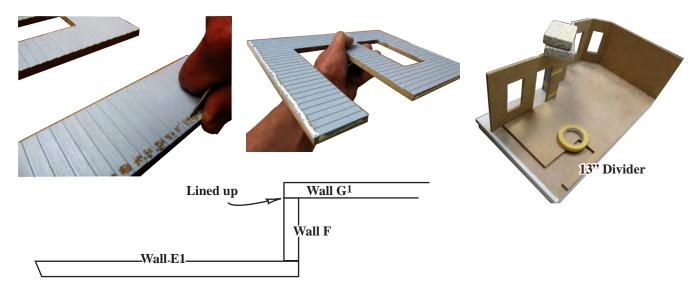
Clean up excess glue.



3B. Scrape the paint hidden within the area that wall F will cover on Wall G¹ when they are glued together. You don't have to get right to the edge of the hidden space or get all of the paint - just a bit of exposed wood will give a good glue joint.

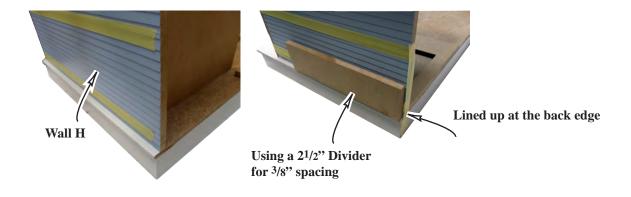
Glue and tape Wall G1 to the back of Wall F and to the Base Floor. Use the 13" Divider to hold the spacing from the back edge.

Take care to line up the corner carefully inside the house... it is hard to smooth this corner once the house is complete.



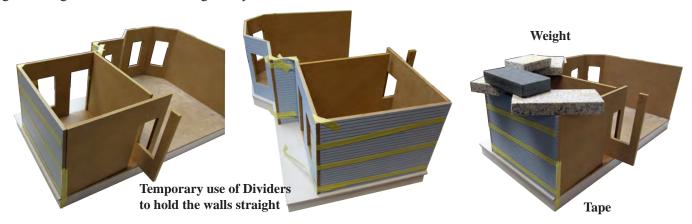
3C. Glue and tape Wall H to the back of Wall G1 and to the Base Floor (If you painted the interior of Wall G1, scrape within the hidden space for gluing).

Check the ³/8" spacing to the floor's edge and that Wall H lines up with the back edge of the Base Floor.



Instructions for kit #DH77K Walls and Floors page 13

☐ 3D. Stand Dividers to hold Walls G and H straight. Weight the Right Side Walls. Let the glue dry.



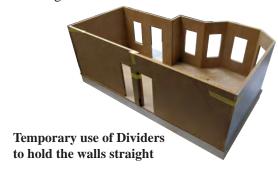
Let the glue dry - then take off the weights and tape

3E. Trim, scrape and sand (100 grit taped to a sanding block) the insides and corners of the walls and Floor. It will never be easier to clean and prepare the interior of the walls for wallpaper and paint.

Without glue, tape Dividers across the back to support the back edge of the middle floor while it is being glued to the Walls, and to hold the Side Walls straight.



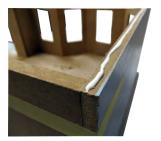




· Wiring? Trace and cut slots for the Main Loop in the next floor before you glue on.

 \Box 4. Glue, tape, and weight an Upper Floor to the walls, centered ($^{3}/8$ ") side-to-side and lined up in back..

Avoid smearing: Have a helper hold up the front edge while you line up and center the back edge side-to-side. Hold the back edge in place while your helper lays down the front edge.



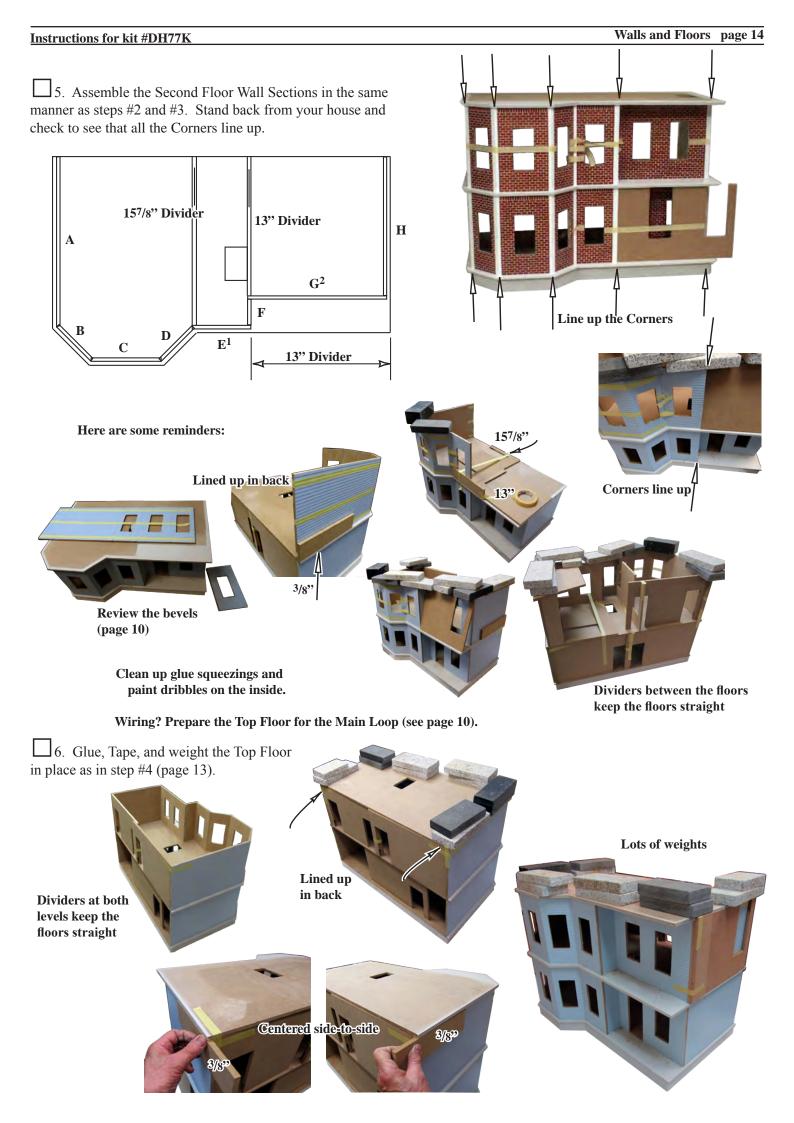
Don't glue temporary Dividers



centered (3/8") side-to-side



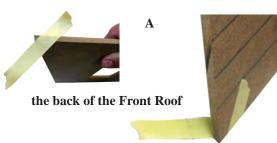


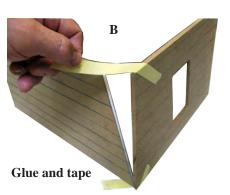


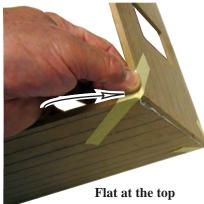
7A. Prepare a flap of tape on the bottom of each Front Roof to stick out diagonally at the corner and to the back.

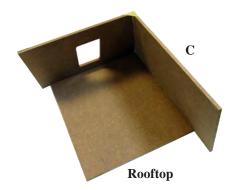
B. Glue and tape the Side Roof to the back of the Front Roof, lined up on the outside (angled) edges, and flat at the top.

C. Temporarily put a Rooftop against the inside to hold the Roofs square as the glue dries.









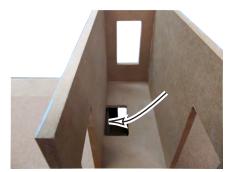
Let the glue dry - then take off the tape

Tower Room Assembly

 \square 8A. Test assemble the tower room (withoug glue) using the Tower Sides marked and painted in Pre-Assembly (15⁷/8 One-Door Dividers) and Wall E³ 5³/4 ||.

8B. Position the Tower Room lined up with the back of the Top Floor, lined up with the Stair Hole on the inside, and lined up at the front corner with the corners below it.

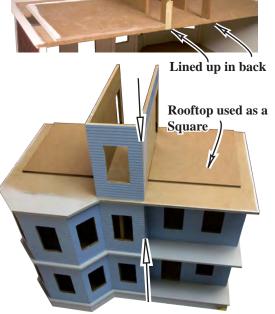
Important: Lay the Rooftops flat on the floor lined up with the rear edge to square the Tower Walls with the back edge of the Top Floor.



Line up with the Stair Hole



5³/4 in front <u>and</u> in back



Line up the Corners

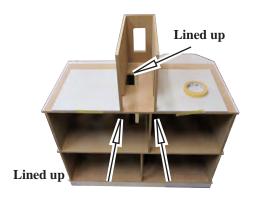
8C. Position the Roofs on the Top Floor, with the Side Roofs lined up in back and parallel to the edge of the floor, and with the Front Roof located with the Attic Divider.

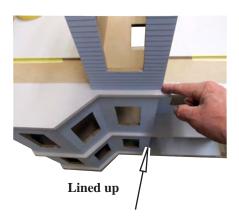


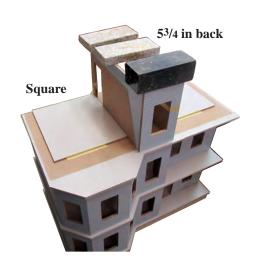
8D. Trace around the Roofs and Tower, move everything out of the way, and paint to just cover the line.



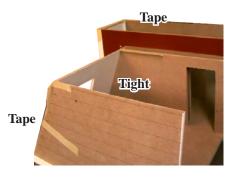
9. Temporarily, set Dividers between each floor to hold them straight. Glue, tape, and weight the Tower Wall set to the Top Floor, located as you did in step 8.

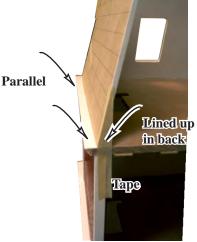






10. Set the Attic Divider close to the Tower Side (leave room for glue squeezings), lined up at the back of the Top Floor. Glue, tape, and weight the Roof set for that side, Lined up in back, parallel to the floor's edge, and tight to the Attic Divider.





When the glue is dry enough to you can move the Attic Divider without things moving, repeat the steps for the other Roof set.





Tape and weight to make everything tight

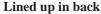




11. Space the Attic Divider a bit away from the Tower Side so glue squeezings won't get on the Attic Divider in the next step.

Glue, tape, and weight a Rooftop to the Roofs and Tower Side, lined up in back, and with the overhang on the side even from front-to-back.

When the glue has set enough to move the Attic Divider, adjust the weights so they are only over the Roofs and move the Attic Divider to the other side (spaced from the Tower Side) and repeat for the other Rooftop.





Here I have a 2¹/2" Divider temporarily in place to see the overhang more easily



Tape



Weight



Lined up in back



12. Glue, tape, and weight the Tower Ceiling to the Tower Walls, lined up in back, and centered side-to-side.



Lined up in back

Centered side-to-side



13. Draw Shingling Guidelines on the Tower Roofs; the first guideline at 1¹/₄" and the rest spaced 1" apart. Glue and tape together the Tower Roofs.

Tape together Dividers to hold the Tower Roofs square with each other as the glue dries.

When the glue is dry, take off the tape and glue the Tower Rooftop to the Tower Roofs, centered all around (up-side-down is easier).

Assemble the Dormers

(see page 20 for painting assembled window frames)

14A. Glue together a painted Dormer Window frame, Pediment, Stool Cap, and Triangle. Without glue, set the window into the roof's cutout to help the parts line up in back.

B. Glue Dormer Sides to the window assembly lined up at the top edge of the Triangle.

Check the fit of the dormers on the house. Trim the corners of the roof cutout for a good fit. Glue the dormer to the roof, straight up-and-down.

Test then draw shingle guidelines ($1^{1/4}$ " then 1") on the outside of the Dormer Roofs.

Insert the Window Pane and glue the Dormer Roofs together, to the Dormer Triangle, and to the Front Roof after shingling the lower part of the Front Roof.*





1"

1"

1"

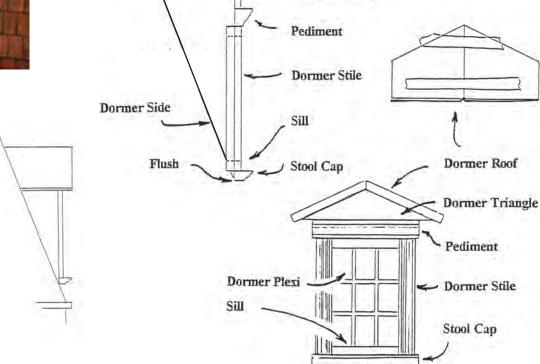
1"

1"

11/4

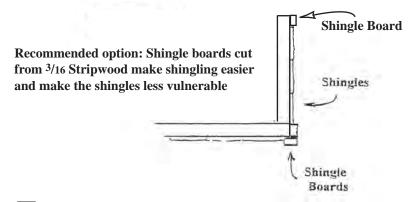
*Builder's Note: it is easiest to shingle the roof to here *before* attaching the Dormer Roofs.





Dormer Triangle

www.realgoodtoys.help has many shingling slideshows and guidance on shingle dye and glue options.



15. Shingle the Roof: Glue: Use a thick *solvent-based* (not "water clean-up"!) panel adhesive 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.

Cut or split shingles in thirds for a starter course. The starter course holds the bottom of the first full course at the same angle as the other shingles on the roof; it won't be seen.

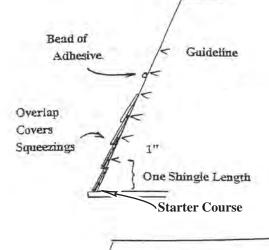
Apply a thin line of adhesive just below the lowest guideline all the way across one roof. Press the top edge of a Shingle into the line of glue, squeezing out the excess Hold the first Shingle and press another Shingle into the adhesive, tight to the first. Hold the next Shingle and press in another... etc. all the way across the roof, cutting the last Shingle to fit.

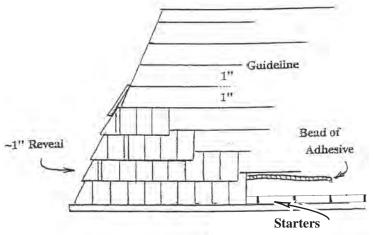
Continue up the roof one row at a time. Start the next row with a half Shingle so that the seam between Shingles is staggered back and forth as you go up the roof. Line up the top edge of each row (except the starters) with the guidelines.

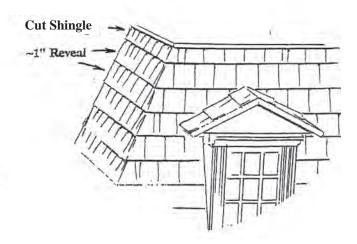
Cut the top row of Shingles so that each row will have the same reveal.

For shingles on the Tower Roofs, glue the Corner pair on first on both edges, and fill in the shingles between them, splitting a shingle for the narrow last space.

Cut angled shingles for the corners of the Roof. When you glue a pair of shingles to the Roof's corner, the edge is straight up-and-down the roof.









Shingle Boards and Starter Course



Cut the angled shingle first, then fill in



16. Pre-assembled windows and Door

(see "Painting" page 9)

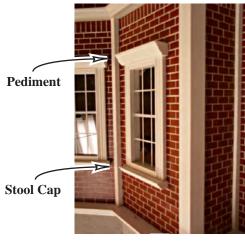
Pull the pin out of the bottom of the Door to disassemble it for painting (save the pins or use a cut-off of a paperclip to replace a lost pin). Take out the Door Top and plexiglass.

Make a card the size of the plexiglass (one for the door, one for the windows) to mop up any paint that gets in the grooves before it dries. Do not have the mop in the groove while painting or leave it in as the paint dries.

Install all the painted Windows and Door in their openings.

Glue Pediments and Stool Caps to the Windows







17. Trim. Glue and tape painted 7/16 Stripwood to square corners, the side first then the front. Optional: Glue and tape 3/16 Stripwood to the angled corners. Make sure vertical lines stay in-line and straight from floor to floor.

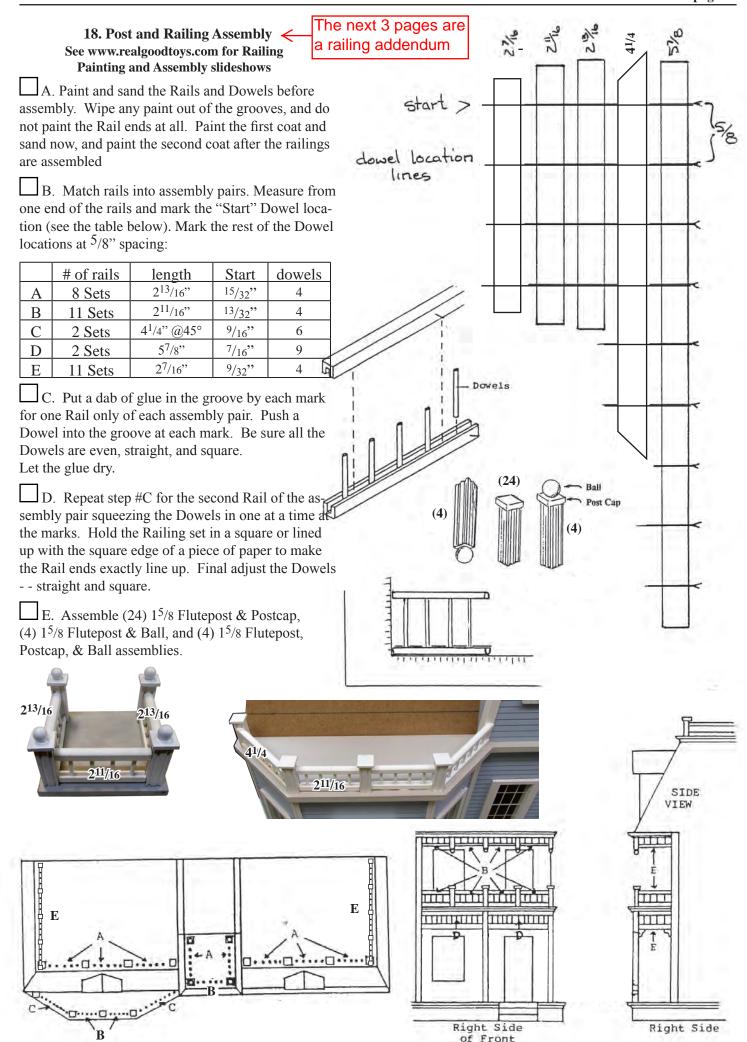
Un-trimmed corners have a more contemporary look and trimmed corners are more traditional, but look at the house and test the look before gluing on the trim to get the look that <u>you</u> want.

3/16" Stripwood

Cross section view from the top



7/16" Stripwood



Paint and Assemble Railings

Painting Rail Parts:

Use interior semi-gloss latex paint. Details can be painted with 'Samplers', which may be a lower-gloss finish (harder to clean) or with craft paints. **For Railings,** I use 1" foam brushes and a 3/16" flat bristle brush

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.

Sand everything. Sand until the paint is smooth and "silky" feeling, transparent, and some of the wood is showing through. Fold the sandpaper as needed to keep it fresh.

Paint the second coat. 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.

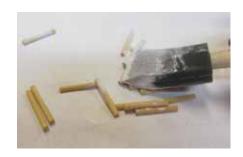
Primer is designed to help paint stick to an impervious surface or to join layers of dissimilar paints. In *this* application, the first coat of paint soaks right into the wood and fills the grain - you *could* do that with primer, but its job of being an interface between different materials doesn't apply here. In *this* application, primer just adds steps and expense except as of a first-coat for white or off-white colors.

Assemble Rails

- 1. Paint and sand the rail parts before assembly.
- a. Paint (first-coat) the Rails, wipe any paint out of the grooves, and do not paint the Rail ends at all.
- b. Lay a hand full of Dowels on a sheet of paper. Dab and roll the Dowels with a foam paintbrush or small-celled sponge until they are lightly painted... less paint is better.
- c. Spread the painted Dowels on waxed paper. Separate and move them around every few minutes as the paint dries.

Paint all of the Dowels; let the paint dry







d. Lightly rub the dowels around with sandpaper (a small handful at a time) to sand off the raised grain.

Second-coat the paint after the Railings are assembled



- 2. Assemble the Railings:
- a. Match Rails into assembly pairs (the same length).
- b. Set the first Rail of each assembly pair on the drawing, lined up on each end, and with a Stripwood support ready. Dip a Dowel in a puddle of glue for a scant dab on the end. Poke the Dowel into the groove to match the drawing; be sure all the Dowels are even, straight, and square and lined up with the drawing.



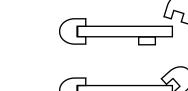


c. Dab a little glue onto each Dowel's end. Hold the second Rail of the assembly pair over the Dowel's ends at an angle and lined up with the second rail on the drawing. Push down and scoop the Dowels' ends into the groove.

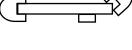


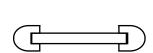


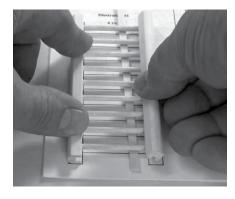




Push down and scoop







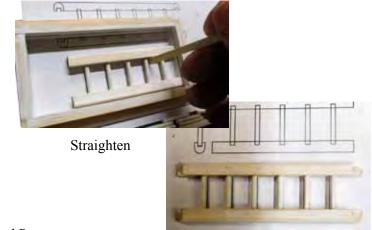
Push down and scoop

d. Squeeze the Rails together so the Dowels are fully in the grooves. Set a window frame over the Railing as a square. Hold the Railing set on the drawing; make the Rail ends exactly line up. Use the Stripwood to lever the Dowels, first one end then the other, straight and square and lined up with the drawing.

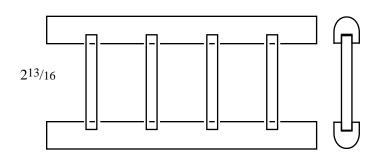
Repeat for the other Railings.

Leave the mitered Railing Set on the drawing to confirm that it's square while the glue dries.

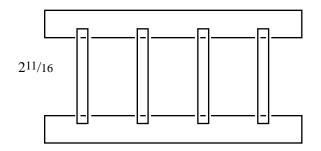
3. Let the glue dry - Paint (second-coat) the Railings.

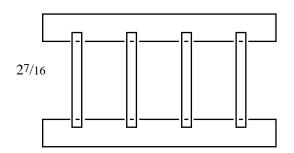


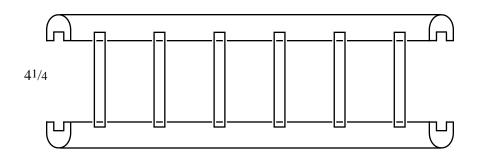
Without glue set up the Railings and Posts. When the spacing is right, one-at-a-time remove them and glue them back in place.

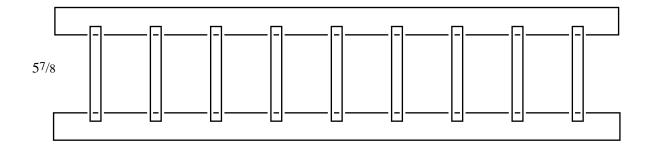


	# of rails	length	dowels
Α	8 Sets	2 ¹³ /16"	4
В	11 Sets	2 ¹¹ /16"	4
С	2 Sets	4 ¹ /4" @45°	6
D	2 Sets	5 ⁷ /8"	9
Е	11 Sets	2 ⁷ /16"	4









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:

- Start the wiring (using "tape" style wiring)
- Dividers and Attic Partitions (see pgs 24 & 25)

Window Interior Trim

- Finish wiring
- Wallpaper and paint
- · Windows and Doors
- Flooring
- Baseboard and crown moldings
- Stairs



Cardboard assembly and installation guide



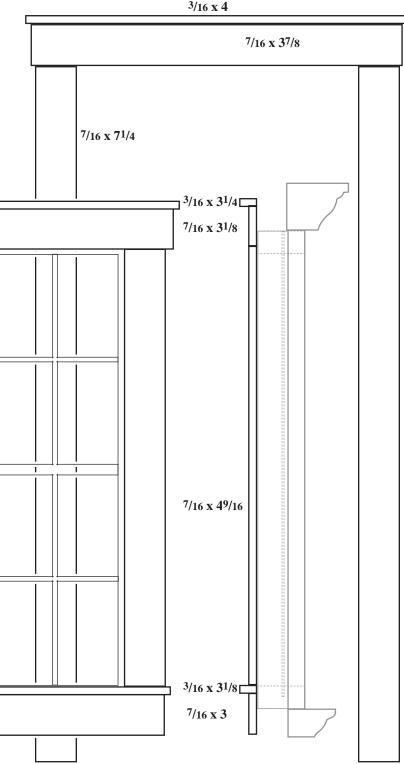
Tower Roof Window: Many, many cuts to clean away the shingles in the window hole minimizes tearing the shingles. Glue the round window into the hole from the outside. Set the pane in the hole from the inside and glue in the inside frame when the Tower Roof room finishing is complete.

19: Window and Door Trim

Paint, sand, assemble, and repaint parts before installing them. Cut and assemble Interior Door (1) and Window (12) Trim. Cut the longest pieces first and always save and use the scrap. Glue Door and Window Trim to the inside of the Door and Windows after the wall finish is done.

Tip: I cut clean rectangles of cardboard just under $4^9/16 \times 2^{1/8}$ and assemble the Window Trim around them. Then when the time comes to install the Trim, I glue another piece of cardboard $2 \times 4^{1/2}$ to the back, centered side-to-side and lined up on the bottom as an installation guide.

Door Interior Trim



#DH37K Two Story Addition 12W x 12D x 24H pictured on the #DH77K with Nosing and Brackets (GS Ledge) each sold separately - curtains not included

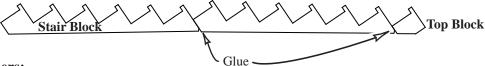
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20: Room Plan and layout

The Tower Walls and Dividers next to the stairs are necessary but the rest of your Dividers can go wherever your interior plan directs or they can be cut and re-arranged to make the house one-of-a-kind. I like to try out different configurations with some of the furnishings, even paper cutouts to block out the space and see how my plan will work. And then, once I have settled on a layout and finishing plan, I finish the house starting at the front in each room and working to the back.



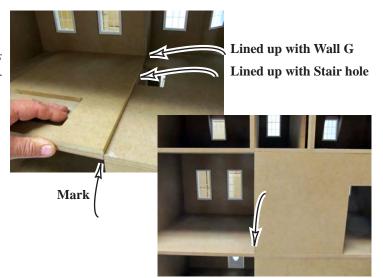


21. Dividers:

The hall is narrow and finishing around or in front of the stairs is hard. The 13" Divider (the one next to the stairs) must be installed and finished (paint or wallpaper) and the flooring must be done before installing the stairs - and I recommend also finishing the front of the tower (including window trim) before the stairs but not permanently installing the 2-Door Dividers until after the Stairs and Banisters have been completed. It is possible to build the Stairs, Banister, and Landing Rails without gluing them into the house.

• If you haven't already done so, square the corners of the stair holes. Use a utility knife or coarse double-cut file, and work from both surfaces toward the center to avoid "split out": two cuts from each direction for each corner.

Install the 13" Dividers.



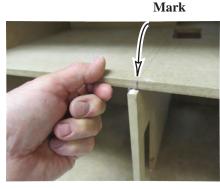
Lined up up-and-down Mark the floors' edges



Glue: top, bottom, front



Tip - almost all the way in, Set the base on the mark



Lift the next higher floor Stand upright to the mark



Push the rest of the way in



Straighten to the stair hole

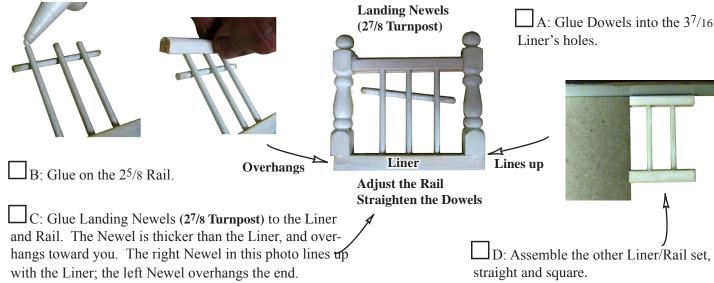


Line up everything again Let the glue dry

22: Stairs and Landing

Paint, sand, assemble, and paint again all parts before installing them. Do not paint in Rails' grooves or Liners' holes. If you are staining and varnishing, a staining sealer gives more even penetration of the stain.

When gluing parts together, scrape sections of bare wood for the glue to grab (glue doesn't stick well to paint).

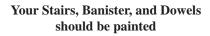


☐E: Glue the 1⁷/₈ Liner/Rail to the "overhang" end of the longer Liner/Rail. Let dry.

Stick or glue the Liner/Rail set into the stair hole (do not glue unless all interior work is done).

Quik-Stik holding wax

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☐F: Lay a Stair set on its right side. Lay a piece of stripwood beside the stairs as a spacer. Glue 8 Dowels 21/4 to the Treads, leaving the 1st tread and the top 3 treads bare. The Dowels touch the lip of the treads and are straight with the front face.

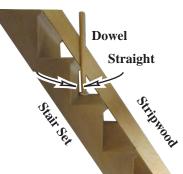
Adjust the Dowels parallel and straight; let dry. Repeat for the other stair set.

☐G: Stick or glue the Stairs in the stair hole, lined up on top. Spread glue in the groove of the Banister and set it on the Dowels with the Banister's blunter end on top. Wiggle and slide the Banister upward until the top end touches the bottom of the Liner. Pinch the top of the Dowels so they are fully in the groove.

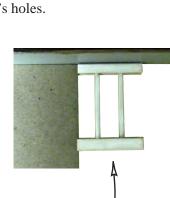
Glue the 31/8 Turnpost to the bottom Tread and Banister. Push a 21/2" Divider against the Newel to hold it straight while the glue dries.

Repeat for the other Stair Set.

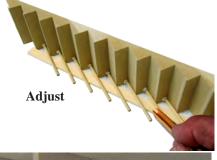














Instructions for Kit #DH77K Accessories page 26

The construction part of your project is done... Enjoy the Rest!

Customizing? Options for building Real Good Toys' Dollhouses www.realgoodtoys.com





Real Good Toys' #7999 the Bigger Best1 Wiring Set









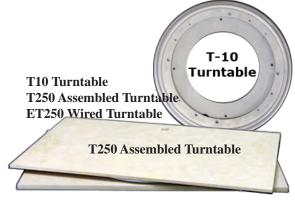




#1015



Furnishings, Figurines, and Furniture







Flute24

■ SW16 (7/16" Stripwood)

#5254 Dentil Molding:



Porch Turnposts, Newels and Spindles





